

## C2 Mark Scheme – *Noise*

### 1.1 Award one mark for a correct response

- a) At what time in the day do the 'selfish souls' walk past Humphreys' house without lowering their voices? [1]
- Nine in the evening
- b) How many office workers were surveyed about what most annoyed them about the behaviour of their colleague? [1]
- 100
- c) What age group of children are studied in the block of flats near the main road? [1]
- 32

### 1.2 How does Humphrys try to persuade us that noise is a problem? [10]

Some points candidates may explore:

- The title 'Quiet, please!' immediately expresses Humphrey's sense of annoyance – use of the imperative
- He begins by telling readers that noise is 'damaging our health' and that we need to take action –sense of urgency
- He gives his personal experience, discussing the way noise affects his sleeping patterns
- He uses imagery to express his personal experience – he says, 'If it is noisy, I sleep like a fractious baby with a particularly nasty teething problem'.
- Humphreys is emotive as he explains how he lies 'cursing all those selfish souls' that keep him awake
- He directly addresses the reader - 'but you, dear reader, are on it too' to suggest a sense of unity about noise problems
- The gives examples of specific problems such as carol singers, mobile calls on transport, background music in hotels - lists rhetorical questions
- Expresses an exasperated/angry tone when he says, 'Even at breakfast, for God's sake!' Use of hyperbole to emphasise heightened feelings
- Humphreys' tone is dramatic/ inflammatory as he describes the scenario with the neighbour – 'smash it into tiny pieces' -confrontational/ridicules. Use of aggressive image/ verb to suggest depth of feeling
- He uses survey facts - 'the survey last week that asked office workers what most annoyed them about the behaviour of their colleagues and found that they put eating noisily at the top of the list by a large majority'.
- He uses the specific example of the man that cancelled his gym membership – use of anecdote
- He believes that his views on noise problems are logical/ reasonable/ are teaching children something as it's 'for their own good'
- He references facts from 'many studies' that prove hearing loss is 'the most obvious problem', but also 'raised blood pressure'

- He tells us that noise affects children 'even more worryingly' and cites the British Medical Journal's research
- He tells us that, in one study based on the hearing of children in a block of flats, those on the lower floors 'near a main road,' were 'affected much more severely' than those living further higher up – use of adverb to emphasise impact of the problem
- He explains that noise can lead to 'difficulty processing information' and memory and concentration issues in children
- He uses another study of children living near a railway line to highlight contrasts in the impact of noise on children's reading ability 'the mean reading age of the railway children was three to four months behind the others.' Use of statistics by the writer
- To conclude, he contrasts current noise issues with those of the past.

**To answer the following questions, you will need to read the letter by Charles Dickens.**

**1.3 Award one mark for a correct response, to a maximum of two:**

- a) Name two instruments the writer suggests the 'brazen performers' use? [2]
- Drums or organs or banjos or cymbals or fiddles
- b) When in the day do the musicians knock on doors? [1]
- afternoon

**1.4 'Charles Dickens supports the proposed ban of street entertainers.' How far do you agree with this view? [10]**

Some points that candidates may explore:

- The opening sentence gives praise and 'hearty thanks' to the government for introducing a law to control street music
- He stresses that they will 'do their utmost' to support the proposed new law to 'ban' street music - strongly in support
- He calls the street performers an 'unbearable nuisance'
- He views the performers as harassers/persecutors of the professional 'correspondents' of the letter, distracting them from their good work
- He describes the performers as a regular 'daily' problem
- He feels they are too 'persistent' and 'brazen'/'shameless' in their behaviour - out of control/pressurising them
- He feels the music is too close to them - 'outside their door'
- He refers to the noise made as 'drowning the peace' – he feels the noise is killing the quiet of the streets and disturbing the professionals from their work
- He feels there is an evident dishonesty – performers prey on those in need of quiet/blackmail/seek recompense for stopping – 'seeking to be bought off'
- He describes the negative effect on people's mental health/well-being – 'the misery they endure is far more destructive to their happiness than their pockets'
- Some of correspondents have been forced to flee 'into the country for refuge' –in need of protection/feel unsafe

- He refers to the noise of the music as 'torture' –victimsed by it
- He feels that the correspondents' status/professions should be considered/protected as they need to be able to work undisturbed

**To answer the following questions, you will need to use both texts.**

1.5 Using information from both texts, explain briefly in your own words what types of noises are problematic? [4]

Some points that candidates may explore:

### **Humphreys**

- Singers – 'canned Christmas carols'
- Mobile phone calls on public transport -'the fellow passenger that pulls out their mobile to make a phone call, forcing the entire carriage to listen in'
- Background music in hotels and gyms
- Neighbours with 'small jet engine' garden equipment such as leaf blowers
- People 'eating noisily'
- Traffic noise from the 'main road' /rail lines and trains

### **Dickens**

- Street performers 'chatting noisily, shouting and whooping'
- Musical instruments such as drums, organs, cymbals, banjos, fiddles
- Singing – 'bellowers of songs and ballads'
- Street performers knocking on doors

1.6 Both of these texts are about the effects of noise. Compare the following [10]

Some points that candidates may explore:

### **What the writers say about the effects of noise**

#### **Humphreys**

- He expresses his annoyance at noise keeping him awake –'cursing all those selfish souls who think it acceptable to walk past my house at nine in the evening without lowering their voices to a whisper'
- He describes how noise can incite anger/violent feelings – neighbour's leaf blower referenced 'smash it into even tinier pieces'
- He describes how the irritations of noise can make some adults feel 'uneasy' as though they are possibly 'selfish old grumps'
- He explores the damaging effects to adults at work 'hearing loss'/'raised blood pressure'
- Effects on children's hearing cited by British Medical Journal 'hearing damaged'
- Children have 'difficulty processing'/'poorer memories'/'difficulty concentrating'
- Reading ages in children affected by proximity to railway line noise – 'the mean reading age of the railway children was three to four months behind the others'

#### **Dickens**

- He feels that the noise is 'unbearable'

- He says it affects people's ability to work 'they are daily interrupted'
- He says it affects the general 'health and wellbeing of mankind'
- He says it makes people unhappy, stressed/ tired –'worried and wearied'
- He says people feel pressured to give money to the performers to stop the noise as they are 'seeking to be bought off'
- It leads to people leaving the city to 'seek refuge' in the country

### **How they get across the effects and their attitudes**

#### **Humphreys:**

- He writes from a personal perspective, uses anecdotes
- Uses direct address to create the illusion of a relationship/commonality with the reader/ align with them
- He uses survey evidence –office workers
- He cites a range of evidence from The British Medical Journal's reports – effects on children
- Use of statistics
- Use of comparative adjectives to emphasise extent of the problem/reinforce attitude to the issue –'greater difficulty processing'/ 'had poorer memories'

#### **Dickens:**

- Writes from a collective perspective –his experience and that of others with similar viewpoint –'we, the undersigned correspondents'.
- Use of the first-person plural pronoun 'we'. Reinforces importance of argument about the negative effects/strength in number
- Listing of adjectives to reinforce effects – 'interrupted, harassed, worried, worried, wearied...'
- Anecdotal references – daily interruptions detailed
- Listing of plural nouns (beaters, grinders, bangers...) -types of disturbance creating the noise and having an impact. Extent of the problem revealed.
- Emotive language to reinforce attitude /effects- 'destructive', 'persecution', 'torture'

### **Overview**

- Both explore the negative effects of the noise on the wellbeing of people
- Both are anecdotal/specifics based on experience
- Humphreys give a first-hand account/Dickens writes on behalf of himself and others (collective perspective).
- differing tone (Humphreys – rhetorical/angry/frustrated/ironic; Dickens – superior/assertive/persuasive)