**Practice text: Sir Billy Butlin** 

Cracking Comprehension Teacher's Guide

## Cracking the questions

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
Why do you think the writer begins with a question?	<ul> <li>To hook the reader in.</li> <li>To make the reader interested in reading on.</li> <li>To establish shared experience with the reader.</li> <li>To tell the reader what is interesting about Billy Butlin.</li> </ul>	2g 1 mark	<ul> <li>Question focus: explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Carefully read the opening paragraph, considering the impact of the question.</li> </ul>
2. Tick the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to "brainchild" (paragraph 1).    creation   brainstorm   son or daughter   belief	creation	2a 1 mark	<ul> <li>Question focus: give the meaning of words in context.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Carefully read the opening paragraph to create the context for the word.</li> <li>Consider how the sentence would change if each of the words or the phrase given replaces the target word in the sentence.</li> <li>Choose the word that means the closest to the target word.</li> </ul>
3. What did Billy Butlin do when he first came to England?	He followed his grandmother's travelling fair.	2b 1 mark	<ul> <li>Question focus: retrieve and record information.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Consider where in the text you are likely to find this information.</li> <li>Scan the text, looking for the information you need.</li> </ul>
4. Why didn't Billy get much schooling?	<ul> <li>He followed his grandmother's travelling fair.</li> <li>He travelled around.</li> <li>He didn't stay in one place.</li> </ul>	2d 1 mark	<ul> <li>Question focus: make inferences from the text.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Consider where in the text the information is likely to be: beginning, middle or end.</li> <li>Scan that part of the text for words to do with schools and education.</li> <li>Carefully read the relevant sentences.</li> </ul>
5. Complete this table (shown on right) using phrases from paragraph 4 that show the changes Billy Butlin made from what families experienced in paragraph 3.	Paragraph 3  "the places they stayed were dingy"  "the food was dull'  "there was little to do in the evening"  Paragraph 4  "bright and comfortable accommodation"  "plenty of good food"  "a wide variety of evening entertainment"	2h 1 mark	<ul> <li>Question focus: make comparisons within the text.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Scan paragraph 3 looking for the words in the question.</li> <li>Carefully read paragraph 4 to find the matching phrases.</li> </ul>

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
6. Read this sentence from paragraph 4.  "Families flocked to the resort"  What is the effect of using the word "flocked" in this sentence?	<ul> <li>It tells us that a lot of families went to the resort.</li> <li>It reminds us of flocks of birds flying somewhere together.</li> <li>It sounds good because it uses alliteration.</li> </ul>	2g 1 mark	Question focus: explain how meaning is enhanced by the choice of words.  Strategies:  Carefully read the question, marking key words.  Scan the text for the sentence, to understand the context.  Reread the sentence again, considering the impact of the word.
7. What is the function of the first paragraph?	It's an introduction to the text. It tells you what the text is about.	2f 1 mark	Question focus: explain how information is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.  Strategies:  Carefully read the question, marking key words.  Reread the first paragraph.  Skim read the rest of the text, considering the question.
<ul> <li>8. Match the dates with the events they mark.</li> <li>1936 Started business as a fairground showman.</li> <li>1920 The first Butlin's opened.</li> <li>1952 Billy Butlin dies.</li> <li>1980 Six Butlin's are open.</li> </ul>	1936 Billy Butlin is born. 1920 Started business as a fairground showman 1952 Six Butlin's are open. 1980 Billy Butlin dies.	2c 1 mark	<ul> <li>Question focus: summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Scan the text for the dates. Carefully read the text around the dates to see what happened.</li> <li>Join each date to its events</li> </ul>
9. Tick Fact or Opinion for each of these sentences. Billy Butlin was born in a fairground caravan. F/O He has transformed the summer holidays of hundreds of thousands of families. F/O When Billy was a child, he followed his grandmother's traveling fair. F/O By 1952, six Butlins holiday camps offered good-value seaside holidays. F/O	Billy Butlin was born in a fairground caravan. F He has transformed the summer holidays of hundreds of thousands of families. O When Billy was a child, he followed his grandmother's traveling fair. F By 1952, six Butlins holiday camps offered good-value seaside holidays. O	2c 2 marks	<ul> <li>Question focus: summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.</li> <li>Strategies:</li> <li>Carefully read the question, marking key words.</li> <li>Skim read the text to get a sense of the writer's viewpoint.</li> <li>Read each sentence carefully: sometimes they contain both fact and opinion.</li> <li>Write F beside the facts and O beside the opinions- remember an opinion is where other people could think something different.</li> </ul>