

## UNIT 2 ENGLISH 2010 Language Analysis

Name.....

### Complete the following task:

In a coherently constructed piece of prose, analyse the ways in which language and visual features are used to present a point of view in **both** opinion pieces.

### Background information:

#### *Are we overprotected?*

Parenting styles have changed over the years and much has been written about the best way to bring up children. Some experts advise new parents to implement a regime of strict control and rigid routine for their children's own protection. Others argue for a more permissive, liberal style of parenting to encourage children to be independent and become more resilient adults. This pattern continues into adulthood. Laws intended to protect people could be seen to prevent them from taking personal responsibility for their own actions.

The following material presents a range of viewpoints on this issue.

CRITERIA	5	4	3	2	1	0 (NS)
Coherence of form and structure of presentation						
Analytical discussion of the use of persuasive language in a media text						
Use of appropriate metalanguage						
Use of appropriate evidence						
Spelling, punctuation and syntax OR Expressiveness and fluency						

A	B	C	D	E	UG
100-80%	79-70%	69-60%	59-50%	49-40%	39-0%

Use only the material on these pages

*The Daily News*

Friday 19 October 2007

## OPINION PAGE

### Overprotective parents stifle growth

How much longer will we continue to supposedly 'protect' our young people from the stark realities of life? It is perfectly clear to me, as a professional, that by mollycoddling them, we are ultimately creating defenceless young people unable to cope with future challenges.

Too often are parents willing to step in and stand up for their 'perfect' children involved in 'incidents' at school, or caught up in squabbles with their peers. Parents provide a continuous taxi service, transporting their precious offspring to organised sporting activities, to and from school, often running little errands for them. They blindly search for the child's lost jumper and they obediently bring the lunch when it is forgotten. Others even complete their children's homework.

One only has to look at teenagers today: incapable of making a decision on their own; followers, not leaders; still reliant on their parents for their creature comforts. Children need to make mistakes, experience rejection and maybe hurt themselves to learn how to cope with life. They must experience real pain and deal with disappointment to become resilient adults.

Nothing could be clearer to me than the belief that, by wrapping our young children in cotton wool, we are depriving them of the skills required to solve the problems which they will confront in the future. They cannot possibly learn to deal with challenging situations in adulthood if they never have to face a problem in youth.

Parents are so afraid their children will be hurt or abducted that they are refusing to let them play outside on their own until they are at least 14, research has revealed. Denied opportunities to meet friends, a generation of cosseted youngsters is becoming lonely and isolated, according to a study by the Children's Society in Britain.

The Children's Society stresses the importance of allowing children freedom to play with peers as it helps them 'practise making and consolidating friendships and deal with conflict'. Children who are isolated from peers are at greater risk of becoming depressed, overaggressive, antisocial and delinquent, they argue.

There is a mountain of evidence available now to show that children whose parents are at their constant beck and call are stifled, losing the ability to develop the skills to become fully functioning adults. Furthermore, they never accept responsibility for their own actions.

Jane Brown  
Retired Principal

for Part 1 – Analysis of language use.

*A reader has his say*

### REALITY CHECK

My granddad goes on about the good old days. He says that in his time kids could be kids. They were not hassled by parents and if they jolly well wanted to play in the street till dark, they jolly well did.

I used to actually believe this, but not now. Now I have my own family and I love my kids. The world has changed and it's weird.

I say unsupervised is unsafe!

Everywhere I turn, I see danger.

Cars are lethal weapons with hoons at the wheel. Newspapers scream stories of tragedy and evil. Even in our very own family room there is no escape. The News at 6 means that we are bombarded with scenes of carnage caused by suicide bombers wherever the bloodiest massacre of the last 24 hours has occurred.

If it's not that, it's films filled with foul language, violence or 'adult themes'. Even the Internet lures young people into sampling the 'thrill' of life in the fast lane.

It terrifies me.

Don't try the documentaries either. They are full of gloom and doom about climate change, mass extinctions and death of the planet.

Don't tell me that kids should be allowed to see all this. What does it do to them?

I want my kids to be able to survive in this crazy world, and to do that they need to be safe and secure and sure of some things - things like love and hope. They need to feel that they can make a difference.

That won't happen if they are traumatised - or worse!

Jack Lee



