The story of 'The Secret Life of Bees' takes place in South Carolina in the summer of 1964, against the backdrop of the desegregation of the American south. It is clear through the many examples of meticulous **1** ..... *that the director and the other members of her* **2** ..... *researched the historical background to the story thoroughly, in order to breathe life and authenticity into the story. The brilliant* **3** ..... *adds tremendous atmosphere, suggesting a long hot summer through its portrayal of harsh daylight and sultry nights.*

Early on in the film at T. Ray's peach farm, we see President Johnson talking about the Civil Rights Act on a fuzzy black and white TV screen. This brief clip places the story very precisely in time. Other aspects that confirm the period of the **4** ..... *are the 1960s cars, the commemorative plates of President Kennedy displayed on the parlour walls of the Pink House (the* **5** ..... *excelled itself in sourcing these), the old washing machine that sits out on the porch, and also snatches of popular music from the time. The* **6** ..... *must have spent a considerable number of hours researching the dresses and hats, as well.*

One particularly moving event that highlights the continuing reality of segregation is when Zach and Lily go to see a film together. They buy their tickets separately and have to enter the cinema through separate doors – Zach goes through the one marked 'COLORED' – but once inside, they sit together upstairs and watch the film. However, this is not tolerated by some of the racist townspeople, who manhandle Zach and take him off to jail, where he is beaten up.

Rosaleen's thwarted attempt to register to vote on July 4 is the key event that prompts her and Lily to flee. During the scene, the state of Mississippi is mentioned, which is where the most brutal attacks on would-be black voters occurred. Here, the **7** ..... *has decided to depart slightly from the book in transferring the mention of Mississippi from Lily's thoughts into Rosaleen's mouth, but it seems a valid change from book to* **8** ....., *which serves to underline the reality of Rosaleen's position and the very real risk she is taking in a bigoted southern town.*

5 Now complete spaces 1–8 with the correct word or phrase to do with film-making, choosing from the box. There are two extra words that you do not need to use.

action	cast
cinematography	crew
producer	props department
scene setting	screenplay
script writer	wardrobe manager

6 Now write an essay based on the exam task in 4. If you have not read *The Secret Life of Bees*, refer to the book and film tie-in of your choice. Follow the advice given below.

EXAM ADVICE

- Don't be afraid to refer exclusively to the film of the book – you will not be penalised for doing this.
- Plan your answer, noting down specific examples that you can mention.
- Use an appropriate register for the task type required – this will be unmarked to formal for an essay.
- Summarise your views in a conclusion.
- Demonstrate a wide range of language, including vocabulary relevant to novels and film-making.

LIVEWORKSHEETS