

**Read the extract and answer the question.**

**(9)**

**Reading: fiction**

### **The passenger**

Two hours later, a man in a blond wig, wearing sunglasses and holding a huge bunch of flowers, boarded the Eurostar train to Paris. Zeljan Kurst hated these disguises, but it was something else he had learned in his long career. If you're trying not to be seen, it often helps to make yourself as noticeable as possible. The flowers and the wig were ridiculous, but although the police and MI6 were looking for him all over London, they certainly wouldn't recognise him wearing this.

As he settled into his pre-booked seat in first class and sipped his complimentary glass of champagne, Kurst's mind focused on the problem he had been given. The shoot-out at the museum was already forgotten. The question was – who would be the best person to handle this quite interesting business of the Elgin Marbles? There were now twelve members of Scorpia, including him, and he mentally went over them one by one...

There was a blast of a whistle and the train moved off. Kurst took out his mobile phone – encrypted, of course – and dialed a number. The train slid down the platform and picked up speed, and as they left St Pancras International, Kurst permitted himself the rare luxury of a smile. Yes. Razim was perfect. He would bring his unique talents to this new assignment. Kurst was sure of it. He had chosen exactly the right man.

**From Scorpia Rising by Anthony Horowitz**

#### **Glossary**

**encrypted** conceal data in (something) by converting it into a code

**1. What are two things that Zeljan Kurst did to disguise the way he looks?**

**(2)**

- a) He wore a mask and false teeth.                      b) He wore a blond wig and sunglasses.                      c) He wore a big hat.

**2. Why did Zeljan Kurst need to change his appearance?**

**(2)**

- a) He was hiding from the police and MI6.  
b) He didn't like the way he looked.  
c) He wanted to be more beautiful.

**3. What had happened at the museum?**

**(2)**

- a) Someone stole a statue.                      b) He went on a tour.                      c) People were shooting at each other.

**4. What transport did Kurst take to leave London?**

**(1)**

- a) bus                      b) train                      c) car

**5. Which phrase tells us that Kurt is usually serious?**

**(2)**

- a) Kurt permitted himself the luxury of a smile.
- b) Kurt took out his mobile phone.
- c) Kurt was sure of it.