



**Upper secondary
Week 15**

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES
SECTION C



Section C

[25 Marks]

Text 3

The text below is about plastic surgery. Read it carefully and answer Questions 14 – 19.

- 1 Plastic surgery is a medical specialty concerned with the "correction" or restoration of form and function. Though cosmetic or aesthetic surgery is the best-known kind of plastic surgery, plastic surgery is not necessarily cosmetic but includes reconstructive surgery such as skull, face, neck and jaw surgery, hand surgery, microsurgery and the treatment of burns.
- 2 Reconstructive plastic surgery is usually performed to improve function, but it may be done to approximate a normal appearance. Plastic surgeons use microsurgery to transfer tissue for coverage of a defect when no local tissue is available. Free flaps of skin, muscle, bone, fat, or a combination may be removed from the body and moved to another site on the body. Cosmetic surgery is an optional procedure that is performed on normal parts of the body with the only purpose of improving a person's appearance and/or removing signs of aging. In 2006, nearly 11 million cosmetic procedures were performed in the United States alone. The number of cosmetic procedures performed in the United States has increased over 50 percent since the start of the century, both surgical – like facelifts and nonsurgical procedures – like botox injections.
- 3 This concern with looks is not just an eccentricity of Western culture. In Asia, cosmetic surgery has become more popular, and countries such as China and India have become Asia's biggest cosmetic surgery markets with chemical peeling, facelifts and cheek augmentations being some of the most prevalent cosmetic procedures. Every period of history has had its own standards of what is and is not beautiful, and every contemporary society has its own distinctive concept of the ideal physical attributes. In the 19th century being beautiful meant wearing a corset – causing breathing and digestive problems. Now we try to diet and exercise ourselves into the fashionable shape – often with even more serious consequences.
- 4 But although we resemble our ancestors and other cultures in our concern about appearance, there is a difference in degree of concern. Advances in technology and in particular the rise of the mass media has caused normal concerns about how we look to become obsessions. The media has caused us to become accustomed to rigid and uniform standards of beauty – standards that have become harder and harder to attain, especially for women. Even a toothbrush advertisement recently had one toothbrush declaring that 'thin is in' – although it intended to highlight the efficiency of thin bristles, it also delivered an unintended message to the audience.
- 5 Advertisements on billboards, magazines and on television show 'beautiful' people all the time, more often than people we see every day in our lives like our family and neighbours, making it seem as though exceptional good looks are real and something attainable.
- 6 Another reason that remains contentious is the idea that attractive people have distinct social and economic advantages in society. Studies have shown that attractive

children are more popular, both with classmates and teachers with higher evaluations given to the work of attractive children who, incidentally, also are expected to perform better. This increases pressure for it may not necessarily be accomplished depending upon the child's innate abilities and effort. Then there are issues of envy and jealousy that may prevent a beautiful person from forming good relationships.

- 7 No matter what, research has also shown that this obsession with looks is linked to psychological disorders. Body dysmorphic disorder or BDD is a disorder resulting in the sufferer becoming "preoccupied with what they regard as defects in their bodies or faces." Half of the patients with the disorder who have cosmetic surgery performed are not pleased with the aesthetic outcome. BDD can lead to suicide in some of its sufferers. While many with BDD seek cosmetic surgery, the procedures do not treat BDD, and can ultimately worsen the problem. The psychological root of the problem is usually unidentified.

14. (i) What two types of plastic surgery are referred to in this article? [1]

- (ii) With reference to paragraph 2 (line 6), what is meant by to 'approximate' a normal appearance? [1]

15. From paragraphs 1 and 2, what is an important difference between cosmetic and reconstructive surgery? Answer in your own words. [2]

Cosmetic surgery	
Reconstructive surgery	

16. With reference to paragraph 3, give evidence to support the writer's message that the obsession with looks transcends both time and culture. [2]

17. Here is a part of a conversation between two students, Harriet and Barbara, who have read the article.



- (i) How would Harriet explain her statement with reference to paragraph 6? [1]

- (ii) Identify two drawbacks of being beautiful from paragraph 6 to support Barbara's statement. [2]

18. In paragraph 7 (line 49), 'While many with BDD seek cosmetic surgery, the procedures do not treat BDD, and can ultimately worsen the problem'

Why is it that treatment for BDD can be a failure?

[1]

19. Using your own words as far as possible, summarise what and how the degree of concern with looks has developed and its links with a psychological disorder.

Use only the material from paragraphs 3 – 7 of Text 3.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words, not counting the words given to help you begin.

The concern with looks have spanned across space and time. Not only a peculiarity of the West,....

No. of words [15]