6 Made of Money

Reading

A **Read these quotes from Charles Dickens and match them to the summaries (a–d).**

1 "Here's the rule for bargains. 'Do other men, for they would do you.' That's the true business precept." *Martin Chuzzlewit* ☐

2 "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen [pounds] nineteen [shillings] and six [pence], result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery." *David Copperfield* ☐

3 "Credit is a system whereby a person who cannot pay gets another person who cannot pay to guarantee that he can pay." *Little Dorrit* ☐

4 "Gold, for the instant, lost its lustre in his eyes, for there were countless treasures of the heart which it could never purchase." *Nicholas Nickleby* ☐

a Money can't buy happiness
b The risks of borrowing
c Live within your means
d It's a dog-eat-dog world

B **What do you think Dickens' views were on wealth and poverty? Discuss with a partner.**

C **Quickly read the extract. How would you describe Oliver's life thus far?**

Oliver asks for more

Orphaned from childbirth, Oliver Twist spends the first nine years of his life living in the 'care' of a woman named Mrs. Mann. He is brought up with little food and few comforts. On his ninth birthday, Mr. Bumble, a minor church official known as the parish beadle, informs Mrs. Mann that Oliver is too old to stay at her establishment and puts him to work at the main workhouse.

Oliver, being now nine years old, was removed from the tender mercies of Mrs. Mann, in whose wretched home not one kind word or look had ever lighted the gloom of his infant years, and was taken into the workhouse.

The members of this board were very sage, deep, philosophical men; and when they came to turn their attention to the workhouse, they found out at once, what ordinary folks would never have discovered—the poor people liked it! It was a regular place of public entertainment for the poorer classes; a tavern where there was nothing to pay; a public breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper all the year round; a brick and mortar Elysium where it was all play and no work. 'Oho!' said the board, looking very knowing; 'we are the fellows to set this to rights; we'll stop it all, in no time.' So, they established the rule, that all poor people should have the alternative of being starved by a gradual process in the workhouse, or by a quick one out of it. With this view, they contracted with a corn-factor to supply periodically small quantities of oatmeal; and issued three meals of thin gruel a day, with an onion twice a week, and half a roll on Sundays.

The room in which the boys were fed, was a large stone hall, with a copper at one end: out of which the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women, ladled the gruel at mealtimes. Of this festive composition each boy had one porringer and no more—except on occasions of great public rejoicing, when he had two ounces and a quarter of bread besides.

The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons till they shone again; and when they had performed this operation (which never took very long, the spoons being nearly as large as the bowls), they would sit staring at the copper, with such eager eyes, as if they could have devoured the very bricks of which it was composed. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months: at last they got so voracious and wild with hunger, that one boy, who was tall for his age, and hadn't been used to that sort of thing (for his father had kept a small cook-shop), hinted darkly to his companions, that unless he had another basin of gruel per diem, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next to him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, hungry eye; and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast who should walk up to the master after supper that evening, and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over the short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered to each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said, somewhat alarmed at his own temerity:

'Please, sir, I want some more.'

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralysed with wonder; the boys with fear.

'What!' said the master at length, in a faint voice.

'Please, sir,' replied Oliver, 'I want some more.'

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle, pinioned him in his arms, and shrieked aloud for Mr. Bumble.

The board were sitting in solemn conclave when Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement, and addressing a gentleman in a high chair,

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D **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Look back at the extract from *Oliver Twist*. What do you think a *copper* is?**

E **Now complete the *Exam Task*.**

Exam Close-up

Dealing with unfamiliar words

- Try to work out the meaning of an unfamiliar word, by looking at the context in which it is used in the sentence.
- Look for clues to its definition in the text near the word.
- Search for other instances of the word in the text to see if the meaning you think it has is supported by the text there.

said, 'Mr. Limbkins, I beg your pardon, sir! Oliver Twist has asked for more!'

[120] There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance.

'For more?' said the chairman. 'Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?'

'He did, sir,' replied Bumble.

'That boy will be hung,' said a gentleman in a white waistcoat. 'I know that boy will be [120] hung.'

Nobody disputed the opinion. Oliver was ordered into instant confinement, and a bill was next morning pasted on the outside of the workhouse gate, offering a reward of five pounds to anybody who would take Oliver Twist off their hands. In other words, five pounds and Oliver Twist were offered to any man or woman who wanted an apprentice to any trade, business, or calling.

Exam Task

You are going to read an extract from *Oliver Twist*, a novel by Charles Dickens. For questions **1 – 6**, choose the answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

1 What impression are we given of the workhouse board members?
   - **A** There was wisdom in their decisions.
   - **B** They had a good understanding of the poor.
   - **C** They lacked compassion for the poor.
   - **D** They wished to spare the poor any undue suffering.

2 For the poor, life in the workhouse
   - **A** allowed for some amusements.
   - **B** inevitably led to death.
   - **C** included adequate food provisions.
   - **D** was preferable to life on the outside.

3 The boys finally decided to ask for more food because they
   - **A** were extremely hungry.
   - **B** enjoyed their meal.
   - **C** knew Oliver would succeed.
   - **D** considered there was a threat.

4 How did Oliver feel as he approached the master?
   - **A** He was astonished at his own daring.
   - **B** He felt unlucky that he had been chosen.
   - **C** He was concerned about his fellow inmates.
   - **D** He felt he had been pressured into doing it.

5 How did the master react to Oliver's request?
   - **A** At first, he had not heard it clearly.
   - **B** It caused him to almost pass out.
   - **C** He was at a loss what to do about it.
   - **D** He was hesitant to disturb the board.

6 What were the consequences of Oliver's action?
   - **A** The board considered capital punishment.
   - **B** A public announcement was made about it.
   - **C** A reward was offered for information about Oliver.
   - **D** The board found a way to rid itself of him.

F **Replace the words in bold in the sentences with words and phrases from the extract.**

1 The village children listened to the elder as he was considered to be **wise**. _____
2 The slaves were treated poorly and had to obey their masters **completely**. _____
3 In the city's slums, disease spread rapidly among the **poor people**. _____
4 No one had the **boldness** to question the chairman's decisions. _____
5 The public was **astonished and shocked** by the greed of the conspirators. _____
6 **After a long time**, his lecturing on my spending habits ended. _____
7 The Mona Lisa is a portrait of a woman with a mysterious **facial expression**. _____
8 The refugee wiped the tears from her eyes and struggled to **calm** herself. _____

Ideas Focus

- It is acceptable for young children to work to help their families? Why? / Why not?
- Would you refuse to buy an item made using child labour, even if it were a bargain? Why? / Why not?

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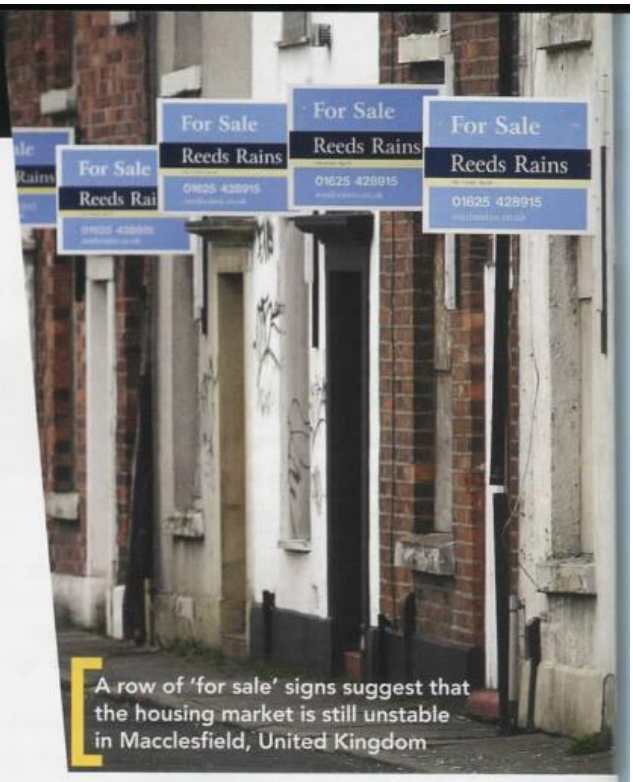

A row of 'for sale' signs suggest that the housing market is still unstable in Macclesfield, United Kingdom

Vocabulary

A **Complete the sentences with the words in the correct form.**

compensate finance gamble incur maximise offset reimburse soar squander value

1 Keep your receipts for paper and pens because office supplies are one of the expenses that you can _____ against tax.
2 Some airlines remodel plane interiors in order to squeeze in more seats and thus _____ their profits.
3 I was overcharged for an online purchase, but the retailer _____ me when I brought it to their attention.
4 Although the house was _____ at one million dollars, a bidding frenzy at auction saw it sell for double that.
5 Plans for the new city rail link were shelved when the federal government backtracked on _____ the project.
6 The young man _____ his inheritance on cars and holidays, and within just a few years he was in debt.
7 The government will _____ people whose life savings were stolen in the elaborate investment scam.
8 In setting up our new business venture we _____ a lot of expenses, but thankfully our company is doing well.
9 Families can no longer afford to buy a home as house prices have _____ by 30 per cent in the last five years.
10 Anyone who _____ on the stock exchange should be prepared to lose money, as there is no guarantee of a profit.

B **Circle the correct words.**

1 An investigative journalist exposed the blackmail / bribery scandal in which a politician received money in return for issuing government contracts.
2 Increased tourism provided a much-needed settlement / stimulus to the economy when the mining industry slowed down.
3 In parliament, the chancellor / treasurer had to field questions from the opposition about government spending.
4 Shareholders are expected to vote on the proposed margin / merger of the two companies next week.
5 As the tycoon had no children of his own, he named his only nephew as the heir / proxy to his considerable fortune.
6 The elderly, the unemployed, students and low-income families receive government concessions / cuts on medicines.
7 In order to buy their own home, the couple took out a contract / mortgage payable over 30 years.
8 In a shocking development, the mayor was charged with abuse / misuse of public money.

C **Look at the words in bold in sentences 1–6. What do you think they mean? Choose from the words in the box.**

bribe broke bureaucracy expensive miser money

1 We were taken to a very **posh** restaurant and poor Jack had no idea which pieces of cutlery to use. _____
2 'I'm **skint**,' said Alex and, in order to give weight to his words, he pulled out his trouser pockets to prove it. _____
3 Apparently, the building contract was awarded to the company that had given a sizable **backhander**. _____
4 Even when it had become painfully obvious that Chris needed financial help, his **tight-fist** of an uncle refused outright. _____
5 'Have you got any **dosh** on you?' 'Just a tenner, but I need it to get a taxi home later.' _____
6 Setting up his business took Nate longer than he thought it would because of all the **red tape**. _____

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D **Circle the odd word out.**

1	entitled	moneyed	privileged	wanting
2	extravagant	thrifty	lavish	opulent
3	well-kept	well-heeled	well-off	well-to-do
4	aboveboard	corrupt	crooked	shady
5	stingy	miserly	spendthrift	penny-pinching

E **Complete the sentences with the circled words in D.**

1 I can assure you that all of our business dealings and transactions are strictly _____ .
2 Be careful with your money; remember, it's better to be _____ than broke.
3 Hundreds of poor families were left _____ for money and food after the earthquake.
4 I'm certain that one of these days, his _____ ways will land him in the bankruptcy court.
5 They live in a _____ home with manicured lawns, a tennis court and a swimming pool.

Phrasal verbs

F **Match 1–8 with a–h to make sentences. Use the words in italics to help you.**

1 The government should really *crack* ☐
2 Oliver complained about the tiny portions of food *doled* ☐
3 Her children have everything they want even if she has to *go* ☐
4 Don't even consider doing business with him; he'll *rip* ☐
5 His grandparents adored him and continued to *shower* ☐
6 The securities commission was recently *tipped* ☐
7 Without conscience, these fraudsters *rob* ☐
8 Her grandfather was a wealthy man and she *came* ☐

a *without* herself.
b him *with* expensive gifts.
c *out* to the hungry boys.
d *into* a lot of money.
e *off* about that trader.
f elderly people *of* their savings
g *down* hard on corruption.
h you *off* without a second thought.

Collocations & Expressions

G **Complete the expressions with the words.**

bet corner egg lane line red resort side

1 I'm in a tight _____ . Is there any way you can you help me out?
2 Having saved wisely all his working life, Reg had a nice nest _____ to retire on.
3 If the bank declines our request for a loan, we'll ask our parents as a last _____ .
4 Life in the fast _____ doesn't come cheap, as Josh found out to his dismay.
5 She makes a little money on the _____ by working in her spare time.
6 It's a safe _____ that once interest rates drop, more people will want to borrow.
7 The company is in the _____ and I really wonder if it will ever make a profit.
8 The bottom _____ is that we need another ten thousand pounds to finish the job.

H **Decide if these adjectives and expressions are used to describe someone who is rich (R) or someone who is poor (P).**

1 minted ☐
2 flush ☐
3 strapped for cash ☐
4 rolling in it ☐
5 indigent ☐
6 skint ☐
7 flat broke ☐
8 affluent ☐

I **Which two words/phrases in H are formal? Can you think of any more adjectives/expressions to describe rich and poor?**

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J **Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then read through the text in the *Exam Task* below to get an idea of the topic.**

K **Now complete the Exam Task.**

Exam Close-up

Dealing with multiple-choice cloze texts

- Read through the text first to get a clear idea of the topic.
- Look at the words either side of the gap. Establish what type of word is missing (noun, adjective, verb, etc.).
- Remember that fixed phrases and idioms often don't follow the normal rules so read through the text again if you're not sure. Does it sound right?

Exam Task

For questions **1 – 8**, read the text below and decide which answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) best fits each gap.

Accruing wealth

Wealth tends to generate more wealth, but being born with a **(1)** _____ spoon in one's mouth is not the only way to the top. Some of the world's wealthiest people started out **(2)** _____ poor. People from very **(3)** _____ beginnings have not only risen to the top of their industries, but have also become some of the wealthiest people in the world.

The rich get richer and their net **(4)** _____ continues to grow. This seems unfair to many, but the personal stories of those who have gone from rags to **(5)** _____ have much to teach us about success. They remind us that through grit and the right **(6)** _____ of mind, it's possible to overcome even wretched circumstances.

Growing up on the **(7)** _____ side of the tracks is no blessing. However, it needn't be a **(8)** _____ either. In the cases of many it has provided the impetus needed to get ahead.

1	A golden	B silver	C large	D expensive
2	A grimy	B filthy	C dirt	D earth
3	A humble	B timid	C low	D shy
4	A wealth	B money	C value	D worth
5	A richer	B riches	C rich	D richly
6	A peace	B presence	C frame	D cast
7	A wrong	B other	C worst	D opposite
8	A bother	B horror	C shame	D curse

Old buildings are shadowed by more modern skyscrapers in Shanghai, China

Ideas Focus

- 'If you are careful with your money, you will miss out on fun activities and you won't have many friends.' Do you agree? Why? / Why not?
- Are you a saver or a spender? Why?
- Do you think that borrowing large amounts of money is normal nowadays? Why? Is this a good thing?

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