

An extract from *Mr Rosenblum's List*

- 1 It will be cloudy and dull this evening and tonight with periods of rain; the rain being moderate or heavy in many districts. Fog will be extensive on high ground with fog patches along the south coast. Tomorrow, more general and heavy rain will spread from the south-west with temperatures of approximately fifty-seven degrees. That concludes the weather summary; a further news bulletin may be heard at a quarter to...
- 2 Jack Rosenblum switched off the wireless* and nestled back into his leather armchair. A beatific smile spread across his face and he closed his eyes. "So there is to be more rain," he remarked to the empty room, stretching out his short legs and giving a yawn. He was unconcerned by the dismal prognosis; it was the act of listening to the bulletin that he savoured. Each evening during the weather forecast he could imagine he was an Englishman. When the forecast was stopped through the war he grieved on behalf of the British, aware what loss this absence would inflict, and when it started again he listened in religiously, happily considering all the Englishmen and women hearing "light drizzle on high ground" at the same instant as he. Through the daily weather reports he felt himself to be part of a nation; the prediction may be sleet in Scotland and sunshine in the West Midlands but the ritual of the weather forecast united them all. The national preoccupation had been rightfully restored and in his soul Jack rejoiced.
- 3 He stared out of the window, watching the rain trickle down the pane. Beyond, the tatty grass of the garden ran up to a dilapidated fence, and on the other side was the heath. No one had mended the fence. It had been falling down since 1940 but there was no new wood with which to mend it. He could have found some on the black market, but the simple truth was that he, like everyone else in London, had ceased to notice the shabbiness of his surroundings. Over the last ten years the city had slowly decayed, cracks appearing in even the smartest façade, but the people of London, like the spouse of a fading beauty, had grown far too familiar with the city to notice her decline. It was left for those who had returned from exile to observe with dismay the drab degeneration of the once great capital. London was blackened and smoke stained, with great gaping holes strewn with rubble.

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* the wireless: the radio

Text C — An extract from *Mr Rosenblum's List*

The following statements are either true or false. Tick [✓] the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. Both parts are required for [1 mark].

28. The following day is expected to be wetter in more parts of the country.

☐ True	Justification: Tomorrow, more general and heavy rain will spread
☐ False	

29. Jack listened to the forecast because he was keen to know what the weather would be.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	

30. Jack was devoted to following the forecast once it resumed.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	

31. Jack felt the whole country came together through the custom of listening to the forecast.

☐ True	Justification:
☐ False	

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- 3 He stared out of the window, watching the rain trickle down the pane. Beyond, the tatty grass of the garden ran up to a dilapidated fence, and on the other side was the heath. No one had mended the fence. It had been falling down since 1940 but there was no new wood with which to mend it. He could have found some on the black market, but the simple truth was that he, like everyone else in London, **had ceased to notice the shabbiness** of his **surroundings**. Over the last ten years the city had slowly decayed, cracks appearing in even the smartest façade, but the people of London, like the spouse of a fading beauty, had grown far too familiar with the city to notice her decline. It was left for those who had returned from exile to observe with dismay the drab degeneration of the once great capital. London was blackened and smoke stained, with great gaping holes strewn with rubble.

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32. Choose the **four** true statements.

☐
☐
☐
☐

- A. Jack's garden was noticeably better kept than the fence.
 B. Jack couldn't mend his fence because it was impossible to get wood.
 C. Jack **no longer paid attention** to the fact that **the city** was **run-down**.
 D. London had been in better condition a decade earlier.
 E. The most elegant houses in the city were still in perfect condition.
 F. People who knew London well failed to see that it was deteriorating.
 G. People coming back to London viewed the city's decline with sadness.
 H. London was starting to show signs of recovery.

* the wireless: the radio

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1 It will be cloudy and dull this evening or heavy in many districts. Fog will be on the south coast. Tomorrow, more general rain. Temperatures of approximately fifty-seven degrees. The weatherman concludes the weather summary; a further news bulletin may be heard at a quarter of eight.

What action, do you think, was done with the armchair?

2 Jack Rosenblum switched off the wireless* and nestled back into his leather armchair. A beatific smile spread across his face and he closed his eyes. "So there is to be more rain," he remarked to the empty room, stretching out his short legs and giving a yawn. He was unconcerned by the dismal prognosis; it was the act of listening to the bulletin that he savoured. Each evening during the weather forecast he could imagine he was an Englishman. When the forecast was stopped through the war he grieved on behalf of the British, aware what loss this absence would inflict, and when it started again he listened in religiously, happily considering all the Englishmen and women hearing "light drizzle on high ground" at the same instant as he. Through the daily weather reports he felt himself to be part of a nation; the prediction may be sleet in Scotland and sunshine in the West Midlands but the ritual of the weather forecast united them all. The national preoccupation had been rightfully restored and in his soul Jack rejoiced.

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TIP:

*Predict the meaning of the word. You should try to understand the word in context.

*After predicting the meaning of the word, go to the options (A, B, C, D...) and discard "IMpossible" options.

What do the following words mean in the text? Choose the appropriate words from the list.

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 33. nestled (line 6) | ☐ | A. ruined |
| 34. grieved (line 11) | ☐ | B. climbed |
| 35. rejoiced (line 16) | ☐ | C. marked |
| 36. stained (line 25) | ☐ | D. snuggled |
| | | E. recovered |
| | | F. celebrated |
| | | G. mourned |
| | | H. struggled |

Choose the correct answer.

37. In the passage, Jack's attitude towards the British is best described as...

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| ☐ | A. critical. |
| | B. affectionate. |
| | C. detached. |
| | D. amused. |

* the wireless: the radio