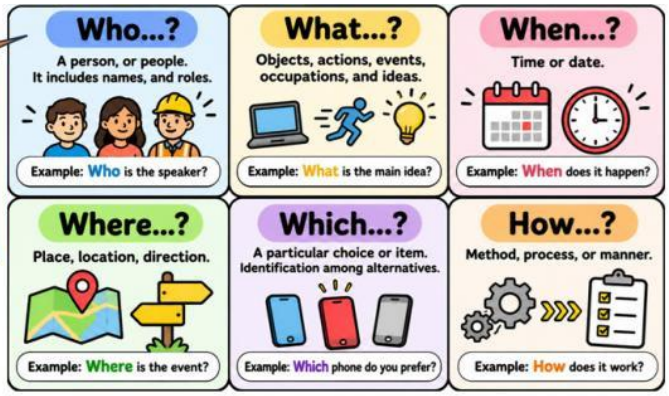
Bear in mind that the answers in the IB exams must be precise and concise. These are the specific pieces of information that you have to provide, based on the question word.

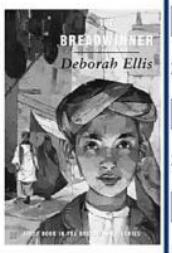


Specimen 1 – English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension

English

Text C

An extract from
The Breadwinner



The man who came back from prison was barely recognizable, but Parvana knew who he was. Although his white shalwar kameez was now gray and tattered, although his face was drawn and pale, he was still her father. Parvana clung to him so tightly she had to be pulled away by Mrs. Weera so that her father could lie down. It took days of Mrs. Weera's careful nursing before Father even started to get well. Father had been beaten badly, and the poultice bandages Mrs. Weera put over his wounds had to be changed and washed frequently. Parvana was overjoyed just to have him home.

One thing in her life had been repaired. Her father was home now. Maybe the rest of the family would come back, too. Parvana was filled with hope. "I feel like I'm working for something now," she told Shauzia one day. "I'm working to get my family back." "I'm working for something, too," Shauzia said. "I'm working to get away from Afghanistan." Her grandfather had started to look for a husband for her. "If I stay here and get married, my life will be over. If I leave, maybe I'll have a chance." Parvana didn't know how to comfort her friend.

One day Mrs. Weera had a visitor, a member of the women's group who had just come out of Mazar. "A lot of people have fled Mazar," Father told Parvana.

"They are staying in refugee camps outside the city."
"Is that where Mother is?"
"It's possible. We won't know unless we go to the camps and look."
"Are you well enough to travel?"
"I will never be well enough," Father said, "but we should go anyway."

Parvana was surprised at how calm she felt. She decided it was because her father was back.

A few days before they were to leave for Mazar, Parvana carefully dug up some wildflowers that were growing among the bombed-out ruins. She planted them in the marketplace as a goodbye present for the Window Woman. "Those flowers won't grow in that soil," someone said. An old man knelt down to help Parvana. "Afghans love beautiful things," he said, "but we have seen so much ugliness, we sometimes forget how wonderful a thing like a flower is." The plants had wilted. "They may look scraggly and dying now," he said, "but the roots are good."

Two days later they were ready to leave. Suddenly, Shauzia appeared. "I'm leaving soon, too. I met some nomads who will take me to Pakistan as a shepherd." "When will we see each other again?" Parvana asked. "We'll meet again on the first day of spring, twenty years from now. The top of the Eiffel Tower in Paris." Parvana laughed. "I'll be there."

The future stretched unknown down the road in front of her. Her mother was somewhere ahead with her sisters and her brother, but what else they would find, Parvana had no idea. Whatever it was, she felt ready for it. Through the dusty front windshield she could see Mount Parvana, the snow on its peak sparkling in the sun.

Answer the following questions.

1. What prevented Father from beginning to recover immediately after returning home?

2. What motivated Parvana to continue working?

3. What was Shauzia's grandfather attempting to make for her?

4. Where might Parvana and her father find their other family members?

5. Why was Parvana unexpectedly calm about the journey?

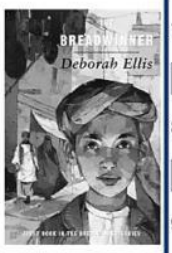
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Specimen 1 – English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension

English

Text C

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6. What did Parvana leave as a farewell for the Window Woman?

7. What gave the old man reason to believe that the flowers could survive?

8. When did Shauzia propose that she and Parvana should reunite?

9. What remained uncertain for Parvana?

10. What suggests that Parvana was no longer afraid of facing an unpredictable future?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS