

**1**

Read the review below of the short story *Key Item*. After reading, match each of the four paragraph summaries under the review to one of the paragraphs. Write the number of the paragraph in the box beside each summary.

### KEY ITEM

① *Key Item* is a science fiction story. It was written by Isaac Asimov, one of the greatest science fiction writers of the twentieth century. It is about a supercomputer called Multivac which helps to rule the world, but which suddenly stops working.

② Multivac is no longer willing to answer people's questions, or answers them in the wrong way. This is a serious problem for mankind, because many decisions are made according to the computer's answers, and even governments depend on it.



③ A team of scientists are brought in to find out why Multivac has stopped working. At last, one of the scientists figures out the problem. The computer wants the scientists to include the word 'please' in their commands. Once this is done, it starts working again.

④ *Key Item* is a story with interesting ideas. Isaac Asimov is asking us to imagine a situation where a machine has developed further from just being a tool. The story also reminds us of a valuable lesson – that sometimes we forget to show appreciation for the people who are serving us or working for us. This is a good story for anyone who likes science fiction. The humour in the story is also very enjoyable.

a. the writer's opinion

b. problem described in the story

c. solution to problem

d. title and type of story