PART 3

You are going to read a magazine article about various authors. For questions 16–30, choose from the authors (A–D). The authors may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Which author

feels that she is not completely in control when she is writing? 16

took action in response to someone's negative view of her chances of getting her work accepted? 17

thinks that her current working arrangement may not be permanent? 18

decides when information given in her books does not have to be true? 19

did something dishonest while trying to get her work accepted? 20

is unwilling to do a great deal of background work for her books? 21

was offered her first contract as a result of an earlier success? 22

makes sure that her books contain strange elements? 23

got great pleasure from carrying out a certain process repeatedly? 24

draws attention to the likelihood of a new author getting their work accepted? 25

wants people to be cheered up by her books? 26

feels that it is an advantage that people give her their sincere views on her work? 27

recommends analysing various aspects of other authors' books? 28

leaves sentences incomplete while she is writing? 29

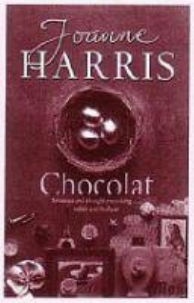
felt that her job was taking up too much of her attention? 30

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The best-sellers book club

Fancy being an author? We asked some of Britain's favourite best-selling writers to share the secrets of their success.

A JOANNE HARRIS *Her novels have attracted millions of fans worldwide.*



MY BIG BREAK I was a full-time teacher and made time to write my first novel before and after school. It took two years. Then I spent a fortune on posting manuscripts to agents. I found one, but he got discouraged when my manuscripts were rejected, so I sacked him and wrote my next novel, which my next agent loved. He got me a deal for both novels.

HOW I WORK I travel a lot, on promotional work, but when I'm at home I work in my library, looking out onto the garden. I don't want to do lots of research, so I stick to subjects I know about.

MY BEST ADVICE 100,000 titles are published in the UK every year. For each, 100 are rejected. If, knowing this, you still want to write and you love it, you're on the right track.

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS I don't believe in a magic wand. You need ability, luck and hard work.

B LAUREN CHILD *She writes and illustrates children's books for two to 10-year-olds.*

MY BIG BREAK After school, I did an art course. Then I did all sorts of jobs - making lampshades, working as an assistant to artist Damien Hirst (I painted a lot of the spots on his paintings). I wrote my first book in the hope it would become an animation. I found an agent, but didn't get a deal for five years. I didn't lose heart, as so many people were positive about it. Eventually I got a deal and was asked to do a second book.

HOW I WORK In the early days I used to work while I answered the phones at a graphic design agency. Some illustrations take hours, and I prefer having other people around. Now, I've just bought a new house and have a studio, but I'm not sure how long I'll be able to stand working by myself.

MY BEST ADVICE Read as much as you can before you even think of writing. And you can't please everyone - above all, your work must interest you.

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS I keep stories simple, but always add a quirky touch - children really like the more bizarre moments in life. I also have a very honest audience who tell me what they think.

C FREYA NORTH *She writes lively, fast-paced fiction.*

MY BIG BREAK I was doing a PhD in Art History and bought a computer. The sheer joy of typing then deleting stuff was compulsive and I started to write fiction that I actually wanted to read. After four years of rejections, I presumed I was doing something wrong. Then I worked for a publishing company and realized I needed an agent. I sent my manuscript with fake reviews I'd made up myself to lots of agents. One took me on and got me a three-book deal.

HOW I WORK I used to work at our kitchen table, but now I go to the library. Touch-typing was the best thing I ever learnt. I never interrupt the flow and just throw in asterisks if I can't think of an adjective. It's as if the story and the characters have taken me over and I have to struggle to keep up!

MY BEST ADVICE Let your character dictate the story. It could be the most intricate plot in the world, but if the characters aren't 'real', no one will care.

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS I write simply and keep chapters short so my readers can enjoy them on journeys home at the end of a bad day. I want them to giggle.

D MANDA SCOTT *She has written a cult series of historical novels.*

MY BIG BREAK I was a veterinary anaesthetist. On my 30th birthday, I was climbing a mountain and I was happy, but all I could think about was work on Monday. I decided to follow my heart and make a living from writing. I was among the finalists in a writing competition and from that got a deal for my first book.

HOW I WORK I have a routine: in the morning, edit everything from the previous day, then I walk my dogs and write in the afternoon.

MY BEST ADVICE Read bad books and work out what makes them bad. Read the books you love and work out why you love them. Write what you will really, really want to read. Always.

THE SECRET OF MY SUCCESS I'm good at judging what needs to be factual and what I can make up.

LIVEWORKSHEETS