



**2010 English**

**Intermediate 2 Close Reading**

**Finalised Marking Instructions**

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**English – Intermediate 2**

**Close Reading**

**Marking Key**

1. Looking in the opening paragraph (lines 1–5) for your answer, explain **in your own words** what the writer’s original “reaction” to the name Qin Shihuangdi was.

1 U

*He had never/barely heard of him/puzzlement*

2. The first paragraph (lines 1 – 5) is written in a chatty style. Identify **one** expression or feature from these lines which contributes to this chattiness, and explain why it does so.

2 A

*Question (and response)*

*Verbless sentence(s)*

*(throwaway effect of) “of course”*

*Informality of abbreviated verbs*

*(Helpful) explanation of pronunciation*

*Use of 2nd person*

*Humour of (facetious) capital letter at “Who”*

*Informal use of initial “But”*

*Terminal preposition (“about”)*

*Makes it more informal/*

*friendlier/less intimidating*

*OR*

*is a feature of conversation/*

*dialogue/engagement*

3. Look at paragraph 2 (lines 6 – 10). Give **in your own words two** reasons why it is “rather shocking” that most people in the West do not know about Qin.

2 U

*He is a very important person in history (gloss of “colossal” or “greatest”);*

*He set up/founded China (gloss of “created”);*

*He set up/founded an imperial dynasty (gloss of “First Emperor”);*

*His regime was the most permanent/durable/prolonged (gloss of “long-lasting”)*

*Any two.*

4. Show how any **one** feature of Neil MacGregor’s word choice (see lines 12 – 15) makes it clear that he thinks of Qin as someone special.

2 A

*changed the world (1)*

*suggests large extent of influence (1)*

*terribly few (1)*

*conveys near-uniqueness (1)*

*(whose achievements) lasted like that (1)*

*suggests permanence of influence (1)*

*Really (1)*

*intensifies (1)*

*“great” (1)*

*shows attitude of high regard (1)*

*repetition of “great, great” (1)*

*emphasises (1)*

*Example (1) plus analysis (1)*

5. Explain **in your own words two** of the consequences of the improvements Qin made to his war chariots (see lines 24 – 26). **2 U**

*Glosses of*

*stability*

*eg firmness/solidity/strength/  
steadiness/balance*

*durability*

*eg toughness/long-lasting quality/  
sturdiness/resilience*

*chariots could ride relatively  
smoothly (down the same ruts in the  
road)*

*eg progress (in channels/grooves/  
furrows) was easy/easier*

*avoid churning up the entire highway*

*eg road was not made uneven/less  
smooth/harder to make progress on/  
not so damaged*

*Any two*

6. How appropriate is the expression “formidable war machine” (line 29) at this point in the passage? **3 E**

*It (neatly/succinctly) continues/sums up/reinforces/emphasises/alludes to (1)  
the frightening/redoubtable/fearsome quality (1)  
and the efficiency/competence/ruthlessness of the army (1)*

*Recognition of linking function = 1  
Specified analysis of link = 2*

7. Explain **in your own words any two** ways in which Qin managed to “tighten his grip on every aspect of life” (line 34). **2 U**

*Glosses of*

*surveillance culture/spy*

*people watched/observed one another*

*terrible punishments*

*severe reprisals/penalties*

*Many laws*

*multiplicity of regulations/edicts/  
rulings/instructions*

*Any two*

8. What does the writer gain by using “toil” (line 38) rather than the word “work”?  
*It conveys the hardship/protractedness/drudgery of the work* **1 A**
9. The writer calls the Great Wall an “iconic symbol” (line 47).
- (a) Why is it appropriate to call the wall a “symbol”?  
*It represents/stands for/is (readily) recognisable as representative (of China)* **1 A/E**
- (b) **In your own words**, explain fully what aspects of China it symbolises. **3 U**
- Gloss of “historical” or “age-old”* *eg long-standing (1)*  
*Gloss of “separateness”* *eg isolation (1)*  
*Gloss of “industriousness”* *eg capacity for hard work (1)*
10. Explain how the sentence “But for the First Emperor, establishing complete control over his empire was not enough.” (lines 56-57) works as a link between paragraphs at this point. **2 A**
- “establishing complete control over his empire” refers back to preceding ideas (relating to dominance) (1);*  
*“was not enough” prepares us for upcoming reference (to other things he wanted to do or have) (1);*  
*“But” introduces contrast = 1*
11. Show fully how the writer introduces a **tone** of doubt when he writes about the prospects for opening the tomb (lines 60 – 62). **2 A**
- He uses “may” (1); twice (1); he uses “some archaeologists” (1);*  
*he uses “hope” (1); he uses “one day” (1); he uses “some form” (1);*  
*Any two points. or one point (1) + correct analysis (1)*

12. How does the writer convey the grandness or large scale of the tomb in lines 63 – 69? You should refer to technique as well as content.

2 A

**Content**            *He refers to the large number of people involved in its construction  
OR the large number of pits  
OR the large number of artefacts found  
OR the possibility of many more  
OR the desire to have many servants etc. (paraphrase of last sentence) (1);*

*Generalised comment about large numbers acceptable*

**Technique**

**Typography**      *he uses numerals (for impact) (1);*

**Word choice**      *he uses “empire”, which suggests size of construction  
OR he uses “army”, which alludes to the large numbers of figures (1)*

*One answer from each section needed for 2 marks*

13. Show how an aspect of what Neil MacGregor says (lines 70 – 75) effectively conveys his sense of wonder. Your answer should refer to an example of **word choice or structure**.

2 E

<b>word choice</b>	<i>“I can’t think of anyone else” (1)</i>	<i>(emphatically) conveys sense of uniqueness (1)</i>
	<i>“scale of ambition” (1)</i>	<i>(clearly) conveys size of imagination/grandeur of plan (1)</i>
	<i>“entire kingdom” (1)</i>	<i>(clearly) conveys size of undertaking (1)</i>
	<i>“Nobody else (in human history has attempted to do that)” (1)</i>	<i>(emphatically) conveys sense of uniqueness/rareness (1)</i>
	<i>“fascinating” (1)</i>	<i>(clearly) suggests the captivating nature of (this aspect of) the story (1)</i>
<b>structure</b>	<i>repetition of “anyone/nobody else” (1)</i>	<i>(clearly) emphasises uniqueness (1)</i>
	<i>repetition of “we have no” (1)</i>	<i>(clearly) emphasises uniqueness (1)</i>

*One mark for feature, one for evaluative comment;*

*NB cause of admiration must be explained – mere repetition of “wonder” = 0*

14. In what sense does the writer use “funny” in line 75? 1 U  
*Unusual/unconventional/strange/ironic/quaint/peculiar*

15. Explain why any example of the **word choice** in the final paragraph (lines 78 – 82) contributes to a neat conclusion to the passage. 2 A

“*mass ranks*” (1) *recapitulates idea of large numbers* (1)

“*Terracotta Army*” (1) *returns to an expression used in opening paragraph* (1)

“*(breathtaking) megalomania*” (1) *recapitulates ideas/word used earlier* (1)

“*wonders of the world*” (1) *recapitulates idea of magnificence* (1)

“*(The telling of that story is long) overdue*” (1) *recapitulates idea of undeserved anonymity* (1)

*Any one example + explanation*

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]