**English Language Paper 2**

**Reading Practice: Prisons**

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| **Q1 – 4 marks – 5 minutes**  Using Source A highlight the four true statements.  a) Bastoy is a high security prison.  b) The prison itself is on an island.  c) Prisoners cohabit in houses instead of cells.  d) The writer believed the reports he’s read about Bastoy before he visited.  e) Bastoy seems to focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment.  f) The writer thinks that the prisoners have too much freedom.  g) The prisoners have no responsibilities.  h) The writer believes this type of institution could be revolutionary. | **Source A**: **From the article ‘The Norwegian prison where inmates are treated like people’ (2016)**  I wasn't sure what to expect on Bastoy, Norway. A number of wide-eyed commentators before me have variously described conditions under which the island's 115 prisoners live as "cushy", "luxurious" and, the old chestnut, "like a holiday camp". I'm sceptical of such media reports.  Thorbjorn, a 58-year-old guard who has worked on Bastoy for 17 years, gives me a warm welcome as I step on to dry land. As we walk along the icy, snowbound track that leads to the admin block, he tells me how the prison operates. There are 70 members of staff on the 2.6 sq km island during the day, 35 of whom are uniformed guards. Their main job is to count the prisoners – first thing in the morning, twice during the day at their workplaces, once en masse at a specific assembly point at 5pm, and finally at 11pm, when they are confined to their respective houses. Only four guards remain on the island after 4pm. Thorbjorn points out the small, brightly painted wooden bungalows dotted around the wintry landscape. "These are the houses for the prisoners," he says. They accommodate up to six people. Every man has his own room and they share kitchen and other facilities. "The idea is they get used to living as they will live when they are released." Only one meal a day is provided in the dining hall. The men earn the equivalent of £6 a day and are given a food allowance each month of around £70 with which to buy provisions for their self-prepared breakfasts and evening meals from the island's well-stocked mini-supermarket. I can see why some people might think such conditions controversial. The common understanding of prison is that it is a place of deprivation and penance rather than domestic comfort.  On the ferry back to the mainland I think about what I have seen and heard. Bastoy is no holiday camp. In some ways I feel as if I've seen a vision of the future – a penal institution designed to heal rather than harm and to generate hope instead of despair.  **Source B: An extract from a letter Oscar Wilde’s letter to ‘The Daily Chronicle’ about the treatment of children in prison. (1897)**  Dear Sir, the present treatment of children is terrible, primarily from people not understanding the psychology of a child’s nature. A child cannot understand a punishment inflicted by society.  The child consequently, being taken away from its parents by people whom it has never seen before, and of whom it knows nothing, and finding itself in a lonely and unfamiliar cell, waited on by strange faces, and ordered about and punished by representatives of a prison system that it cannot understand, becomes an immediate prey to the first and most prominent emotion produced by modern prisons - the emotion of terror.  The terror of a child in prison is quite limitless. I remember once, in Reading prison, as I was going out to exercise, seeing in the dimly-lit cell right opposite my own, a small boy. Two warders — not unkindly men — were talking sternly to him, or perhaps giving him some useful advice about his behaviour. One was in the cell with him, the other was standing outside. The child’s face was like a white wedge of sheer terror. There was in his eyes the terror of a hunted animal.  The next morning I heard him at breakfast time crying and begging to be let out. His cry was for his parents. From time to time I could hear the deep voice of the warder on duty telling him to keep quiet. | **Q3 – Language**  **12 marks (15 minutes)**  Look carefully at lines 8 to the end in Source B.  How does the writer use language to emphasise how children are mistreated in prison? |
| **Q2 – Synthesis**  **8 marks (10 minutes)**  Use details from **both** sources to write a summary of the different ways prisoners live and are treated. | **Q4- Comparison**  **16 marks (25 minutes)**  Compare how the writers convey different attitudes towards prisons. |