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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

"In traditional grammar, nouns are defined notionally as 'the name of a person, place or thing'. But this definition only partly works; abstract nouns like *criticism* or *tolerance* are hardly things and it is syntax not meaning that decides that *think* is a verb in one sentence (*I must think*) and a noun in another (*I'll have a think*). Modern grammarians therefore prefer more formal, syntactical definitions."

Sylvia CHALKER & Edmund WEINER, *The Oxford Dictionary of English Grammar*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994, p. 266.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

Slosh got their phone numbers. He would give them all a call, go down the list. Worth a try, that's what being a journalist and getting a story was about. He found Aharon and got his story, secured with a promise that it would air when he was safe, either in jail or dead.

Beth Kissileff, *Counterfeit*, 2016

Excerpt 2

It did not matter that he had a wife and a child and a job and a grind to grind through week after week for the rest of his life.

Mike Magnuson, *A Gathering Storm*, 2015

Excerpt 3

A long scar on the upper abdomen, judged to be the result of a heated object held against it because of the clear perimeters of the scarring and the various changes in skin color....

The list of injuries went on and on and on. But the worst were... two deep, wide third-degree burns the entire length of the backs of calves.

Naomi Ragen, *The Devil in Jerusalem*, 2016

Excerpt 4

The drone came up, then the rattle and thump surrounded them amid the tweedle of the flutes. She leaned in to give him his instructions: "For starters just learn to move to the beat—push off with your feet on one, push back with your hands on two, keep it up you get it right—don't worry about direction—just bounce up on one, bounce down on two." Easier said than done. It took all his concentration to gradually learn to move on the beat, thrusting off with the right bit of force both ways, because his legs were stronger.

John Alfred Taylor, *Plaisir d'Amour*, 2017

Excerpt 5

She's willing to accept the mistakes her family has made. Given the amount of time Sansa spent alongside the Lannisters and, later, the Boltons, she's been able to discern a number of leadership dos and don'ts (do care for your people, do be ruthless when necessary, do defend your family, don't do literally anything Ramsay did, etc.).

The Nerdist, "Why Sansa Stark Should Rule the Seven Kingdoms...", < <https://nerdist.com> >, 22-08-2017

Excerpt 6

Back to the gong scene (but under cranked) as the stretcher bearers carry the men away and big drums are upended and rolled away in the wake of the stretchers - off to the right.

John Patrick Stanley, *Joe vs. the Volcano*, 1990

Excerpt 7

Speaking of that bad habits, bad habits are hard to break. I can certainly attest to that. But do you know some vices are good for you. Biting your nails to cracking your knuckles to burping. Some doctors are saying a do, not a don't.

Foxnews, *The Five 5:00 PM Eastern Time*, "Collective Outrage; Vacation Violation?", 2013, COCA

Excerpt 8

In a world where people can't seem to make the simplest of relationships work and the slightest emotional commitment is considered devastating, Mickey and Mallory have a do or die romance of a Shakespearian magnitude.

Oliver Stone, *Natural Born Killers*, 1994

Excerpt 9

That looks a pretty good job, sweeping the floor, though I'd rather have a go on the sweeping machine. I suppose if you work at night you got to sleep during the day. Marie used to do that when I met her — you know, sleep all day and then go out at night. I suppose you get used to it after a while, sleeping in the day.

Nigel Watts, *Billy Bayswater*, 1990

Excerpt 10

She also drummed it into us that family matters more than anything, that our primary job on earth is to take care of each other [...].

Mary Hunter Daly, *To Part The Moon and Sky*, 1996

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Excerpt 11

The visual is a handsome young couple, beaming smiles as they carry their laughing toddler to a mid-size sedan. Caption: "Myerstone Tires. Your family matters to us."

Nora Roberts, *Inner Harbor*, 1999

Excerpt 12

I picked up the phone and dialed the number from memory, long-distance, the 805 area code. "This hardly ever happens." "I should hope not. Welcome! policy frowns upon family matters intruding upon business."

Harley Jane Kozak, *Dating Mead Men*, 2005

Excerpt 13

"Cancer. I couldn't go to the athletes' funerals because she died. That upset people, but... She was my sister. Family matters."

"Your wife is pregnant?"

"Yes, seven months."

Munich, 2005, COCA

Excerpt 14

It did not matter that he had a wife and a child and a job and a grind to grind through week after week for the rest of his life.

Mike Magnuson, *A Gathering Storm*, 2015

Excerpt 15

"All it takes is one good win," Kroon said. "You get a chance to play in one good tournament and you win some matches there, then all of a sudden you're in the top 100."

John McClain, *Houston Chronicle*, SPORTS 2, 2001, COCA

Excerpt 16

Some people might think I'm selfish, but I've never been like that. All the teams I've played for, they told me, when you get the ball down low, shoot a shot.

David Leon Moore, *USA Today*, SPORTS, 1999, COCA

Excerpt 17

As such, the protagonists linguistically attempt to resist, or neutralize, the performative force of the older generation's words. Unlike Bertrade and the Count, who swear, bid, declare, judge, and name, this trio shies away from speaking with illocutionary force, downplaying their actions with qualifiers. For instance, they put off the illocutionary act for a future time ("I'd pardon you"); they negate the illocutionary potential of a sentence ("I dare not bid thee stay", "I blame not", "I can not swear thee no", "I judge you not".)

Steffes, Annmarie, *Victorian Poetry*, "A Sensation of the Action", 2017, COCA

Excerpt 18

A mutual friend told me about the wake and funeral, but my friend didn't invite me.

Detroit Free Press, "Repairing the damage of missing a child's funeral", 2017, COCA

Excerpt 19

Procario gave a humorless grin. "We'll see."

Officially, these woods were part of a highly classified training facility, so secret that the government wouldn't even allow it to be named. To anyone in the know, however, it was "the Farm", a rural base tucked away out of sight within thousands of acres of thickly wooded land, close by a broad and slow-moving river.

Anthony Shaffer, *The Last Line*, 2013

Excerpt 20

THRUSHES

Terrifying are the attent sleek thrushes on the lawn,
 More coiled steel than living — a poised
 Dark deadly eye, those delicate legs
 Triggered to stirrings beyond sense — with a start, a bounce, a stab
 Overtake the instant and drag out some writhing thing.
 No indolent procrastinations and no yawning stares.
 No sighs or head-scratchings. Nothing but bounce and stab

Ted Hughes, *Selected poems*, 1957-1981

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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

"[A] collective noun is a morphologically singular noun with multiple reference that is compatible with a plural verb. This definition involves a semantic as well as a formal component."

Ilse DEPRAETARE, "On verbal concord with collective nouns in British English", *English Language Linguistics*, vol. 7, part 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, p. 86.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

There is a stillness in these final scenes which forms a fine contrast with the earlier manic activity, a real sense of wonder as the dead come to life and the divided family are miraculously reunited.

The Daily Telegraph, 1992, BNC

Excerpt 2

Sujata was declared to be in remission in 2015, but her family still worries the illness might come back. Her family is so nervous about the stigma around the disease that they asked not to be identified by their real names in this report.

Huffington Post, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 3

Much of the above work is reasonably well known because the Magistrates' Court is an open court. This means that not only can members of the public attend the sittings but the press are also entitled to report the proceedings in the newspapers.

The Alton Herald (Surrey), 1992, BNC

Excerpt 4

I've heard from people who have visited Brussels that meetings were being cancelled because the British Delegation were not even members of the trade union, but looking at the structure of the works councils in the UK this is no wonder.

Trade Union Annual Congress. Rec. on 7 Jun 1993, BNC

Excerpt 5

But, he warned, the government was inconsistent in accepting targets for diversity of prison governors while refusing to adopt them for the bench. "I am disappointed that the government have not felt able to move forward on targets or goals to achieve a representative judiciary and magistracy" he said.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 6

Even the furniture is used in the show, including the books, which date back to the 16th century.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2013, COCA

Excerpt 7

A pretty bunch of flowers was always carried to a special social event. It was at this time, too, that the meaning of the flowers in a posy or nosegay took on such importance.

Malcolm Hillier, *The Book of Fresh Flowers: A Complete Guide to Selecting & Arranging*, 1988, COCA

Excerpt 8

There is a splendid view out over this forest of pines from the car park at the base of the Coire Cas chairlift, and it's soothing to be reminded from here how small Aviemore is in the great scheme of things.

Muriel Gray, *The First Fifty: Munro-Bagging without a Beard*, 1991, BNC

Excerpt 9

For instance, the manager of an airline, however committed he may be to an efficient seat reservation system, may be obliged to withdraw seats already allocated in favour of a minister and his train of attendants.

Laurence Cockcroft, *Africa's Way: a Journey from the Past*, 1990, BNC

Excerpt 10

A mob of drunken, off-duty police officers caused mayhem on a train, it was claimed yesterday. A report has been sent to Crown prosecutors.

The Daily Mirror, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 11

A family's jinxed trip to Disneyworld started in disaster, turned to horror... and then went from bad to worse. First thieves stripped their room of luggage, clothes, money, passports and tickets within hours of their arrival in Orlando, Florida.

The Daily Mirror, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 12

Again, the Gardens about Hammersmith are as famous for Strawberries, Raspberries, Currants, Gooseberries, and such like; and if early fruit is our Desire, Mr. Millet's at North End, near the same place, affords us Cherries, Apricocks and Curiosities of those kinds, some months before the Natural Season.

Hazel Le Rougetel, *The Chelsea Gardener* (Natural History Museum), 1990, BNC

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Excerpt 13

"Mr. Simpson is charged alone because he is the sole murderer," Clark said. She declined to confirm numerous press accounts that a grand jury is meeting to consider the evidence against Simpson. If a grand jury were to agree there was sufficient evidence, Simpson's case could be bound over for a Superior Court trial without a preliminary hearing.

San Francisco Chronicle, 1994, COCA

Excerpt 14

The British aristocracy were enormously proud of their intellectual poverty. They left the business of writing to the dreaded middle classes.

Pat Booth, *Malibu*, 1990, COCA

Excerpt 15

The law upheld the first system as long as the aristocracy was supreme. The ban against marriage to a deceased wife's sister was rescinded in 1907, another sign that the middle classes had come into their own.

Jeffrey Weeks, *Sex Politics and Society: the Regulation of Sexuality since 1800*, 1992, BNC

Excerpt 16

Between one and nine kittens will be born in a litter – most commonly four to six. First-time queens usually have a small litter size. When the birth is finished the mother will settle and allow the kittens to feed.

< www.cats.org.uk >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 17

Recently returned to Northern Ireland from New Zealand, I am appalled at the waste of re-cycleable material in the province. On Auckland's North Shore each householder is provided with a small green bin about the size of a fish basket. In this bin is placed tin cans, washed and flattened, hard plastics and glass bottles. Newspapers are tied up in bundles, or put into plastic bags. Unrecycleable material is put into either plastic or brown paper rubbish bags. Garden rubbish was accepted free of charge, and turned into compost, bagged and put on sale at the tips. Rubbish bags are on sale at the local supermarket, and labels have to be affixed. The cost of the bags and labels go towards financing the project.

Belfast Telegraph, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 18

Save on furniture at Stein Mart where you'll find chairs, tables and accent pieces at discount prices. Shop online and have your new furniture delivered to your door!

< www.steinmart.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 19

"You had your climbing, Dad. Mountaineering is hard to combine with the demands of a young family."

Kewin, Simon, *Climbing Olympus*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 20

My publishers initially choked when I offered them a novel about eight children, with four parents. One editor suggested I trim this down to a "big family of five kids". But by my standards (having grown up in an Irish Catholic clan in the 1970s), five was a puny total.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 21

But yesterday's arrangements could hardly be described as the preparation for a normal family ceremony. For three miles around the tiny hillside church, streets were coned off by traffic police. Sheep were turfed out of three nearby fields to make temporary car parks. The army were drafted in to help prepare car parks for the heavy trucks used by TV companies.

Today, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 22

It is sufficient to make one or two fine lines here and there, or the occasional mark which will give the impression of shrouds, chainplates, spreaders, navigation lights and mooring lines. Lastly to make the picture more realistic, some crew are placed on board, and on the floating pontoons.

The Artist's and Illustrator's Magazine, 1991, BNC

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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

"In general, then, complex compositional linguistic forms involve not only combining the formal parts appropriately (putting nouns, verbs, and articles together into a grammatical syntactic form) but also combining the meanings of those forms in a coherent way. A very simple example discussed in Langacker (1987, 1991) and further examined by Fried and Östman (2004a) was the possibility in English of using so-called count nouns in Mass-Noun Constructions and vice-versa. *Cat* is a count noun – it refers to a countable individual, a cat. Supposing there to be an assembly of cats snoozing on a sunny day, I could say *There are five cats sleeping on the driveway* or *There are a lot of cats on the driveway* but not *There is a lot of cat on the driveway*. *Water* is a mass noun – it refers to a substance which is not an individual and cannot be counted. Seeing the result of overwatering an adjacent flower-bed, I might say *There is water all over the driveway*, but not the plural *There are waters all over the driveway*. But if I say *I've got cat all over my skirt*, one is inspired to think of a mass associated with cats, rather than an individual or a group of individuals. One might therefore imagine, for example, large accretions of shed cat fur on my skirt – more than a few individual, countable hairs. Langacker's gorier example was *After I ran over Fluffy, there was cat all over the driveway*."

Barbara DANCYGIER & Eve SWEETSER, *Figurative Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014, p. 131.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

A pencil is an object that you write or draw with. It consists of a thin piece of wood with a rod of a black or coloured substance through the middle. If you write or draw something in pencil, you do it using a pencil.

Collins online dictionary, < www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/pencil >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 2

Words such as *bottle* or *chair*, referring to objects which cannot be divided, are normally countable, words such as *water* or *butter*, referring to 'stuffs' which can be divided at will, are normally mass nouns.

A. Wierzbicka, *The Semantics of Grammar*, 1988

Excerpt 3

He lay in bed. He could smell the morning where it was around him. A dog was barking somewhere in the building. A wind was blowing, and the house creaked. Doors locked shut strained to be wall, but they might never be. In a moment he had risen and passed out of the room. He did not permit himself to look at it before he left.

Jessie Ball, "The Early Deaths of Lubeck, Brennan, Harp and Carr", 2015

Excerpt 4

School is a three-room shed aswarm with the offspring of salt workers, coal workers, ironworkers. Irish kids, Polish kids, Armenian kids. To Mother the school yard seems a thousand acres of sizzling pandemonium. *Don't run, don't fight*, she whispers.

Anthony Doerr, "The Deep", 2015

Excerpt 5

PHOTO: South Koreans watch a television displaying news broadcasts reporting on North Korea's recent ballistic missile launch, at a station in Seoul, South Korea, May 14, 2017.

< <http://abcnews.go.com/International/photos/photo-south-koreans-watch-television-displaying-news-broadcasts-47407460> >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 6

North Korean defection caught on camera

A North Korean soldier who defected across the demilitarized zone has had his escape caught on camera.

< <http://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/11/22/north-korean-defection-video-lon-orig-mkd.cnn> >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 7

The very idea that there is a strict set of rules needs to be chucked away. The future of masculinity is a plethora of masculinities.

G. Perry, *The Descent of Man*, 2016

Excerpt 8

He was completely at home. Everyone called him Ferdy. He seemed to be always in good spirits. He was never at a loss for a quip, a jest, or a repartee. They liked him in that house because he made them laugh, but never made them uncomfortable by talking over their heads. He brought a faint savour of Oriental romance into their lives, but so cleverly that they only felt more English. You could never be dull when he was by and with him present you were safe from the fear of the devastating silences that sometimes overwhelm a British company. A pause looked inevitable and Ferdy Rabenstein had broken into a topic that interested everyone. An invaluable asset to any party.

W. Somerset Maugham, "The alien corn", *The Alien Corn*, 1931

Excerpt 9

Trying new things does not just mean skydiving or trekking in the jungle, that is, ramped-up versions of everyday man challenges. I mean new as in new behaviours: being more open, being kinder to yourself, letting the mask drop.

G. Perry, *The Descent of Man*, 2016

Excerpt 10

Soaps

Whether you prefer the delicious scent of creamy Cocoa Butter in our Chocomania™ Soap Bar, or the zesty smell of real grapefruit seed oil in our Pink Grapefruit Soap Bar, our range of luxurious products, containing a variety of fruity and fresh ingredients, will get you clean and fresh in no time.

< www.thebodyshop.com/body/soaps/c/c00021#! >, last accessed in 2018

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Excerpt 11

List of breads

This is a list of baked or steamed bread varieties. It does not include cakes, pastries, or fried dough foods, which are listed in separate Wikipedia articles. It also does not list foods in which bread is an *ingredient* which is processed further before serving.

< https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_breads >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 12

Albert Gates came down from Oxford feeling that his life was behind him. The past alone was certain, the future strange and obscure in a way that it had never been until that very moment of stepping from the train at Paddington. All his movements until then had been mapped out unalterably in periods of term and holiday; there was never for him the question 'What next?' – never a moment's indecision as to how much a month or such a week would be spent. The death of his mother during his last year in Oxford, while it left him without any definite home ties, had made very little difference to the tenor of his life, which had continued as before to consist of terms and holidays.

N. Mitford, *Highland Fling*, [1931] 2015

Excerpt 13

Perfect Potato Soup

Recipe by: Marilee Wilson Mack

6 russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 5 slices bacon, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 3 tablespoons butter
 2 stalks celery, cut into 1/4-inch slices
 1/2 large onion, diced small [...]

1. Place potatoes into a large pot and cover with water; bring to a boil. [...]
2. Place bacon in a large saucepan and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until crispy, about 8 minutes. Drain bacon slices on paper towels. Pour out bacon grease.
3. Melt butter in the saucepan over medium heat, scraping the bottom of the pan with a flat-edged wooden spoon. Add celery, onion, carrots, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon pepper; cook and stir until tender, about 10 minutes. Sprinkle in flour; cook and stir for 2 minutes. [...]

< <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/255487/perfect-potato-soup/?internalSource=staff%20pick&referringId=1540&referringContentType=recipe%20hub> >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 14

There are fish in such numbers you might think you are dreaming, until you start catching. Many of the fish are of specimen size, too, with more than a few record breakers. Of course, records are there to be broken and with a little luck, well, who knows? For the sea angler there are 3,500 miles of coastline to fish and explore. Game and coarse anglers have the freedom to fish over 9,000 miles of river and thousands of lakes. Many of Ireland's waters have yet to see a fly, lure or baited hook. If you can raise your eyes from the water long enough you'll see that the scenery is more than a match for the fishing – it's simply breathtaking.

Advert, Advertising Standards Authority, 1985-94, BNC

Excerpt 15

Geographically separate stocks of some species are recognized, for example in walrus there is an Atlantic stock spread between Hudson Bay and the Barents Sea, and a Pacific stock found in the Bering, Chukchi, East Siberian and Laptev seas. Of the phocids, ringed, bearded, harp and hooded seals have the northernmost distributions, while ribbon and grey seals penetrate the arctic fringe, respectively in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Fur seals and sea lions are restricted to the Bering Strait area and seldom enter icy waters. Seals take much of their food close to the surface, plankton and pelagic fish forming their main prey. Walrus and bearded seals, the two largest species, feed mainly on the sea bed, diving in shallow waters to depths of a few hundred metres, using their vibrissae to hunt in the mud for molluscs and crustaceans.

B. Stonehouse, *Polar ecology*, 1989, BNC

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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

"The majority of concrete nouns clearly belong to one of these conceptual categories. Prototypical **count nouns** have the properties of objects, prototypical **mass nouns** have the properties of substances. A great many nouns, however, vacillate between these poles. Such nouns are treated here as **hybrid nouns**. Hybrid nouns are to be placed along two conceptual continua: an object-substance continuum of things and a uniplex-multiplex continuum of objects. Hybrid nouns along the object-substance continuum describe substances viewed as objects, as in *three beers*, and objects viewed as substances, as in *a lot of car*. Hybrid nouns along the uniplex-multiplex continuum describe multiplex objects viewed as uniplex and uniplex and amassed things viewed as multiplex. The former group is expressed as **collective nouns**, which describe members of a composed set as in *jury*."

Günter RADDEN & René DIRVEN, *Cognitive English Grammar*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing, 2007, p. 83.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

"Txirimiri," Santi said forlornly. It's a word used to describe a type of rain that they say exists only here in the foothills of the Pyrenees. A rain so fine that an umbrella is useless against it, wisps of water blowing under the umbrella's cuff to cling to the rough whiskers of your cheeks at the end of the day.

Gabriel Urza, *All That Followed*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 2

Steak is 1.1 beef without much fat on it that you cook by grilling or frying.

Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary, 1988

Excerpt 3

The exposed cut was blackened like a steak fresh off the grill.

David Erik Nelson, *There was a Crooked Man, He Flipped a Crooked House*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 4

Giselle dropped the platter. Slices of venison flapped up like shingles in a tornado. Jean-Christophe lost a mouthful of wine to the tablecloth.

James Magruder, *Matthew Aiken's Vie Bohème*, 2011, COCA

Excerpt 5

A couple glasses of wine, a couple friends and you've got an exit wall.

NBC, "Honoring Veterans Week", 2017, COCA

Excerpt 6

Every day new crates of cargo arrived, and I saw paintings, cars, wines, dresses, musical instruments, weapons, books: Everything that human civilization had ever produced.

Lavie Tidhar, *The Banffs*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 7

It emerges from within the machine. Titus begins to perceive that the machine — as well as Only and Always Forward — are equipped with an unimaginable range of weaponry. She feels very small.

Brian Dolton, *This is the Way the Universe Ends: with a Bang*, 2015, COCA

Excerpt 8

Now Guerra and his office are busy preparing to bring their case to trial. Although a date has not been set, he already knows what type of jury he wants — and it has nothing to do with Mexican or Anglo, man or woman.

Jenny B. Davis, *Grande Opportunity*, 2002, COCA

Excerpt 9

Back when it was a real hotel, the Marriott employed one member of staff per two guest rooms: these days, just staying here is a full-time job.

Cory Doctorow, *Rapture of the Nerds*, 2012, COCA

Excerpt 10

According to the TQM approach, personnel should not be deprived of work pride. The principal who treats his members of staff as if they have unlimited potential, increases their self-assurance, enabling them to take risks and to utilize their creativity to the full.

C. H. Van Der Linde, "The Teacher's Stress and its Implications for the School as an Organization: How Can TQM Help?", *Education*, 2000, COCA

Excerpt 11

More recently Osip had arranged, at his own expense, to get several of the Poet's poems printed in journals and was trying to organize the publication of a collection of Mayakovsky's verse in pamphlet form, an undertaking worthy of Sisyphus given the rationing of paper due to the Great War.

Robert Littell, *The Mayakovsky Tapes*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 12

She polished her old set of silver, the set she hadn't used since her mother was alive. It positively gleamed against the newly purchased napkins. Her old set of china — the set that was a wedding gift from Alan's parents — still looked modern and fresh.

Brenda Janowitz, *The Dinner Party*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 13

They eat their breakfast standing up — a stack of dry toast on a paper towel.

Jung Yun, *Shelter*, 2017, COCA

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Excerpt 14

My earliest memory of her is a cluster of red-gold hair, a smiling, freckled face looking down at me, and beyond that nothing I could see, only a deep humming sound that makes me think in memory of litany, and milk.

Tom Filer, *The Son's Story*, 1991, COCA

Excerpt 15

She stooped to gather up the bundle of discarded bedding, and Mary Jo said sharply, "I wish you wouldn't do that. It's my job, not yours."

Barbara Michaels, *Vanish with the Rose*, 1992, COCA

Excerpt 16

Satisfied with what they'd found, or hadn't found, two of the team stood guard while the others worked on a large pile of trash. Some of the debris was heavy, and would've been difficult to move on Terra, but was fairly easy on Mars.

William C. Dietz, *Drifter*, 1991, COCA

Excerpt 17

While Ro waits for Cam to find drinks, she admires the array of homemade food arranged on three long tables by the door.

Babette Fraser Hale, *Drouth*, 2014, COCA

Excerpt 18

Until then, she hadn't really considered where she was heading; Emily was keeping thought to a minimum. I-80 was the perfect highway for just that no deviation, no decisions along the route, and nothing to stir up memories, either: the endless array of farm and field, and farm and field, reminded her of nothing but farms and fields.

James Sie, *Still Life Las Vegas*, 2015, COCA

Excerpt 19

A few days later, before dawn, holding a flashlight in one hand, Dimitri rummaged through the assortment of gear stashed beneath the stairs at the bottom of the stucco house. It had been years since he'd looked at any of these things. Most of them had belonged to his son. Fins and spears for fishing, tackle, a mask.

Paula Closson Buck, *The Sea Grass Icons*, 2012, COCA

Excerpt 20

Surely a few bones were broken. Perhaps he was paralysed. He shut his eyes for a moment, making a quick mental catalogue of his pain before he decided to move. When he opened his eyes, he was surrounded by the sound of shoe leather scraping on the pavement and the umbrella being wrenched aside.

H. W. Crocker, *The Old Limey*, 2001, COCA

Excerpt 21

Although Gwen was about to step out of the office, she couldn't resist checking the message. Besides the photo, there was a bullet-point list of food and supplies, plus directions to Tracy's house.

Nina Revoyr, *Lost Canyon*, 2016, COCA

Excerpt 22

"Now, you're living alone here that is, without family?"

"My household staff is family to me," Jana said.

Betsy Woodman, *Love Potion 10: A Jana Bibi Adventure*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 23

I can't see myself moving out to live with Martin and Angela, either. They're very nice, Gregor, but they've got small children. Family is a wonderful thing. But it ought to live in its own house.

Jane Haddam, *Flowering Judas: A Gregor Demarkian Novel*, 2011, COCA

Excerpt 24

When my one-year old son asks me what God looks like, I'll ask him to look around: God is woman and man; God is dark and light; God is earth and ocean and sky.

Sara Latta, *Dreaming of Her*, 1994, COCA

Excerpt 25

Appiah, the guide, and the two soldiers reached the summit at midday. Appiah sat with the guide on a bench overlooking the crater lake. Forest grew thick on the shore, and vapor skimmed the cobalt water.

Tyler Stiem, *For Every Man & Wife*, 2013, COCA

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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

"Some NPs share a maximum number of typical noun phrase attributes; they constitute more central members of the category. Others – the more marginal members – display only a few of the attributes typical of the category.

The gradience of grammatical categories – like the gradience of the category WORD – is not in itself a new discovery. The notion that word classes have central members, which satisfy a maximum number of criteria of the respective class, and more peripheral, borderline members, was fully articulated in Crystal (1967). With the almost total hegemony of the generative paradigm in the late 1960s and the 1970s the insights of non-generative linguists on this topic tended to be ignored, or forgotten. Since then we have witnessed a rediscovery of category gradience. Symptomatic is the importance assigned to degree of category membership in the *Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Quirk *et al.* 1985), as compared with the earlier, 1972 grammar (Quirk *et al.* 1972)."

John R. TAYLOR, *Linguistic Categorization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003 (1989), p. 215.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

All hopes of eternity and all gain from the past he would have given to have her there, to be wrapped warm with him in one blanket, and sleep, only sleep. It seemed the sleep with the woman in his arms was the only necessity.

D. H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, 1928

Excerpt 2

This cake is truly crazy! It's amazing how moist and dense it is. No eggs, butter or milk are used, and you only have to use one pan.

< www.tipsfromatypicalmomblog.com >, 2014

Excerpt 3

The king and the duke turned out by and by looking pretty rusty; but after they'd jumped overboard and took a swim it chipped them up a good deal. After breakfast the king he took a seat on the corner of the raft, and pulled off his boots and rolled up his britches, and let his legs dangle in the water, so as to be comfortable [...].

Alan Pipes, *Production for Graphic Designers*, 2005

Excerpt 4

Flowers and trees were blooming, pink and white and yellow.

Nora Roberts, *Daring to Dream*, 1996

Excerpt 5

A little further search showed that not rats but the natives had been at it. They had dug down to the stores, taken away the tarpauling and bags; emptied the flour and sugar into the hole again, covered them with a little straw, and filled up the hole carefully [...].

William Howitt, *The History of Discovery in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand*, 2011

Excerpt 6

On the outside, the unemployed need jobs. But on the inside, they need what we all need: to be told things are getting better, not worse.

Joseph Celizic, *North American Review*, 2015, COCA

Excerpt 7

So, we think this is good technology, you know, it also helps the disabled. The blind, the elderly, people that can't drive. So, there are a lot of conveniences that are possible here. But they haven't come to a fruition yet.

Tucker Carlson *Tonight*, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 8

I've learned the hard way that when a big fish is on, you want to keep it up river from you, or the hook may pop off. Gradually, I used side pressure to ease it into calmer water. That's when I saw the tell tale marks of a brown. And, not just any brown. This one was huge and had a very pronounced kype.

< www.blogflyfish.com >, 2016

Excerpt 9

He got out and walked over to the guy standing on the corner. After handing him a few packages of narcotics, he headed back to the car. Just as he began to walk to the car he was accosted by two men.

Larry Hawk Williams, *Seven Books Written*, 2003

Excerpt 10

Chapter 4 examines the ways in which the totalization of warfare during the twentieth century signaled the diffusion of the concept of morale from the military context to civil society [...].

Daniel Ussishkin, *Morale: A Modern British History*, 2017

Excerpt 11

It's during this nap that I get a lot of my work done. I find that when the ideas come to me, they come as I'm falling asleep, they come as I'm waking up, they come if I'm sitting in the tub. I don't normally take baths but sometimes I'll just go in there and have a think.

Nancy C. Andreasen, *Atlantic*, 2014, COCA

Excerpt 12

In the middle of the film a composite use of the window mediation appears when Brakhage films his daughters, now older than when we first saw them, looking out of the window; he is shooting from inside his car, whose windshield wipers cross the image.

P. Adams Sitney, *Visionary Film: The American Avant-Garde, 1943-2000*, 2002

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Excerpt 13

CNN's Michael Smerconish almost lost it on-air Saturday morning when his guest — who heads up the conservative Catholic League — defended Donald Trump's swearing on the stump by bellowing, "We can't act like little virgins!"

< www.rawstory.com >, 2016

Excerpt 14

Experiments on the analysis of the wear debris produced during the polishing of diamond and the rapid sliding of diamond upon diamond using a high-speed sliding machine are presented. [...] The aim of the work was to improve understanding of the polishing process.

Journal of Physics D: Applied Physics, 1997

Excerpt 15

As an even cursory glance at Faulkner's circumstances in this period of his life suggests, he worked in the midst of intense personal difficulties and even grief. *Sanctuary* followed most directly Faulkner's writing *The Sound and the Fury*.

Peter Lurie, *The French Faulkner: Visibility, Absence, and Sanctuary's "Lake of Ink"*, 2007

Excerpt 16

In a subpoena, the government labeled Rosen an "aider and abettor and/or co-conspirator". Records from Rosen's government-issued security badge were examined to track his comings and goings from the State Department.

The Seattle Times, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 17

She gave an eloquent quote about how the mouth of a lioness can catch and devour its prey and later, with the same mouth, pick up her cubs gently and move them to safety. She has paws that can mangle in one instant and pet and stroke her young in another.

< anotherfarfromhome.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 18

Not only do department store shopping gurus know the ins and outs of their retail territory and the best of designers' collections, but they're master decoders of the varying sizes of clothing (a 6 in Balenciaga isn't necessarily a 6 in Bill Blass). They are also a direct line to the most covetable items.

Jenny Levin, *Bazaar*, 2006, COCA

Excerpt 19

If this is the right way to describe his action, then on a further natural assumption, we can prove that Arthur's placing of the bomb was identical with his destroying of the aeroplane.

Donald Davidson, *Essays on Actions and Events: Philosophical Essays*, 2001

Excerpt 20

In a kind of Groundhog day retrospective, Witek's future depends on three different case scenarios – which revolve around running to catch a train. The people he would meet and the decisions he would make all depend on him catching the train.

< www.culture.pl >, 2011

Excerpt 21

Nick, 54, couldn't have known that the dramatic situation would lead to him totally changing his lifestyle, yet he did know that his sinus problems dated back a long way. He recalls: "I suffered very badly from sore throats as a child, so I had my tonsils and adenoids removed at the age of eight."

< www.express.co.uk >, 2017

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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

" 'Noun' is a syntactic category: the essential properties of nouns have to do with their syntactic behavior – their functional potential and their inflection."

Rodney HUDDLESTON, *Introduction to the Grammar of English*. Cambridge University Press, [1997] 1984, p. 55.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

She spent Christmas with me and my wife Pam and I took her dog for a walk.

The Daily Mirror, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 2

Ever a stickler for protocol, he and his wife took umbrage at the democratic etiquette of President Thomas Jefferson's administration.

The Dictionary of National Biography, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 3

The farmer, who I think still lives there, was offered a sum of money and compensation for his farm house. Being a canny farmer he held out for as much as he could get.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 4

Farmers' confidence varies widely from season to season, based not just on the prevailing political outlook but heavily dependent on weather conditions, demand in the market, harvests overseas and price levels for key produce.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 5

A series of excavations in Georgia has uncovered evidence of the world's earliest winemaking, in the form of telltale traces within clay pottery dating back to 6,000BC – suggesting that the practice of making grape wine began hundreds of years earlier than previously believed.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 6

I swallowed bitter coffee dregs and the last mouthful of chocolate cake.

D. M. Thomas, *Lying Together*, 1990, BNC

Excerpt 7

Hill farmers are primarily stockmen who delight more in animals than in machinery, buildings, or cash crops. Their main preoccupation is providing winter keep for their breeding stock from steep, wet, acid soils, which are expensive and dangerous to work with modern machinery. Small wonder, then, that they confine their field-work to spreading lime and slag, making hay, and reseeding the odd pasture via a short rotation of feed oats, rape, and turnips. For gathering, shearing, dipping, and sometimes haymaking, hill farmers still work a system of 'help your neighbour' in which several come together on predetermined dates to do these important jobs quickly and efficiently. Many hill farmers are smallholders with part-time jobs elsewhere. Hill farming demands very hard work for marginal returns and were it not for government subsidies for hill sheep and cattle, many hill farmers would have to give up.

Sedley Sweeney, *The challenge of Smallholding*, 1985

Excerpt 8

David Pastrnak scored twice and set up another goal to help the Boston Bruins beat Montreal 4-1 on Saturday night, their third win in eight days against their former coach.

< washingtonpost.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 9

If the easement was as large as 10% of the property, which is well within the range of the data, the damages would be 2.16 times the value of the fee inside the easement.

The Journal of Real Estate Research, 2017, COCA

Excerpt 10

Forget about cotton, we could be making textiles from banana and pineapple. Banana, pineapple and coconut don't just belong in the fridge, they're making their way into fashion now too.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 11

The banana is the world's most popular fruit crop, with over 100m metric tons produced annually in over 130 tropical and subtropical countries. Edible bananas are the result of a genetic accident in nature that created the seedless fruit we enjoy today.

< www.theguardian.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 12

Every archetypal principle contains opposing characteristics within itself; this is why such archetypes can be dynamic and provide possibilities of growth. The beautiful and the hideous are part of the same *principle*. The Queen of Beauty can not be truly beautiful, and have known and understood beauty, unless she has realized ugliness too. Beauty that denies its opposite becomes shallow and artificial.

Cherry Gilchrist, *The Circle of Nine: a New Mythology of the Feminine*, 1991, BNC

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Excerpt 13

There, he felt it again, a draining, a threat of something alien, ugly, giving vent from within. Perhaps it was the culmination of the day, the weather so miserable and the wetness permeating to clog his clothes tightly to his skin, making movement uncomfortable and abrasive.

Toni Davidson (ed), And Thus Will I Freely Sing, 1989, BNC

Excerpt 14

Tomato plants - leaves (and some fruit) suddenly curled and discoloured... Help!

< www.gardenersworld.com >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 15

Wherever you travel, you will find you are never far from buildings, monuments and ruins that stand as testimony to earlier times. These tangible remains bear witness to the development of history in England over centuries.

Tourist information: York, 1985-1994, BNC

Excerpt 16

That they could do such a thing was a novel idea. Formulating possible questions on assigned readings became something of a game.

Sucheng Chan, In Defense of Asian American Studies, 2005

Excerpt 17

They already know the whole story – for them not to know that Richard’s defeat was inevitable would be like us watching a movie about JFK and being surprised when he was shot at the end.

< www.shmoop.com/richard-iii/curses-symbol.html >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 18

Her playing of Bach was largely the result of technical necessity and she infinitely preferred Beethoven’s slow movements. She sat down at the piano and watched with a certain wonder the dark unrest of Margaret’s face change almost to serenity as she played.

Rosemary Manning, The Chinese Garden, 1962

Excerpt 19

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall; All the king’s horses and all the king’s men; Couldn’t put Humpty together again.

The Dorling Kindersley Book of Nursery Rhymes, 2000

Excerpt 20

Will David Cameron rat on his pledge of “no third Heathrow runway, no ifs, no buts”? Will he admit that HS2 was only backed because it was seen as an alternative to Heathrow, not an add-on? Is 2016 to be megaproject Armageddon?

< www.standard.co.uk >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 21

‘It came to the stage when I was married to Michael but seeing him once a week,’ said Gabrielle. ‘In the end, I told him I wanted more of a family life. And he told me that if that was the case I would have to find somebody else.’ Crawford stormed out and did not return for two weeks, and then only to pick up his mail.

Anthony Hayward, Phantom, 1992, BNC

Excerpt 22

The Circle line never has been nor is ever likely to be London’s best-loved Underground route. But at least until yesterday, it was approximately circular. Not any more.

< www.independent.co.uk >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 23

The Echo Spot is spherical, save for a flat screen and a flat base to stand on. It has a 2.5in circular display and is about the size of a baseball. When you speak to it, the blue rotating circle familiar from other Echo gadgets rolls round the screen. As with other gadgets from this stable, you can ask it what the weather’s like, what your news feed is, ask it to recite your day’s appointments or to tell you a joke.

< www.independent.co.uk >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 24

I made it a condition that I’d only do it with an American choreographer, and my assistant is American, too.

Anthony Hayward, Phantom, 1992, BNC

Excerpt 25

“You could’ve told me that inside the room, not drag me out here,” Duncan replied, irritated by the policeman’s need for secrecy. “The girl is an American,” came the quick answer. “So?” “Old habits die hard.” Myeloski shrugged. “She’s an interpreter, not a CIA agent. She’s part of it, you know.”

Eddy Shah, Ring of Red Roses, 1992, BNC

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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

" [...] Though the formal distinction between substantive and adjective is not marked with equal clearness in all [...] languages, [...] where the two classes are distinguished, the distribution of the words is always essentially the same: words denoting such ideas as *stone, tree, knife, woman* are everywhere substantives, and words for *big, old, bright, grey* are everywhere adjectives [...].

An answer very often given [*to why it is the case*] is that substantives denote substances (persons and things), and adjectives qualities found in these things. This definition is evidently at the root of the name substantive, but it cannot be said to be completely satisfactory. The names of many 'substances' are so patently derived from some one quality that the two ideas cannot possibly be separated: *the blacks, eatables, desert, a plain* must be called substantives and are in every respect treated as such in the language. [...] So, linguistically the distinction between 'substance' and 'quality' cannot have any great value. [...]

[The reader] must acknowledge that the old definition is powerless to solve the riddle of the so-called 'abstracts' like *wisdom, kindness*, for though these words are to all intents and purposes substantives and are treated as such in all languages, yet they evidently denote the same qualities as the adjectives *wise* and *kind*, and there is nothing substantial about them. [...]

Apart from 'abstracts' [...], on the whole substantives are more special than adjectives, they are applicable to fewer objects than adjectives, in the parlance of logicians, the extension of a substantive is less, and its intension is greater than that of an adjective. The adjective indicates and singles out one quality, one distinguishing mark, but each substantive suggests, to whoever understands it, many distinguishing features by which he recognizes the person or thing in question. What these features are, is not as a rule indicated in the name itself; even in the case of a descriptive name one or two salient features only are selected, and the others are understood: a botanist easily recognizes a *bluebell* or a *blackberry* bush even at a season when the one has no blue flowers and the others no black berries."

Otto JESPERSEN, *The Philosophy of Grammar*. London: Georges Allen and Unwin, 1924, p. 74-75.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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Excerpt 1

The bungalow stood on the brow of a hill, about fifty yards from the river; and on the opposite bank, looking very small across the great stretch of water, you could see native houses on piles nestling among the greenery.

W. Somerset Maugham, "Flotsam and Jetsam", *Creatures of Circumstance*, 1947

Excerpt 2

Male dominance, and its ensuing culture, was born in an ancient age when physical strength could trump any amount of wisdom, sensitivity and intelligence. The evolutionary result of men being bigger and stronger still finds expression, even in our age of computers, automated factories and robot warfare. We are entering an age when, for the good of the planet, we might have to work against the results of hundreds of millennia of evolution. We need to breed smaller, more sensitive men.

Grayson Perry, *The Descent of Man*, 2016

Excerpt 3

We see this vision of masculinity rearing its head on TV programmes fronted by the likes of Bear Grylls or Ray Mears. They teach us how to survive in the wild, how to skin a deer carcass or build a shelter from tree branches. I would like to see them trying to find an affordable flat to rent in London, or sorting out a decent state school for their children. They are the true survival skills of the twenty-first century.

Grayson Perry, *The Descent of Man*, 2016

Excerpt 4

[...] I never saw farms kept in such order, the barns and cow-sheds were spick and span and the pigsties were a picture; the public-houses looked like Old English water-colours and the cottages he had built on the estate combined admirably picturesqueness and convenience.

W. Somerset Maugham, "The alien corn", *The Alien Corn*, 1931

Excerpt 5

I went to live abroad, but whenever I was in London I saw Freddy and now there was something a little uncanny in him. He did not give in. He had never known a day's illness. He seemed never to grow tired. He still dressed beautifully.

W. Somerset Maugham, "The alien corn", *The Alien Corn*, 1931

Excerpt 6

After dinner Fredy was persuaded to play the piano. He only played Viennese waltzes, I discovered later that they were his speciality, and the light, tuneful, and sensual music seemed to accord well with his discreet flamboyance. He played without affectation, with a lilt, and he had a graceful touch.

W. Somerset Maugham, "The alien corn", *The Alien Corn*, 1931

Excerpt 7

But after a while they stopped talking about her and discussed instead who was going to win the Grand National. For, as Mr Ferguson was saying at that minute in Luxor, it is not the past that matters but the future.

A. Christie, *Death on the Nile*, [1937] 2014

Excerpt 8

"We're told we can't reference the cultural initiation processes in America, or native Australian artistic motives, because the spiritual experience belongs exclusively to those people. But what if those ceremonies prompt within me or any other artist anywhere in the world a new access to the spiritual? Surely, this is a universal."

< www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/public/compliment-or-theft/ >, last accessed in 2017

Excerpt 9

Johanna Southwood said:

'And suppose he's a terrible tough?'

Linnet shook her head. 'Oh, he won't be. I can trust Jacqueline's taste.'

A. Christie, *Death on the Nile*, [1937] 2014

Excerpt 10

M. Gaston Blondin, the proprietor of that modish little restaurant Chez Ma Tante, was not a man who delighted to honour many of his clientele. The rich, the beautiful, the notorious and the well-born might wait in vain to be singled out and paid special attention. Only in the rarest cases did M. Blondin, with gracious condescension, greet a guest, accompany him to a privileged table, and exchange with him suitable and apposite remarks.

A. Christie, *Death on the Nile*, [1937] 2014

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Excerpt 11

The obsessions with eloquence and general knowledge would appear to be the ones that emerged during our generation, probably in the wake of Mr Marshall, when lesser men trying to emulate his greatness mistook the superficial for the essence. It is my view that our generation has been too preoccupied with the 'trimmings'; goodness knows how much time and energy has gone into the practising of accent and command of language, how many hours spent studying encyclopedias and volumes of 'Test Your Knowledge', when the time should have been spent mastering the basic fundamentals.

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*, 1989

Excerpt 12

'Well?' said Sally.

'Well, what?'

'Shall we do it? Listen, my precious. I know it would be awful and I expect you'd simply hate it, poor sweet, and nothing to what I should, but still, facts must be faced. If we do this we shall have money for two solid months, and after that, if you like, we could probably afford to spend a little time in Paris, if we could let the flat. Albert might be able to tell us of some nice cheap hotel there.'

Walter became sulkier very minute.

Nancy Mitford, *Highland Fling*, 1931

Excerpt 13

We are seeing a Joan we would not be seeing if she weren't talking to a member of her family – talking, perhaps, to the child version of him, to whom paradise days are attached.

Still, there are oversized clues to the fact that the subject is out of the ordinary. At one point Dunne asks her how it felt to see the five-year-old child on acid when she was reporting in Haight-Ashbury. Her face works, and you are expecting her to say: 'It was horrifying.' Instead a light breaks, and she says: 'It was gold.'

Patricia Lockwood, "It was gold", < www.lrb.co.uk/v40/n01/patricia-lockwood/it-was-gold >, last accessed in 2018

Excerpt 14

The men who find themselves justifiably passed over or demoted will inevitably feel angry, they will be bearing the brunt of a very necessary corrective. They may rail against women but principally they will be victims of their own unhelpful masculinity and a dominant elite of other men. Power is key. The nature of our leaders in politics, in the boardroom, in the media, in culture, in the classroom, shapes how people think.

Grayson Perry, *The Descent of Man*, 2016

Excerpt 15

These comic doofus characters may play a role in testing the boundaries of masculinity, softening up the audience for change. They may also be a sop to those young men who sense that the role of the traditionally manly man may be not only too difficult, but impossible in the current social context, so frowned upon is it by young women enthusiastically taking on board fourth-wave feminism. One thing I know is that they are not going to satisfy boys looking for a hero to emulate.

Grayson Perry, *The Descent of Man*, 2016