

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

George Alagiah's purpose is to explain his role as a reporter, giving his thoughts and feelings about a particularly challenging incident. He is also trying to challenge his readers, to make you think about your role.

The questions in the following table will help you approach this aspect of the text. Read the text again and find answers to the questions in the table. Remember, more than one point can be made in answer to each question.

KEY POINT

The author of this passage used the smile as the central focus of the passage, to encourage the reader to discover its significance.

▼ QUESTION	▼ ANSWER AND EVIDENCE
What kinds of pictures and stories do the television news companies want?	1 Powerful images – 'the most striking pictures' 2 3
What do the television news companies not want to show or report?	1 Yesterday's news – old pictures are 'written off as the same old stuff' 2 3
What do we learn about TV audiences from this passage?	1 2 3

ACTIVITY 1

A01

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING

▼ THE MAN'S SMILE

This smile is the key to a full understanding of the passage because it makes such an impact on the writer.

► Look at the following list of statements about the smile and then find a quotation to illustrate each one:

- it reverses roles
- it asks questions
- it stimulates actions
- it affects the writer very powerfully.

► Now try to put into your own words what you think the importance of the smile is.

► In the extract from *A Passage to Africa*, can you find any other examples of things that seem to be the opposite of what they should be?

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

A02

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, ADAPTIVE LEARNING, CREATIVITY

How does the writer use language and structure to create a sense of atmosphere?

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including brief quotations.

(12 marks)