

ACTIVITY 8

A01

A03

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS,
REASONING, INTERPRETATION

▼ PREPARING FOR EXAM QUESTIONS

- 1 In paragraph 2, there is a custom involving a bride. What is it?
- 2 Describe the features of the preparations that take place in the newlyweds' ger.
- 3 Why is the description of the arrival of the truck humorous?

These three questions are similar to Questions 1–3 in Paper 1.

The following question is similar to Question 3 and is worth 12 marks in the exam.

► In what ways does the writer make this passage entertaining?

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

In your answer you should write about:

- the writer's account of what happened
- his handling of pace and suspense or anticipation
- his descriptions of unusual things or customs
- his use of language.

The following passage is an example of a very different kind of travel writing. While you are reading it, consider what makes it different from the previous extract.

▼ FROM A PASSAGE TO AFRICA BY GEORGE ALAGIAH

I was in a little hamlet just outside Gufgaduud, a village in the back of beyond... In the ghoulish manner of journalists on the hunt for the most striking pictures, my cameraman and I tramped from one hut to another. What might have appalled us when we'd started our trip just a few days before no longer impressed us much.

There was Amina Abdirahman, who had gone out that morning in search of wild, edible roots, leaving her two young girls lying on the dirt floor of their hut. They had been sick for days, and were reaching the final, enervating stages of terminal hunger. Habiba was ten years old and her sister, Ayaan, was nine. By the time Amina returned, she had only one daughter. Habiba had died. No rage, no whimpering, just a passing away – that simple, frictionless, motionless deliverance from a state of half-life to death itself. It was, as I said at the time in my dispatch, a vision of 'famine away from the headlines, a famine of quiet suffering and lonely death'.

KEY POINT

Include details of the circumstances and events. You should not try to summarise the whole extract, but focus on key moments and explain why you think the writer included these details.