In your own words

1. It was a hobby-hawk. Perhaps the most dashing falcon of them all: slim, elegant and deadly fast. Not rare as rare-bird-addicts reckon things: they come to Britain in reasonable numbers every summer to breed. The sight of a hobby-hawk makes no headlines in the birdwatching world. It was just a wonderful and wholly unexpected sight of a wonderful and wholly unexpected bird. It was a moment of perfect drama.

“The sight of a hobby-hawk makes no headlines in the bird-watching world”

Explain **in your own words** what is meant by “makes no headlines”. **1U**

1. Think about it: all these sports are done for the joy of flying. Skating is a victory over friction, and it feels like victory over gravity; it feels like flying. Its antithesis is weightlifting: a huge and brutal event, the idea of which is to beat gravity. All the horsey events come back to the idea of flight: of getting off the ground, of escaping human limitations by joining up with another species and finding flight. For every rider, every horse has wings.

The writer refers to equestrianism (“horsey events”, line 41), as related to the pursuit of flight. What is the difference between this and all the other sports he mentions? Answer **in your own words**. **1U**

1. Travelling with the camel trains in mid-winter, when temperatures are bearable, I found the experience extraordinarily moving. But my thoughts went beyond the salt trade, and were powerfully reinforced by the journey that followed it—to another desert, the Algerian Sahara.

These reflections were first prompted by a chance remark that could not have been more wrong. Our superb Ethiopian guide, Solomon Berhe, was sitting with me in a friendly but flyblown village of sticks, stones, cardboard and tin in Hamed Ela, 300ft below sea level, in a hot wind, on a hot night.

Explain **in your own words** the contrasting impressions the writer has of the village in Hamed Ela (see lines 18 – 19). **2U**

1. There is no modern reason for human beings to live in such places. Their produce is pitiful, the climate brutal and the distances immense. Salt is already produced as cheaply by industrial means. If market forces don’t kill the trade, the conscience of the animal rights movement will, for the laden camels suffer horribly on their journey. The day is coming when camels will go down there no more. In fifty years the Danakil will be a national park, visited by rubbernecking tourists in helicopters. Camels will be found in zoos. Goats will be on their way to elimination from every ecologically fragile part of the planet.

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| The writer tells us “There is no modern reason for human beings to live in such places” (line 36). |
| Explain **in your own words two** reasons why this is the case. |
| Look in the next three sentences (lines 36 – 39) for your answer **2U** |

1. They say there is less traffic across the Sahara today than at any time in human history, even if you include motor transport. The great days of camel caravans are over. As for the inhabitants, the nomads are on a path to extinction as a culture. Nomadic life does not fit the pattern of nation states, taxes, frontiers and controls. And though for them there is now government encouragement to stay, their culture is doomed.

Explain **in your own words** why “the nomads are on a path to extinction as a culture” **1U**

1. Hector was one of thousands of black children who took to the streets on June 16, 1976, in protest about schooling under the apartheid regime in South Africa. When police opened fire on the march it brought the word Soweto to the attention of the world. But less well known is the role that Charles Dickens played in events.

The march was in protest at a government edict making Afrikaans compulsory in

schools. From January 1976, half of all subjects were to be taught in it, including ones in which difficulties of translation were often an issue

Explain **in your own words**

What the marchers were objecting to, according to lines 8 – 10 **2U**

1. That is where Dickens came in. Many books were banned under apartheid but not the

classics of English literature. Pupils arriving hungry at school every day were captivated by the story of a frail but courageous boy named Oliver Twist.

The book was a revelation. Systemised oppression of children happened in England too! They were not alone. Slave labour, thin rations and cruel taunts were part of a child’s life in the world outside as well.

* 1. Explain **in your own words** why Dickens’s books were not “banned under apartheid” (line 16). **1mark**
  2. **In your own words** explain why Dickens’s book *Oliver Twist* would have “captivated” the Soweto children. **2marks**

1. The veteran South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela later chose *Nicholas Nickleby* as

his favourite book on a popular radio programme, *Desert Island Discs*, telling the

presenter what its author did for people in the townships: “He taught us suffering is the same everywhere.”

Explain **in your own words** why Hugh Masekela thought Dickens was so important. 2U