



**New GCSE**

4171/01

**ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
FOUNDATION TIER  
UNIT 1 (READING)**

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 15 June 2011

1 hour

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A 12 page answer book.

Resource Material

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.

Answer **all** of the following questions.

*The separate Resource Material is a magazine article ‘The very special young lady in Simon Cowell’s life’.*

*The passage on the opposite page is the opening of Simon Cowell’s autobiography.*

**Look at the first page of the magazine article, ‘The very special young lady in Simon Cowell’s life’.**

1. List **ten** things that you find out about Sian Tolfree. [10]

**Now look at the second page (from ‘Joining Sian in her chat ...’).**

2. What do you learn about Simon Cowell’s friendship with Sian and her family? [10]

**Now look at the extract from Simon Cowell’s autobiography on the opposite page.**

**Look at the first two paragraphs of the passage.**

3. Simon Cowell admits he’s rude. What explanations does he give for his behaviour? [5]

**Now look at the last paragraph of the passage.**

4. List **five** reasons, according to Simon Cowell, why anyone who wants to be a star should keep reading his book. [5]

**To answer this question you will need to consider both texts.**

5. These two texts give very different impressions of Simon Cowell. What impressions does each text give of him?

You should organise your answer under two headings:

(a) the magazine article;

(b) Simon Cowell’s autobiography.

[10]

The following is the opening from Simon Cowell's autobiography, "I don't mean to be rude, but..."

I don't mean to be rude, but ... since the birth of *Pop Idol* and the *X Factor*, and their explosive success, both here and in America, people have expected nothing less of me. You see, I have become famous for being rude. At first, I was 'the record executive', but in no time I became 'the nasty judge', or 'the brutal one'. Well, in my mind, I'm the honest one. That's all. On *X Factor*, I only ever say what I am thinking at the time. That's the only way I can describe what I'm doing. My statements are genuine. Nothing is rehearsed. When a woman walks in to audition, I might think, 'God, she's ugly.' And this, as luck would have it, is the one show on television where I can actually say to someone, "God, you're ugly." To me, it's not being rude. It's being honest. And it's being myself.

Giving the *X Factor* contestants a reality check is part of the entertainment. Without it, the show wouldn't be half as much fun, either for me or the viewers. But there's a more serious side to my honesty. Currently, the record business is harder to break into than ever before. Labels are less willing to invest money in a new artist unless they have something really special. That's why I prefer to tell it like it really is. We set out to make a show that honestly reflects the music business. And trust me, the record industry is not particularly nice.

Having seen me on television, you are probably already familiar with my personality and the fact that it gets results. I have made millions from taking beginners with raw talent and, through coaching and brutal honesty, turning those hopefuls into global pop stars. Part of this book is my story. It has to be. I'm enough of a bighead to be honest about that. I'll take you behind the scenes of the music industry and show you what it takes to make it to the top, either as a pop star, or as a star-maker like myself. I'll be able to tell you the real truth about what happens backstage on the *X Factor*. Most importantly, I'll share some secrets with you about talent, how to recognize it, and how to cultivate it. You'll learn how to develop your skills – assuming you have any to begin with – and, when you're ready for your first big step towards fame and fortune, how to handle an audition. I can also show you how to stand out from the crowd. And I won't hold back when it comes to established pop stars. I'll let you know who are the best and who are the worst – in my opinion, of course. There isn't any substitute for talent, but even if you have all the talent in the world you can't make it to the top without the right guidance. By 'the right guidance', of course, I mean **my** guidance. And why am I the only man on earth who can explain it all to you? Keep reading.

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4171/01-A

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**Resource Material**

# The very special young lady in Simon Cowell's life

When Simon Cowell celebrated his 50th birthday surrounded by celebrity friends in the magnificent surroundings of Wrotham Park on Saturday night, there was one special lady on his arm. Not a glamorous new girl-friend or talented new star, but a young girl he calls 'Trouble', and with whom he has shared a special bond for seven years.

Rubbing shoulders with guests including Cheryl Cole, Kate Moss and *X Factor* singing sensation Leona Lewis, Simon made sure that 14-year-old Sian Tolfree was treated like the belle of the ball.

The incredible friendship between the TV star and the schoolgirl came to light this week as Simon hosted a party for 400 guests to mark his half century. Their friendship began when Sian was just seven years old and recuperating at a children's hospice in Surrey. She had spent the previous five months at London's Royal Brompton Hospital, four of them on a life support machine, having undergone major heart surgery. It was just one of 15 heart operations which she has so far endured. Much of her recovery had been spent watching Pop Idol and enjoying the antics of her favourite judge.

After being told about Sian and her time at the hospice, Simon sent her a signed photo and arranged for them to meet. Little did they know that their first get-together would lead to a lasting friendship. "One of the first things I said to him was, 'Can I have an audition?' So me and my sister sang Reach for the Stars. And he said, 'You're rubbish!'" laughs Sian, just two days before the party, as she clutched the most sought-after invitation of the year.

The teenager, who has DiGeorge syndrome and also suffers from major heart and lung problems, had only just returned from a shopping trip to Topshop where owner Sir Philip Green, who organised Simon's 50th bash, told her to choose whatever she wanted. "It took me about 20 seconds – I wanted something glittery," says Sian.



Joining Sian in her chat is her mother, Tina, and Simon's proud mum, 84-year-old Julie Cowell. "As soon as Simon walked through the door, they had this natural, jokey relationship," remembers Tina. "She doesn't get all hyped up around him. She'd meet the Queen tomorrow and say, 'Hello, how are you?'"

It wasn't long after their first meeting that Simon invited Sian along to the *X Factor*. "She had just come out of another open-heart operation and Simon gave us his dressing room so we could give Sian her medication," says Sian's mother, Tina. "From then on he'd send e-mails and cards to ask how she was. And she's gone to the *X Factor* every year – sometimes twice. I can text him any time," continues Tina. "He says to me, 'We're friends, I'm here, if there's anything you ever need...' And there are no airs about him. We're very ordinary, but he has an incredible gift to be at ease and comfortable with everybody. He has got a real gift with children."

"And he's never let her down," adds Tina. "If she's phoned or texted him, and if he's on a plane, he'll text back and say, 'I'm landing soon, Trouble – I'll phone you then.' And they tease each other all the time. They'll sit there and chat and she'll say, 'You didn't email me such and such,' and he'll say, 'Well I'm no good on the computer Sian,' and she'll say, 'That's all right – I'll let you off.'"

Julie Cowell is, naturally, proud of her son's success but says: "What I'm most proud of is how he behaves. He's warm, he's not above himself. He always stops to sign autographs and have his picture taken. I was with him at the airport once and he was stopped about four times. Some celebrities don't bother. But manners are important – what does it cost?"

But more than anything Simon has shown huge generosity to the Tolfree family. Tina is waiting to hear if Sian can undergo another operation which could mean taking her to the US. "I was desperate. I phoned Simon and said, 'You know you offered me any kind of help?' I explained to him about the procedure and said, 'If the NHS can't help me – will you?' And he said, 'I will do anything.' For me, that was like winning the lottery."

But Simon's friendship over the years has meant so much more. "It not only helps Sian's spirit, but it helps so many more people," says Tina. "It touches our family, her godparents in America, the people in the local shop. It enriches people's lives. Simon has made us feel like millionaires."

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