Name: _____

Vasa övningsskola IB Entrance Exam English Example II

Read the excerpts from Nick Douglas' article (2017)ⁱ, and answer the questions.

The Bechdel Test, and Other Media Representation Tests, Explained

In the latest episode of *Rick & Morty* alternative *The Simpsons*, guest star Alison Bechdel describes her famous Bechdel test for films: Do two female characters have at least one conversation that's not about a man? [...]

Bechdel's test, popularized in her comic *Dykes to Watch Out For*, was never intended to wholly define a film as "feminist" or "sexist." After all, "Baby Got Back" passes it. Bechdel invented the test with her friend Liz Wallace to set a low bar that many Hollywood movies still can't clear. As a character puts it in the comic, "Last movie I was able to see was *Alienⁱⁱ*."

Setting that low bar has many <u>valid</u> uses, which is why it's so popular. For one, as the A.V. Club's Caroline Siede points out, it raises basic awareness of the massive gender <u>disparity</u> in media: Very few movies would fail a reverse Bechdel test for men. [...]

The standard is used in industry <u>revenue</u> analysis (showing that passing films outperform failing ones) and in annual Oscar wrap-ups. It's the basis of a ratings stamp in some Swedish theaters, and it's one of many check-box criteria on screenplay database The Black List. But Bechdel's isn't the only popular test for media's portrayal of women.

More Tests of Female Representation

Tumblr user Chaila invented the Mako Mori test after noting that *Pacific Rim* fails the Bechdel Test despite a strong female character, while *Thor* passes it. A film passes this test if "1) one female character 2) gets her own <u>narrative arc</u> 3) that is not about supporting a man's story." The test is more <u>subjective</u> than Bechdel's, but of course so is the issue they both address. [...]

Other Media Tests

But hey, women are only one of a beautifully wide range of people poorly represented in media! So there are tests for other <u>marginalized</u> groups as well. Some of the best:

The racial Bechdel test has the same simple rules as the Bechdel Test, applied to people of color: At least two of them must have a conversation that's not about a white person. (The native Bechdel test applies a stricter version, to show that movies and shows with Native American characters still often fail.) [...]

GLAAD's Vito Russo test has three requirements: The film must contain a lesbian, gay, bi, or transgender character. That character must not be <u>predominantly</u> defined by their orientation or gender identity—they need to be as unique as straight <u>cis</u> characters. And they must be important enough to affect the plot—they can't just crack some jokes or "paint urban <u>authenticity</u>." [...]

Remember, no one test can replace a qualitative examination of a film. Not all of them are even recommended in earnest. But each test opens up critical discussion, challenges and <u>inspires</u> creators, and provides another tool for measuring the industry.

A. Find the right definitions for the underlined words. 10p						
1 VALID	A treat (a person, group, or concept) as insignificant or					
	peripheral.					
2 DISPARITY	B fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel					
	something, especially to do something creative.					
3 REVENUE	C the structure and shape of a story					
4 NARRATIVE ARC	D the return or yield from any kind of property, patent,					
	service, etc.; income.					
5 SUBJECTIVE	E lack of similarity or equality; inequality; difference					
6 MARGINALIZE	F a term for people whose gender identity matches the					
	sex that they were assigned at birth.					
7 PREDOMINANTLY	G for the most part; mostly; mainly					
8 CIS	H pertaining to or characteristic of an individual;					
	personal; individual					
9 AUTHENTICITY	I sound; just; well-founded					
10 INSPIRE	J – genuineness					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

B. Are the following statements TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) according to the text? 12p

1.	Women do not seem to have enough important roles in films.	
2.	Douglas thinks that the Bechdel test is a perfect tool to	
	evaluate how women are represented in films/media.	
3.	The Bechdel test can also be used to assess the representation	
	of other social groups (than women) in films/media.	
4.	Films that pass the Bechdel test make less money than those	
	that don't.	
5.	There is often too much emphasis on a gay character's sexual	
	orientation.	
6.	Testing films with these different tests is unnecessary.	

C. What kind of people are not marginalized in films (+other media) according to the article? 3p

D. What would be a reverse Bechdel test (for men)? 2p

E. Why do you think these tests exist? Why are they so popular? Are they important? 3p

Write a <u>blog post</u> (of about 250 words) about a film you have seen. 30p Remember to write about the following:

- What was the film?
- What was it about? (briefly)
- Why did/didn't you like it?
- How were different social groups presented in the film?

(If you cannot remember any film, you could also write about a TV/Netflix series, a comic book, or a novel.)

ⁱ https://lifehacker.com/the-bechdel-test-and-other-media-representation-tests-1819324045

[&]quot; http://www.slashfilm.com/the-bechdel-test/:

