**Text 1:** *Mhairi Black's Maiden Speech*

Now, my constituency has a fascinating history far beyond the Hollywood film and historical name. from the mills of Paisley, to the industries of Johnstone, right to the weavers in Kilbarchan, it’s got a wonderful population with a cracking sense of humour and much to offer both the tourists and to those who reside there. But the truth is that within my constituency it’s not all fantastic. We’ve watched our town centres deteriorate. We’re watched our communities decline. Our unemployment level is higher than that of the UK average. One in five children in my constituency go to bed hungry every night. Paisley Job Centre has the third highest number of sanctions in the whole of Scotland.

Before I was elected I volunteered for a charitable organisation and there was a gentleman who I grew very fond of. He was one of these guys who has been battered by life in every way imaginable. You name it, he’s been through it. And he used to come in to get food from this charity, and it was the only food that he had access to and it was the only meal he would get. And I sat with him and he told me about his fear of going to the Job Centre. He said “I’ve heard the stories Mhairi, they try and trick you out, they’ll tell you you’re a liar. I’m not a liar Mhairi, I’m not.” And I told him “It’s OK, calm down. Go, be honest, it’ll be fine.”

I then didn’t see him for about two or three weeks. I did get very worried, and when he finally did come back in I said to him “how did you get on?”

And without saying a word he burst into tears. That grown man standing in front of a 20-year-old crying his eyes out, because what had happened to him was the money that he would normally use to pay for his travel to come to the charity to get his food he decided that in order to afford to get to the Job Centre he would save that money. Because of this, he didn’t eat for five days, he didn’t drink. When he was on the bus on the way to the Job Centre he fainted due to exhaustion and dehydration. He was 15 minutes later for the Job Centre and he was sanctioned for 13 weeks.

Now, when the Chancellor spoke in his budget about fixing the roof while the sun is shining, I would have to ask on who is the sun shining? When he spoke about benefits not supporting certain kinds of lifestyles, is that the kind of lifestyle that he was talking about?

If we go back even further when the Minister for Employment was asked to consider if there was a correlation between the number of sanctions and the rise in food bank use she stated, and I quote, “food banks play an important role in local welfare provision.” Renfrewshire has the third highest use of food banks use and food bank use is going up and up. Food banks are not part of the welfare state, they are symbol that the welfare state is failing.

**Text 2: *The journalist Henry Mayhew wrote a series of articles about the lives of the poor in Victorian England. In this article, published in ‘London Labour and the London Poor’ in 1851, he interviews a young girl who sells bundles of watercress on the street to make money for her family.***

The poor child, although the weather was severe, was dressed in a thin cotton gown, with a threadbare shawl wrapped around her shoulders. She wore no covering to her head, and the long rusty hair stood out in all directions. When she walked she shuffled along, for fear that the large carpet slippers that served her for shoes should slip off her feet.

“I go about the streets with water-creases, crying, ‘four bunches a penny, water-creases.’ I am just eight years old – that’s all, and I’ve a big sister, and a brother and a sister younger than I am. On and off, I’ve been near a twelvemonth in the streets. My mother learned me to needle-work and to knit when I was about five. I used to go to school, too; but I wasn’t there long. I’ve forgot all about it now, it’s such a long time ago; and mother took me away because the master whacked me. I didn’t like him at all. What do you think? He hit me three times, ever so hard, across the face with his cane, and made me go dancing down stairs.

The creases is so bad now, that I haven’t been out with ‘em for three days. They’re so cold, people won’t buy ‘em; for when I goes up to them, they say, ‘they’ll freeze our bellies.’ In summer there’s lots, and ‘most as cheap as dirt; but I have to be down at Farringdon market between four and five, or else I can’t get any creases, because everyone is selling them and they’re picked up so quick. Some of the saleswomen – we never calls ‘em ladies – is very kind to us children, and some of them altogether spiteful. I used to go down to market along with another girl, as must be about fourteen, ‘cos she does her back hair up. When we’ve bought a lot, we sits down on a doorstep, and ties up the bunches. We never goes home to breakfast till we’ve sold out; but if it’s very late, then I buys a penn’orth of pudden, which is very nice with gravy.

It’s very cold before winter comes on reg’lar – specially getting up of a morning. I gets up in the dark by the light of the lamp in the court. When the snow is on the ground, there’s no creases. I bears the cold – you must; so I puts my hands under my shawl, though it hurts ‘em to take hold of the creases, especially when we takes ‘em to the pump to wash’em. No, I never see any children crying – it’s no use.”

1. Read again the last three paragraphs of Source A. Choose four statements below which are TRUE. (4 marks)

• Shade the boxes of the ones that you think are true.

* Choose a maximum of four statements.

A Mhairi Black's constituent went without food to fund his bus fare to the Job Centre.

B Whilst re-telling his account of what happened at the Job Centre, the constituent remained calm.

C Whilst travelling to the Job Centre, the constituent fainted due to lack of food.

D The Chancellor believes that cuts need to be made whilst the economy is improving.

E In the end, Mhairi Black's constituent did have a positive experience with the Job Centre.

F Mhairi Black does not think Food Banks should have to exist.

G Food Bank use is in decline.

H Mhairi Black is sceptical about the Minister of Employment's opinion of Food Banks

2. You need to refer to Source A and Source B for this question.

Use details from both Sources. Write a summary of the differences between Mhairi Black's constituent and The Poor Child. (8 marks)

3. You now need to refer only to Source B, the letter by the journalist about the little girl. How does the journalist use language to try to convey the poverty she has experienced? (12 marks)

4. For this question, you need to refer to the whole of Source A, together with Source

B, the journalist's article about the life of the poor girl.

Compare how the two writers convey their different perspectives on poverty.

In your answer, you could:

* compare their different experiences
* compare the methods they use to convey their experiences
* support your ideas with references to both texts.