

Reading Comprehension Task
on the new ending of Qaisra Shahraz, "A Pair of Jeans"

In each task, circle the one correct choice and give the page and line numbers where these statements can be found in the text plus the first and last word of the quote in question. Go only by what the text says.

- 01) Standing in front of the mirror, Miriam...
- a) immediately spots the signs of her feeling bad.
 - b) traces tell-tale signs of her feeling bad.
 - c) realises that others might recognise her ordeal.

Reference: _____

- 02) Coming away from the mirror, Miriam...
- a) finally has got one clear thought as to what to do.
 - b) fails to see clearly what she should say to Farook and his family.
 - c) does not have one clear idea as to what she should do next.

Reference: _____

- 03) Miriam thinks about Farook and his family that...
- a) they are not able to jilt her like that.
 - b) they ought not to drop her like that.
 - c) she will not allow them to draw the line in this way.

Reference: _____

- 04) The flowers in the garden remind Miriam...
- a) that Farook was going to present her with roses on the day of their wedding.
 - b) of her very own wedding plans.
 - c) that she has already ordered the bridal bouquet.

Reference: _____

- 05) While Miriam is waiting for somebody at Farook's place to answer her call,...
- a) she seriously experiences heart problems.
 - b) the ringing of the telephone is at first not heard at the other end of the line.
 - c) she wonders why she is doing this.

- 06) Answering the phone, Farook...
- a) is intrigued to find out what Miriam knows.
 - b) is interested to hear Miriam's version of the story.
 - c) seriously enquires into Miriam's well-being.

Reference: _____

- 07) Miriam's mother...
- a) feels that come what may she must disapprove of Miriam's decision.
 - b) wants Miriam to believe that she supports her daughter.
 - c) at first thinks that this is an unusual way to deal with the situation.

Reference: _____

- 08) It has become clear to...
- a) both of them that there is a generation gap between them.
 - b) Fatima that in a similar situation she had done the right thing when she was young.
 - c) Fatima that Miriam is of a different generation and culture than her parents.

Reference: _____

- 09) Fatima trusts that her husband...
- a) always does the right thing.
 - b) would have been treated differently by Begum.
 - c) is to be blamed for not having been in.

Reference: _____

- 10) Coming downstairs again, Miriam...
- a) looks at her mother defiantly.
 - b) tells her mother not to interfere any longer.
 - c) hopes for her mother not to say anything.

Reference: _____

- 11) Compared to the first ending, the second one shows...
- a) a Miriam who moves out from at home.
 - b) a Miriam that takes the initiative.
 - c) that Farook fully backs Miriam.

Reference: _____

- 12) The whole short story (including the second ending) is...
- a) generally a good example of problems of young British people of Pakistani origin.
 - b) predominantly about Muslim religious beliefs.
 - c) about the problems of arranged marriages.

No reference needed here.

Solutions: 1b, 2a, 3c, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7c, 8c, 9b, 10a, 11b, 12a