

### Section I/II Text Commentary

Recommended time 2.5 hours. Count the English words in your text commentary.

5 Question 1 (20 points) Write a short comment on the two articles.

Question 2 (4 points each) In the two articles below: define d, paraphrase p, translate t, explain x.

Question 3 (2 points each) Identify in the two articles below (word or phrase):

1 prayer repeated many times 2 completely astonished the international community 3 constantly confronted with 4 lack of  
feeling in body or soul 5 refusing to accept defeat and challenging the opponent to do his worst 6 severely wounded, being  
10 made an invalid 7 soft, dangerous area on the coast 8 strange and very puzzling

*(The two following articles appeared on the same double page in Time Magazine.)*

#### The Intefahdeh (*Arabic: uprising, defence*)

9t A few weeks ago my sister, a professional business woman and a mother of four, was visibly shaken as she watched, on  
15 television, Israeli tanks torturing the streets of a refugee camp and soldiers raping its homes. } She shocked us all when she declared  
that she would like to become a 10d martyr. } A few hours later, a young Palestinian woman stunned the world when she turned  
herself into a human bomb and exploded in Jerusalem, killing one Israeli and wounding 150 others.

To understand why Palestinian men, and now women, are blowing themselves up in Israeli restaurants and buses is to understand  
the Arab-Israeli conflict: Ours is a nation of anger and defiance. The struggle today is how *not* to become a suicide bomber. We are  
20 told that there are long queues of people willing to join the road to heaven, and I believe it. 11t What propels people into such action  
is a long history of humiliation and a desire for revenge in every Arab. }

12x When Israel was established in 1948 to heal the conscience of the West, } the resultant 13p uprooting of Palestinians caused  
a deep-seated feeling of shame in the Arab psyche. } Shame is the most painful emotion in the Arab culture, producing the feeling  
that one is unworthy to live. The honourable Arab is the one who refuses to suffer shame and dies in dignity.

25 14p The reluctance of Israeli governments to implement promised withdrawals from Palestinian land, } the determination of the  
present American government to 15x 'avoid all foreign entanglements', } and 16t the re-entry of Sharon to the political scene  
sparked off this new uprising } which we call the Intefahdeh. Scores of Palestinians were killed and maimed as Sharon declared his  
intention to cause as many casualties as possible. In contrast to the last Intefahdeh, Israeli soldiers were not on foot and not even  
visible as they shot from their tanks. Palestinian militants shifted their target to the exposed Israeli civilians in markets and cafés.  
30 For the extremist Arab militant, there is no difference between Israelis. After all, one Israeli leader said all Israelis are frontline  
soldiers.

All this 17d prepared the ground } for a new breed of militants - the suicide bombers. In every case of martyrdom, there is a  
personal story of tragedy and trauma. When a journalist once asked a potential martyr, "Why will you do it?" he was told, 18p "I  
35 want to be remembered as a brave and honourable man." } This is the influence of the teaching of the Koran, the most potent and  
influential book in Arabia for the past 14 centuries. In the holy book, 19p God promises Muslims who sacrifice themselves for the  
sake of Islam that they will not die. } They will live on in paradise. Muslims, men and women, even secularists, hold to the promise  
literally, and so do I. 20x Heaven is then the ultimate reward for pious people who have the courage to take the ultimate test of  
faith. } What that young man did not say was that he was burning with a desire for revenge. He was a tearful witness, at the age of  
six, as his father was humiliatingly beaten by Israeli soldiers.

40 Another Palestinian girl blew herself up in Jerusalem last week, killing two Israelis and wounding more. 21x She will not be the  
last of these men - and women. }

*(Adapted from an article by a Palestinian doctor in Time Magazine)*

Text Commentary (continued)

5

The 'Situation'

<sup>22t</sup> Goya's famous painting "Duel with Sticks" might as well have been painted to capture the craziness of the situation in the Middle East today. } It depicts two men hitting each other while they both sink into the quicksand. But one does not feel that the hitting will stop and the result will indeed be MAD - mutual assured destruction, <sup>23p</sup> which is the Pentagon way to describe the outcome of a nuclear war. }

10

Life in the quicksand has altered the Israeli experience in profound ways. As a mental health worker, I have treated many victims who have been injured in more than one terror attack. I have tried to help people who have just lost a second loved one while still <sup>24d</sup>grieving } for an earlier victim. I have worked with doctors and nurses who are at risk of secondary traumatization due to continuous exposure to so many dead and maimed. The repeated scenes of violence, funerals and portraits of the dead are indeed putting the whole population itself at risk of secondary trauma.

15

Even more demoralising than the terror is the growing realisation that there is no solution in sight. 'The Situation' is what everyone calls the position that Israel is in at present. <sup>25p</sup> It's a de-personalised term that reflects the feeling that there is no one responsible and no control possible. } The Situation has settled in like an enigmatic curse. <sup>26p</sup> In this atmosphere of powerlessness, people swing between being oversensitive and being numb. } Israelis, who have long been used to noticing and reporting unattended packages in streets and stations, are now <sup>27d</sup>compulsively } scanning any person who might be an Arab militant. We have heard of more than one case in which a young dark individual in a heavy coat was held under the suspicion that he was wearing explosives under his garment. In at least two cases, the suspicion was confirmed, and many lives were saved.

20

There is a numbness too in Israeli attitudes toward the punishment being inflicted upon the Palestinian population by the Israeli Army. Most Israelis <sup>28d</sup>are in denial } – <sup>29x</sup> either ignoring this human suffering or justifying with rationalisations such as 'They started it.'

25

In this peculiar <sup>30d</sup>fog } of distress and uncertainty <sup>31x</sup> all life feels as if it were on hold. } Even for those whose jobs have not disappeared along with the tourists and foreign investment, planning ahead has become difficult. For the first time in years, people we know talk of moving themselves, or at least their money, abroad.

<sup>32p</sup> Even trivial planning for a weekend trip takes on an importance far beyond the actual event, } because the number of places which are considered safe for a short trip has been substantially reduced. In the past, Israelis had a standard answer to the anxious question, 'What's going to happen?' 'It'll be all right,' they would answer.

30

During the Gulf War, while people waited for an incoming Saddam Hussein missile to fall and then for the 'all clear' siren, they spoke to one another on the phone and said, 'It'll be all right.' Even when the current intifadeh began, people told one another, 'It may take time, but it'll be all right.' This sentence has been like a mantra to us. <sup>33t</sup> By endless repetition of it we try to reassure ourselves that it'll really be all right - but all the same it just doesn't feel right anymore. } <sup>34x</sup> With every repetition we seem less and less confident in its truth ..... }

35

*(Adapted from an article by an Israeli psychiatrist in Time Magazine)*

40

- 
- 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4
  - 5
  - 6
  - 7
  - 8
  - 9
  - 10
  - 11
  - 12
  - 13
  - 14
  - 15
  - 16
  - 17
  - 18
  - 19
  - 20
  - 21
  - 22
  - 23
  - 24
  - 25
  - 26
  - 27
  - 28
  - 29
  - 30
  - 31
  - 32
  - 33
  - 34