

Our laughter will doom the royals

Mögliche Lösungen

Task 1: True/false statements

Read the text and decide whether the statements (1–6) are true or false. Tick (✓) the correct answer and give evidence from the text to support your decision. Always give the line(s).

	Statement	True	False
1	In modern times becoming the sovereign of a country should not be a matter of descent.	✓	
Evidence: ll.4–6 “It is neither right nor reasonable that, at the beginning of the 21st century, heredity should determine who becomes the head of state.”			
2	Even a monarch who feels that they have been anointed by God cares about spending his/her subjects' money in a responsible way.		✓
Evidence: ll.11–13 “A queen who imagines that she is personally ordained by the Almighty does not bother about the cost of an occasional journey by royal train.”			
3	When defending the Queen's spending, her financial manager used vocabulary similar to that of a sales representative.	✓	
Evidence: ll.16–18 “... he defended an annual expenditure ... in language that would have been ... appropriate to a Subaru salesman confronting a sceptical customer.”			
4	Vindicating monarchy with regard to its 'cost effectiveness' does not support its existence.	✓	
Evidence: ll.27–28 “Once the monarchy feels it necessary to justify its existence ..., the argument for monarchy collapses.”			
5	Being a pundit on different topics qualifies the Prince of Wales to be the successor to the throne, not his inherent qualities.		✓
Evidence: ll.34–35 “He is said to have inherent qualities that set him apart from his future subjects. It is that, not his financial prudence, which make him heir apparent.”			
6	Justifying the high cost of monarchy by explicitly listing the Queen's expenses endangers it as a whole.	✓	
Evidence: ll.46–47 “..., when she allowed her courtiers to justify the way in which she spends her money, the myth of monarchy is destroyed.”			

Task 2: Analysis

1 Analyse the stylistic devices which Hattersley uses to make his point more forcefully.

Examples of alliteration	render Hattersley's statement more forceful
"wastrel princelings prejudice the public" (l.3)	reinforces the mocking tone
"blood and birth" (l.4)	emphasis
"neither right nor reasonable" (ll.4–5)	emphasis
"Subaru salesman" (l.17)	emphasis; comparison salesman = Reid; sceptical customer = public
"gluttony of the guests" (l.39)	emphasis
"myth of monarchy" (ll.46–47)	emphasis

Other devices

<i>Personification</i> : "Even today, a monarchy can survive being hated or despised. But being the object of ridicule is lethal." (ll.42–43)	Both "survive" and "lethal" imply that the monarchy is alive, thus heightening the danger the monarchy is in.
<i>Contrast</i> : Prince Charles "pontificates" (l.32) his views but produces "embarrassingly silly" (ll.32–33) results.	The dogmatic way of expressing his views contrasts with their silliness, thereby heightening it.
<i>Irony</i> : "A spokesman, demonstrating a grasp of arithmetic that is beyond question ..." (ll.40–41)	The irony exposes how trivial the calculation is, thereby ridiculing the court.

2 Analyse the terminology employed by Alan Reid, who is in charge of the Queen's expenses, to justify the high cost of the royal household. How does Roy Hattersley succeed in changing the intended effect of Reid's words?

Reid:

- tries to justify the monarchy's cost on the economic level, i.e. treats the monarchy as a product or a service that must be judged by its cost-effectiveness
- uses phrases from business and advertising to do so, e.g.: "value-for-money monarchy" (l.19), "not looking to provide the cheapest monarchy" (ll.19–20), but "one of good value and good quality" (l.20)

Hattersley:

- exposes Reid's words as business language and advertising slogans
- compares Reid's words to those of a car dealer
- stresses how easily Reid's language can be transferred to selling cars (e.g. with the alliteration of "monarchy" and "motorcar") ll.20–21
- increases the effect by applying terms that are normally used to describe motorcars to the queen: "the Queen's clock" (l.23), "full working order" (l.23)
- thus emphasises his point that Reid's justification not only fails to help, but endangers the monarchy by making fun of it (ll.38–40).