

These extracts are taken from **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**

## Reading Comprehension Text A

*From Chapter 8, Harry's first sighting of Delores Umbridge (at the Ministry)*

He thought she looked just like a large, pale toad. She was rather squat with a broad flabby face, as little neck as Uncle Vernon and a very wide, slack mouth. Her eyes were large, round and slightly bulging. Even the little black velvet bow perched on top of her short curly hair put him in mind of a large fly she was about to catch on a long sticky tongue.

'The chair recognises Delores Jane Umbridge, Senior Under Secretary to the Minister,' said Fudge.

The witch spoke in a fluttery, girlish high-pitched voice that took Harry aback; he had been expecting a croak.

*From Chapter 13, Harry's detention with Umbridge (now she is a teacher)*

'Now you are going to be doing some lines for me, Mr Potter. No, not with your quill,' she added, as Harry bent down to open his bag. 'You're going to be using a rather special one of mine. Here you are.'

She handed him a long, thin black quill with an unusually sharp point.

'I want you to write, I must not tell lies,' she told him softly.

'How many times?' Harry asked, with a creditable imitation of politeness.

'Oh, as long as it takes for the message to sink in,' said Umbridge sweetly. 'Off you go.'

She moved over to her desk, sat down and bent over a stack of parchment that looked like essays for marking. Harry raised the sharp black quill and then realised what was missing.

'You haven't given me any ink,' he said.

'Oh, you won't need ink,' said Professor Umbridge with the merest suggestion of a laugh in her voice.

Harry placed the point of the quill on the paper and wrote: I must not tell lies.

He let out a gasp of pain. The words appeared on the parchment in what appeared to be shining red ink. At the same time, the words had appeared in the back of Harry's right hand, cut into his skin as though traced there by a scalpel – yet even as he stared at the shining cut, the skin healed over again. leaving the place where it had been slightly redder than before but quite smooth. Harry looked around at Umbridge. She was watching him, her wide, toadlike mouth stretched in a smile.

## Reading Comprehension Text B

*From Chapter 19, Harry and George are in trouble for attacking Malfoy having been provoked (Umbridge is now High Inquisitor).*

‘So...I really think I will have to ban these two from playing Quidditch ever again,’ she said, looking from Harry to George and back again.

Harry felt the Snitch fluttering madly in his hand.

‘Ban us?’ he said, and his voice sounded strangely distant. ‘From playing...ever again?’

‘Yes, Mr Potter, I think a lifelong ban ought to do the trick,’ said Umbridge, her smile widening still further as she watched him struggle to comprehend what she had said. ‘You and Mr Weasley here. And I think, to be safe, this young man’s twin ought to be stopped too – if his teammates had not restrained him, I feel sure that he would have attacked young Mr Malfoy as well. I will want their broomsticks confiscated, of course; I shall keep them safely in my office, to make sure there is no infringement of my ban. But I am not unreasonable, Professor McGonagall,’ she continued turning back to Professor McGonagall who was now standing as still as though carved from ice, staring at her. ‘The rest of the team can continue playing, I saw no signs of violence from any of *them*. Well...good afternoon to you.’

And with a look of the utmost satisfaction, Umbridge left the room, leaving a horrified silence in her wake.

### BY ORDER OF THE MINISTRY OF MAGIC (Decree 24)

*Student Organisations, Societies, Teams, Groups, and Clubs are henceforth disbanded. An Organisation, Society, Team, Group, or Club is hereby defined as a regular meeting of three or more students...*

### BY ORDER OF THE MINISTRY OF MAGIC (Decree 25)

The High Inquisitor will henceforth have supreme authority over all punishments, sanctions, removals of privileges pertaining to the students of Hogwarts...

### BY ORDER OF THE HIGH INQUISITOR OF HOGWARTS (Decree 26)

Teachers are hereby banned from giving students any information that is not strictly related to subjects they are paid to teach.

## Reading Comprehension Text C

From Chapter 28

BY ORDER OF THE MINISTRY OF MAGIC (Decree 28)

Delores Jane Umbridge (High Inquisitor) has replaced Albus Dumbledore as Head of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The notices had gone up all around the school overnight, but they did not explain how every single person within the castle seemed to know that Dumbledore had overcome two Aurors, the High Inquisitor, the Minister for Magic and his junior assistant to escape. No matter where Harry went within the castle, the topic of conversation was Dumbledore's flight, and though some of the details may have gone awry in the retelling, it was surprising how accurate the rest of their information was...

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Filch seemed to be in an extremely good mood; he hummed creakily under his breath as they climbed the marble staircase. As they reached the first landing he said, 'Things are changing around here, Potter.'

'I've noticed,' said Harry coldly.

'Yerse...I've been telling Dumbledore for years and years he's too soft with you all,' said Filch, chuckling nastily. 'You filthy little beasts would never have dropped Stink Pellets if you'd known I had it in my power to whip you raw, would you now? Nobody would have thought of throwing Fanged Frisbees down the corridors if I could've strung you up by the ankles in my office, would they? But when Educational Decree Number Twenty-Nine comes in, Potter, I'll be allowed to do them things...Here we are,' he said leering down at Harry as he rapped three times on Professor Umbridge's door and pushed it open. 'The Potter Boy to see you, Ma'am.'

Umbridge's office, so very familiar to Harry from his many detentions, was the same as usual except for the large wooden block lying across the front of her desk on which golden letters spelt out the word: HEADMISTRESS. Also, his Firebolt and Fred and George's Cleansweeps, which he saw with a pang, were chained and padlocked to a stout iron peg in the wall behind the desk.

Umbridge was sitting behind the desk, busily scribbling on some of her pink parchment, but she looked up and smiled widely at their entrance.

## Reading Comprehension, A



Read each Comprehension Text and then answer the corresponding questions.

### Box A – Questions 1-5 are about Text A

- 1) *She was rather squat with a broad flabby face, as little neck as Uncle Vernon and a very wide, slack mouth. Her eyes were large, round and slightly bulging.*

Which word is closest in meaning to *squat* in this context? Tick one.

bend ☐      short ☐      tall ☐      stand ☐

1 mark

- 2) *He thought she looked just like a large, pale toad.*

In what ways does Delores Umbridge remind Harry of a toad?

1 mark

- 3) *'How many times?' Harry asked, with a creditable imitation of politeness.  
'Oh, as long as it takes for the message to sink in,' said Umbridge sweetly. 'Off you go.'*

Is Umbridge really sweet? Explain your answer.

1 mark

- 4) Why does Umbridge not give Harry ink with his quill?

1 mark

- 5) How does Rowling make Umbridge seem particularly horrible in the second extract?

1 mark

## Reading Comprehension B

### Box B – Questions 6-10 are about Extract B

6) How long will Harry, George and Fred be banned from playing Quidditch?

1 mark

7) *'Ban us?' he said, and his voice sounded strangely distant.*

Why does Harry's voice sound distant?

1 mark

8) *I will want their broomsticks confiscated, of course...*

What does the word *confiscated* mean?

1 mark

9) How do you think Professor McGonagall feels about this? What clues are there in the text?

1 mark

10) Look at the three decrees issued by Umbridge. The language is very formal. Rewrite one using informal language.

2 marks

## Reading Comprehension C

### Box C – Questions 11-15 are about Extract C

11) What shocking news is shared in Decree 28?

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1 mark

12) *No matter where Harry went within the castle, the topic of conversation was Dumbledore's flight...*

What does *flight* mean in this context?

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2 marks

13) Why is Filch so cheerful?

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2 marks

14) *Umbridge's office, so very familiar to Harry from his many detentions, was the same as usual except for the large wooden block lying across the front of her desk on which golden letters spelt out the word: HEADMISTRESS. Also, his Firebolt and Fred and George's Cleansweeps, which he saw with a pang, were chained and padlocked to a stout iron peg in the wall behind the desk.*

What **three** reasons why Harry might be angry with Umbridge are we reminded of?

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2 marks

15) Now think about all three extracts. Why is Umbridge a dangerous enemy?

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3 marks