



8

Privacy infringement



Let's Think

1. Do you know what paparazzi are?
2. How are they different from other photojournalists?

You are Stephanie. You are reading an editorial in the newspaper.

Paparazzi—licensed privacy invaders?

Celebrities are constantly the targets of paparazzi—photojournalists who chase celebs at any cost to get a photo shocking enough for newspapers or magazines. One extreme incident is the death of Princess Diana in a car crash in 1997, in which she died trying to flee from the paparazzi's chase. Yet, most paparazzi have never seemed to feel any guilt about their 'unlawful killing', and continue to invade the privacy of different public figures.

Many gossip magazines feature the private lives of famous people, for example, their love lives. To attract publicity, they stalk them and snap photos of them wherever they go, trying to dig up dirt on them. In worse cases, some would even go through the rubbish thrown out of their houses or install recording devices in hotel rooms. What they have been doing is really crossing the line. Other outrageous practices of some paparazzi include leaking nude photos of female celebrities. Some may argue that celebrities should have prepared themselves for attention, even unwanted attention, and therefore expect them to entertain the public as they are supposedly 'entertainers'. However, in my opinion, celebrities have the right to privacy just like every one of us. They should not be treated as if they were caged animals. The paparazzi should be condemned for not respecting their privacy.

Some celebrities sued the paparazzi who took photos of even their family members or children, but only a few attempts they made to warn the paparazzi ended well. There have also been protests initiated by artists against the paparazzi's unethical conduct. The spokesperson of the Hong Kong Journalists Association (HKJA) once urged the public not to confuse paparazzi with most journalists, who are dedicated to professional reporting.

25

All in all, privacy is not something exclusive to those who do not work in the entertainment industry. The paparazzi should be considerate enough to at least give celebrities the respect that any human being deserves. Meanwhile, I think all readers of these newspapers or magazines should consider whether to continue subscribing to them, who always use ‘public interest’ as an excuse for their serious invasions of celebrities’ private lives.

(341 words)

Part A

Answer the following questions using the information from the editorial. Choose the **BEST** answer and blacken **ONE** circle only.

- The word ‘flee’ in line 4 **CANNOT** be replaced by ‘_____’.
 - A. run away
 - B. disappear
 - C. escape
 - D. get away
- Which of the following is **TRUE** about the paparazzi?
 - A. They help celebrities dispose of the garbage.
 - B. They snap photos of celebrities even when they are off-screen.
 - C. They never disturb others except the targeted celebrities.
 - D. They invade celebrities’ privacy for the public interest.
- In line 9, ‘dig up dirt’ is closest in meaning to ‘_____’.
 - A. pick on the flaws
 - B. harm the reputation
 - C. discover bad things
 - D. reveal secrets
- According to the editorial, the writer believes that _____.
 - A. the paparazzi do not deserve the public’s respect
 - B. readers should stop subscribing to unethical publications
 - C. artists’ protests are not going to stop the paparazzi
 - D. HKJA bears total responsibility for the paparazzi’s misconduct

What does the word ‘dirt’ symbolise?

Grammar Corner

We use the **modal verb ‘should’** to

(1) give advice:

e.g. *The paparazzi should be condemned for not respecting their privacy.*
(Lines 16-17)

(2) to express obligation:

e.g. *The paparazzi should be considerate enough to at least give celebrities the respect that any human being deserves.*
(Lines 25-26)

Part B

Answer the following questions using the information from the editorial. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1. Why does the writer blame the paparazzi for Princess Diana's death?

2. Look at the following pronouns and answer who/what they refer to in the editorial.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
them	line 8	(a)
they	line 11	(b)
they	line 19	(c)

3. In your opinion, why are celebrities described as 'caged animals'?

4. Why does the writer say that newspapers or magazines have used 'public interest' as an excuse?

5. Match the main ideas below to the corresponding paragraphs in the editorial. Write the correct numbers (1-4) in the spaces provided.

Main idea	Paragraph
Some unethical acts of the paparazzi	
Writer's comments, judgment and appeal	
Viewpoints of relevant parties	
The paparazzi's absence of guilt over the damage they do	

Vocabulary Bank

The following are some means of communication. Match them with the correct pictures. One of the words is not used.

magazine podcast online forum social networking site
 e-mail letter messaging app radio broadcast video conferencing



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

Let's Discuss

1. Why do some people think that being a paparazzo is tough?
2. Knowing that celebrities are deprived of privacy, do you want to be a celebrity?