

## Avoiding Plagiarism Exercise

### Question 1

Compare the work submitted by this student with the original text.

Original text	Submitted text
<p>“Reality TV claims to feature ‘ordinary’ people doing ‘ordinary’ things. As a genre, the ‘people show’ minimises the distance between the audience and the ‘actors’ through its emphasis on everyday life so that the viewer is invited to recognise the participant as belonging to her or his own habitus. A viewer sitting at home is not only invited to identify <i>with</i> the actors; she or he can <i>become</i> one of them by volunteering to tell her story, become a contestant, or by taking part in the show as one of the studio audience”. (Tinknell &amp; Raghuram 2004. p. 258)</p>	<p>Reality TV claims to feature ‘ordinary’ people doing ‘ordinary’ things. The emphasis on everyday life minimises the distance between the audience and the actors making the viewer feel like they too could become one of them by becoming a contestant, or being in the studio audience. (Tinknell &amp; Raghuram)</p>

Source: Holmes, S. and Jermyn, D. eds. 2004. *Understanding reality television*. Routledge: London.

In your opinion has the student:

- a. ☐ Written about the original text in their own words?
- b. ☐ Copied phrases from the original text without quotations marks?
- c. ☐ Failed to provide a correct reference?
- d. ☐ Provided a correct reference?
- e. ☐ Included too many words from the original text?
- f. ☐ Used the author’s ideas without providing a reference?



## Question 2

Now compare the following three pieces of draft essay text with the original and decide which would be the appropriate piece of work for the student to hand in:

### Original text

“Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live. For those people within society without a home life is barely tolerable, and for a society (especially a modern welfare state) a continuing problem of homelessness is an indictment of the ability of that society to meet the welfare needs of all its citizens. Yet homelessness remains a significant problem in affluent, welfare, Britain at the beginning of the twenty-first century, with hundreds of people sleeping rough on the streets of towns and cities every night because they do not have a home of their own to go to” (Alcock 2003, p. 73).

Source: Alcock, P. 2003. *Social policy in Britain*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Palgrave

Which draft essay would you submit?

### Draft essay 1

“Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live”. However, despite the fact that Britain is a wealthy society with an established welfare state, there are still many homeless people living on the streets.

### Draft essay 2

“Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live” (Alcock 2003, p. 73). However, as Alcock (2003) points out, despite the fact Britain is a wealthy society with an established welfare state, there are still many homeless people living on our streets.

☐ Draft essay 1

☐ Draft essay 2

☐ Draft essay 3

### Draft essay 3

Having a home is a basic human need; we all need somewhere to live. (Alcock 2003, p. 73). However, even in affluent, welfare Britain, there are still hundreds of people sleeping rough.



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### Question 3

Now can you spot whether this next student has plagiarised and if so, why?

#### Original text

“Patient compliance is the extent to which the actual behaviour of the patient coincides with medical advice and instructions: it may be complete, partial, erratic, nil, or there may be over compliance. To make a diagnosis and to prescribe evidence-based effective treatment is a satisfying experience for doctors, but too many assume that patients will gratefully or accurately do what they are told, i.e. obtain medicine and consume it as instructed. This assumption is wrong” (Bennett and Brown, 2003, pp. 18-19).

#### Essay extract

“Patient compliance is the extent to which the actual behaviour of the patient coincides with medical advice and instructions: it may be complete, partial, erratic, nil, or there may be over compliance” (Bennett and Brown, 2003, pp. 18-19). Too many doctors wrongly assume that patients will obtain and consume medicine as instructed.

Source: Bennett, P.N. and Brown, M.J. 2003. *Clinical pharmacology*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.

Is this plagiarism?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Why?



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#### Question 4

##### Original text 1

"Transport contributes to poor air quality. Although discharges of many of the most damaging air pollutants have declined over the last decade, there are still 'hot spots' in some city centres and along motorway corridors where concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and particulates from road vehicles exceed safe levels. The Department of Health estimates that there are between 12,000 and 24,000 early deaths each year resulting from poor air quality in our cities" (Environment Agency 2005, paragraph 2).

##### Original text 2

"More affordable cars, rising incomes and a land use policy that has favoured out of town shopping centres and greenfield housing developments, have all led to a growing dependency on the car as a means of transport. Road vehicles currently account for 22 per cent of all UK carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, the main greenhouse gas responsible for the human contribution to climate change" (Foley and Fergusson 2003, p. 1).

##### References:

Environment Agency. 2005. *Reducing the environmental impacts of road and air transport: position statement*. Environment Agency. [WWW] <URL: [http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/512398/289428/655143/?lang=\\_e](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/aboutus/512398/289428/655143/?lang=_e)> [Accessed 21 July 2005]

Foley, J. and Fergusson, M. 2003. *Putting the brakes on climate change: a policy report on road transport and climate change*. London: IPPR [WWW] <URL: <http://www.ippr.org.uk/ecomm/files/PuttingtheBrakeson.pdf>> [Accessed 21 July 2005]

##### Essay extract

Despite the fact that harmful emissions have fallen during the last 10 years, our continuing reliance on the car as a means of transport makes a significant contribution to air pollution (Environment Agency 2005; Foley and Fergusson 2003). For example, in 2003 road transport was responsible for 22 per cent of the UK's carbon dioxide out (Foley and Fergusson 2003) and according to a recent report by the Environment Agency (2005) there are still areas where nitrogen dioxide levels from emissions are dangerously high.

This essay extract has combined information from two different sources. Do you think plagiarism has been committed?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Why?



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## **Solutions**

### **Question 1**

b, c, e, f

### **Question 2**

Draft essay 2.

### **Question 3**

Yes. The first sentence is correct as the student has placed the text in quotation marks and provided a full citation. However, the second sentence uses too many words from the original text and does not provide a reference. The student should have written the sentence in their own words and acknowledged the author by providing a reference.

### **Question 4**

No. The original texts have been summarised in the student's own words and appropriate references have been provided. It is fine to combine information from two different sources as long as you provide a reference for both authors.



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