***An extract from ‘The Pieces of Silver’ by Karl Sealy***

*This is a description of a scene in a poor family’s home in Barbados. Clement, the young son, has been put under great pressure at school to bring in three pence (back then, a fairly substantial amount of money for a poor family) to contribute towards a gift for the retiring headmaster, Mr Megahey.*

It was dusk, and the Dovecots were taking their one substantial meal of the day.

No one could think, looking at their home, that threepenny pieces, or even halfpennies, were to be had there for the asking.

The house was a poor, wretched coop of a room, through the black, water-stained shingles of which you could count a dozen blue glimpses of the sky. The walls of the shack were papered with old newspapers and magazines, discoloured with age and stained and spotted from roof to floor, torn in a score of places, to reveal the rotting, worm-eaten boards beneath. The small room was divided by a threadbare cotton screen depicting seagulls soaring up from a sea of faded blue. In the midst of this drab poverty the free, soaring seagulls, and the once gay pictures of the magazine pages were an unkind comment.

The Dovecots were a family of four: Dave and his wife Maud, Clement and his older sister Evelina.

Clement sat on the sanded floor of the poor sitting room, his plate of rice between his legs; Evelina lolled over the one battered, depreciated mahogany table, picking at the coarse food with an adolescent discontent; Dave Dovecot, a grizzled, gangling labourer, held his plate in his left hand, while with his right he plied his mouth from a peeling metal spoon; at the propped-open window of the room sat Mrs Dovecot, a long thread of a woman whose bones want had picked like an eagle. Her plate was resting on her lap, and she scraped and pecked and foraged for her food like a scratching hen, while she took stock of the passers-by

When Clement had finished, he took up his empty plate and, getting to his feet, went and stowed it away in the dark box of a kitchen. Returning, he slumped down beside his mother’s chair and rested his head against her bony thigh.

After a time he said:

“Ma, could I have the threepence I’s been asking for Mr Megahey?”

“Hmn. What threepence, boy? Why in de name of de Lord must poor starving people got to find threepences for Jim Megahey what’s got his belly sitting so pretty wi’ fat?” parried Mrs Dovecot, though she knew well enough.

“I’s told you and told you, Ma. He’s resigning and we’ve all got to take threepence to give him,” explained Clement patiently once more.

“Hmn. Threepence is a lot o’ money for us poor folk. Hmn. Go ax your father. See what he says.” Clement got to his feet reluctantly and moved slowly over to where his father was sitting, for he knew from experience that, in parting with money, his father was a far harder nut to crack than his mother.

**Donald Trump’s apartment in Trump Tower, New York: *‘The Daily Mail’***

US President-elect Donald Trump’s fairytale New York penthouse apartment, situated on the 66th floor of his Trump Tower, is worth about $100 million. The dream home, decorated with 24-carat gold lamps and vases in each room, features marble walls, floors and columns throughout.

Donald and wife Melania's breakfast room is packed with intricate details including a gold rimmed glass of orange juice sitting on top of a gold tray, a gold-rimmed tea cup and an antique clock. Statues of Greek gods and goddesses, and symmetrically placed ivory couches further add to the elegance of this fabulous penthouse.

The president-elect is planning out his first term in the White House in gaudy surroundings, complete with gold-rimmed candy bowls, a toy Mercedes for his 10-year-old son Barron and an array of murals depicting Greek gods. The property can be found on Fifth Avenue - the site of constant anti-Trump demonstrations since the election - and is the headquarters of the Republican's business empire.

The three-story property has breathtaking views of Central Park and over-the-top décor, starting with the gold and diamond front door that greets visitors. Inside is an eccentric scene: floor-to-ceiling marble, chandeliers, pillows bearing Trump's coat of arms, statues and art worth millions of dollars.

The family’s coat of arms, a family portrait and an individual picture of Donald's late father Fred are proudly shown off in one sitting area inside of the penthouse. The penthouse is currently home to Trump, his third wife Melania, 46, and their son Barron, 10. Donald Trump has two older sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, and a daughter, Ivanka, with his first wife, Ivana. Ivanka, who hit the campaign trail for him in a feisty race for the White House, is often judged from the way he talks about her, to be his favourite child. He also has a daughter, Tiffany, with his second wife, Marla Maples. Having grown up in the spotlight, his three eldest children managed to find success and happiness while sidestepping the usual celebrity-kid drama. Meanwhile, 23-year-old Tiffany recently graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and often hits the town with Manhattan's so-called *‘Rich Kids of Instagram’*. Unlike her half-siblings, Tiffany didn't grow up playing in her father's office — Tiffany was raised by her mother, Marla Maples, outside of Los Angeles. There, she attended Calabasas' Viewpoint School, where tuition is more than $30,000 a year.

And Barron is busy just hanging out on his own floor of Trump Tower. Donald Trump told reporters he will live in the White House after he takes the oath of office. During a photo op at his Bedminster Golf Club as he was saying goodbye to Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, Trump said that Melania and Barron would move to Washington, “Very soon. Right after he finishes school.”

**English Language J351/02  
Practice Questions**

Questions 1 and 2 are about ‘The Pieces of Silver’ by Karl Sealy.

1. Look again at paragraph 3 ‘The house was…’

a. Identify one phrase which describes the Dovecots’ home.

[1 mark]

b. What do you think this shows about their life? [1 mark]

c. Give two more examples in this paragraph which show similar ideas. [2 marks]

2. Look again at paragraph 4 ‘Clement sat on the sanded floor…’

How does the writer show poverty by describing the family eating?

You should use relevant subject terminology in your answer.

[6 marks]

Question 3 is about the article on Trump’s apartment in *The Daily Mail*.

3. Look again at paragraphs 5 and 6 ‘The family’s coat of arms…’ (The final paragraphs)

Explore how the writer presents the Trump family.

Support your ideas by referring to the **language and structure** of this section, using relevant subject terminology.

[12 marks]

Question 4 is about the extracts from ‘The Pieces of Silver’ by Karl Sealy and the article about ‘Trump’s Apartment’ in *The Daily Mail*.

4. ‘In these texts, a great difference is to be seen between the living conditions of the rich and the poor.’

How far do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

* + - discuss your impressions of wealth and poverty in these extracts
    - explain what you find significant
    - compare the ways the writers present the idea of wealth and poverty

Support your response with quotations from both texts.

[18 marks]

**Section B.**

Imagine you are a rich celebrity writing your autobiography. Write about an experience or experiences in your childhood where money, or lack of it, has had an influence on your life.

Or

Write a story entitled: ‘Money can’t buy you everything’.