

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

MADDIGAN'S FANTASIA

They had lost their ringmaster, and then their food wagon, and now they were having to perform with no time to catch a breath. Their dogs and their strong man all knew their acts by heart, their clowns were word-and-tumble-over perfect, but, peering in past the watchers, Garland could feel that the audience were not altogether happy with what they were being shown. Perhaps they'd seen it all before. Perhaps they were hungry for some new revelation. She heard people exclaiming derisively to one another.

It's not going to work, she thought. They won't trade us food. They'll throw rotten apples at us and drive us away.

'You can't go on,' Boomer said, echoing her thoughts once more. 'The stars aren't right.'

'What do you know about it?' asked Garland, changing her mind within a moment. She was cross to think that Boomer might be able to read what she was thinking. 'I've practised all afternoon.'

Yves was pacing backwards and forwards, wearing Ferdy's red ringmaster's jacket. Though it was a little too big for him, it seemed to Garland he was falsely swelling himself out in an effort to fill it, strutting around and using the same jokes Ferdy had used. She hated it when some of the crowd laughed. She didn't want Yves introducing her, yet if she didn't perform it would be like another death for Ferdy. This was Maddigan's Fantasia and there must be a Maddigan magician in the ring.

All the same she felt sick as the performance stumbled on. She wasn't the only uncertain one. Clotilde, one of the jugglers, spun, stumbled and dropped the stars she was juggling. There was a scornful murmur in the crowd. Someone jeered.

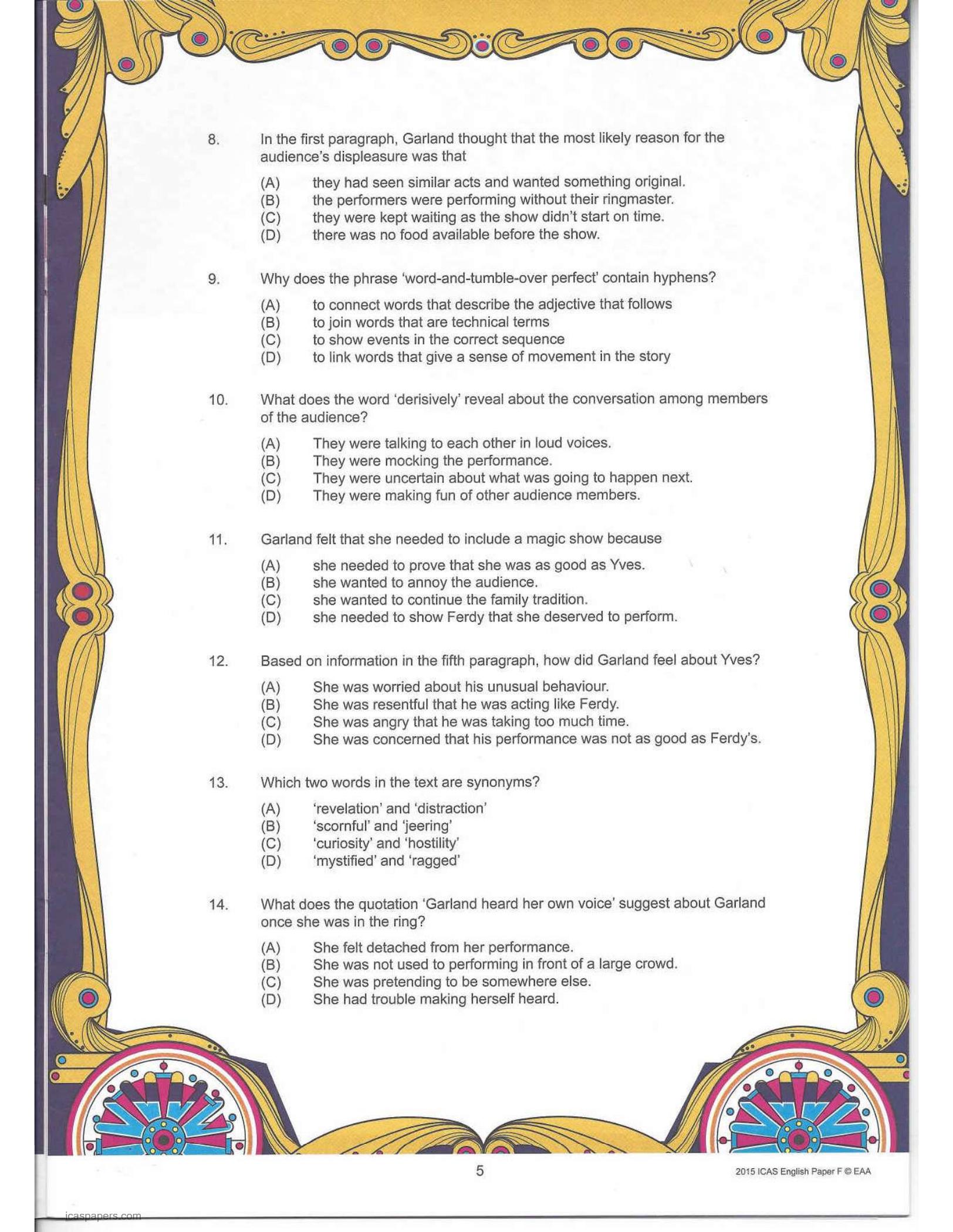
It's up to me. Garland was feeling both heroic and terrified as Yves pointed in her direction. On she ran, waving, trying to dance her way to the centre of the circle, while Tane, Morris and Tonto the clowns carried on the magician's table and trays with the cards and coins. The rough, jeering voices fell silent. The people from Milton, longing to be amazed, waited to see what would happen. Garland looked at her audience. Women and children sat in the front on the wooden seats while some men sat on the grass; others stood behind the women, their arms folded. They looked at Garland with curiosity ... without any great friendship but without hostility either.

'Come on! Surprise us!' someone yelled.

Garland heard her own voice begin shouting out at them, and her first trick went well. The children laughed and pointed. The women and some of the men smiled and shook their heads, happy to be mystified. The second trick went well too. But the third ...

She moved too slowly. Her distraction didn't work. Suddenly they were all shouting and pointing. Garland felt her hands begin to tremble and knew that, unless she could stop shaking, the fourth trick wouldn't work either.

'Come on! Surprise us!' that rough voice yelled again. And the jeering came at her in a ragged chorus. 'Surprise us! Sur-prise us!'

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8. In the first paragraph, Garland thought that the most likely reason for the audience's displeasure was that
- (A) they had seen similar acts and wanted something original.
 - (B) the performers were performing without their ringmaster.
 - (C) they were kept waiting as the show didn't start on time.
 - (D) there was no food available before the show.
9. Why does the phrase 'word-and-tumble-over perfect' contain hyphens?
- (A) to connect words that describe the adjective that follows
 - (B) to join words that are technical terms
 - (C) to show events in the correct sequence
 - (D) to link words that give a sense of movement in the story
10. What does the word 'derisively' reveal about the conversation among members of the audience?
- (A) They were talking to each other in loud voices.
 - (B) They were mocking the performance.
 - (C) They were uncertain about what was going to happen next.
 - (D) They were making fun of other audience members.
11. Garland felt that she needed to include a magic show because
- (A) she needed to prove that she was as good as Yves.
 - (B) she wanted to annoy the audience.
 - (C) she wanted to continue the family tradition.
 - (D) she needed to show Ferdy that she deserved to perform.
12. Based on information in the fifth paragraph, how did Garland feel about Yves?
- (A) She was worried about his unusual behaviour.
 - (B) She was resentful that he was acting like Ferdy.
 - (C) She was angry that he was taking too much time.
 - (D) She was concerned that his performance was not as good as Ferdy's.
13. Which two words in the text are synonyms?
- (A) 'revelation' and 'distraction'
 - (B) 'scornful' and 'jeering'
 - (C) 'curiosity' and 'hostility'
 - (D) 'mystified' and 'ragged'
14. What does the quotation 'Garland heard her own voice' suggest about Garland once she was in the ring?
- (A) She felt detached from her performance.
 - (B) She was not used to performing in front of a large crowd.
 - (C) She was pretending to be somewhere else.
 - (D) She had trouble making herself heard.