OPTION A: “The Funeral.”

When Jake entered the funeral home, he was shocked to find Mrs. Henderson sitting alone on a divan, crying with a pain usually reserved for young widows and fatherless children. Brian's unexpected death had left many questions unanswered, but it was evident that he had hated Mrs. Henderson (his mother-in-law) and she had hated him.

Jake stopped and watched her, and felt a sympathetic pressure grow within his chest. He had himself felt the sorrow of losing his father just two years before. He had learnt that everyone deals with death in a very personal way. He crossed the room. He approached her and touched her arm, trying to hold back his own tears. “Mrs. Henderson,” he heard his own voice crack, “I'm so sorry for your loss.”

“Mary...” she replied. It was really difficult to understand the old lady as she couldn't stop crying. She had one hand on top of the other, holding it, and trembling all over. All that reminded him of the widows and mothers he used to see cry on the evening news, those from Palestine and other conflict zones.

“I know, I know,” Jake said. “It's hard but your daughter Mary is going to be okay.” “No,” Mrs. Henderson said.

“Mary...”

“Mary what, Mrs. Henderson?” he asked, coming closer. She looked up at him, blind and lost in her tears, and he put his hands on her shoulders.

“Mary closed the car door on my finger!” she cried, raising her hands up to him, her pain pure, honest.

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)

ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

1. Why was Jake surprised by Mrs. Henderson’s desperate crying?
2. Why did he feel so sympathetic about the old lady’s behaviour?
3. What had really caused all her suffering?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.

4. Brian’s death was anticipated by everybody.
5. Mrs. Henderson’s movements made him think of his own mother at his father’s funeral.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 points; questions 6-9, 0.25 points each; 10-13, 0.5 points each)

6. GIVE A NOUN WITH THE SAME ROOT AS “pure” (adjective)
7. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “a woman whose husband has died.”
8. COMPLETE THE SERIES WITH ANOTHER WORD FROM THE SAME SEMANTIC GROUP: unhappy, sad, miserable, ...
9. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT OPTION: Take your dictionary and look________ the word.
   on / up / in / at
10. REWRITE THE SENTENCE WITHOUT CHANGING ITS MEANING. BEGIN AS INDICATED. The athlete ran so fast that he won easily.
    He was such....
11. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS. He always hated Mrs. Henderson.
12. FILL IN THE GAP WITH A CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB IN BRACKETS.
    By the end of next year, her sleep disorder ...... (disappear) completely.

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)

14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED AND FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:
Write about something funny that happened to you or someone you know.