



EXTRACT A – NEUROMANCER (B2)



"The matrix has its roots in primitive arcade games," said the voice-over, "in early graphics programs and military experimentation with cranial jacks." On the Sony, a two-dimensional space war faded behind a forest of mathematically generated ferns, demonstrating the spatial possibilities of logarithmic spirals — cold blue military footage burned through, lab animals wired into test systems, helmets feeding into fire control circuits of tanks and war planes. "Cyberspace. A consensua hallucination experienced daily by billions of legitimate operators, in every nation, by children being taught mathematical concepts . . . A graphic representation of data abstracted from the banks of every computer in the human system. Unthinkable complexity. Lines of light ranged in the non space of the mind, clusters and constellations of data. Like city lights, receding . . ."

"What's that?" Molly asked, as he flipped the channel selector.

"Kid's show." A discontinuous flood of images as the selector cycled. "Off," he said to the Hosaka.

"You want to try now, Case?"

[...] Found the ridged face of the power stud. And in the bloodlit dark behind his eyes, silver phosphenes boiling in from the edge of space, hypnagogic images jerking past like film compiled from random frames. Symbols, figures, faces, a blurred, fragmented mandala of visual information. Please, he prayed, now —

A gray disk, the color of Chiba sky.

Now —

Disk beginning to rotate, faster, becoming a sphere of paler gray. Expanding — And flowed, flowered for him, fluid neon origami trick, the unfolding of his distance less home, his country, transparent 3D chessboard extending to infinity. Inner eye opening to the stepped scarlet pyramid of the Eastern Seaboard Fission Authority burning beyond the green cubes of Mitsubishi Bank of America, and high and very far away he saw the spiral arms of military systems, forever beyond his reach. And somewhere he was laughing, in a white-painted loft, distant fingers caressing the deck, tears of release streaking his face.

Molly was gone when he took the erodes off, and the loft was dark. He checked the time. He'd been in cyberspace for five hours. He carried the Ono-Sendai to one of the new worktables and collapsed across the bedslab, pulling Molly's black silk sleeping bag over his head.

The security package taped to the steel fire door bleeped twice. "Entry requested," it said. "Subject is cleared per my program."



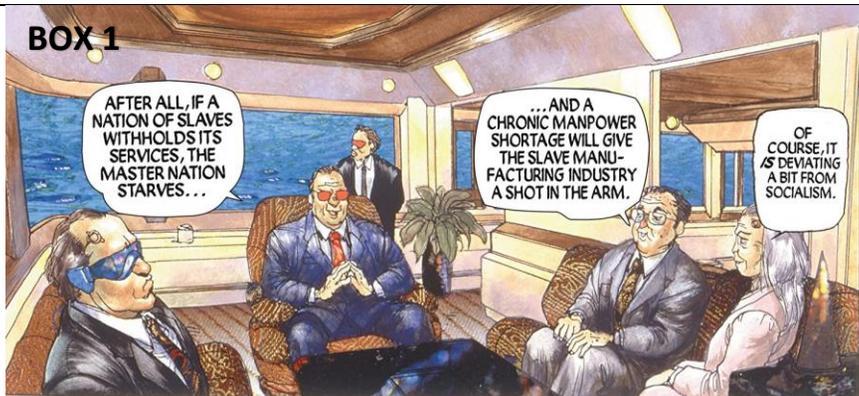
QUESTIONS DOCUMENT A

1	Summarise the extract briefly in your own words.
2	Who are Molly and Case and “the Hosaka”?
3	What is happening in paragraphs 3-5 (“Found the ridged face” to “...streaking his face”)
4	What does the matrix resemble as described by Case?
5	What points in common does the document share with the other two documents?



EXTRACT B – GHOST IN THE SHELL - 1989

BOX 1



AFTER ALL, IF A NATION OF SLAVES WITHHOLDS ITS SERVICES, THE MASTER NATION STARVES...

... AND A CHRONIC MANPOWER SHORTAGE WILL GIVE THE SLAVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY A SHOT IN THE ARM.

OF COURSE, IT'S DEVIATING A BIT FROM SOCIALISM.

BOX 2



I'M AMAZED AT YOUR COUNTRY... THE BRAINS CALL IT CAPITALIST, BUT IT'S REALLY AN IDEAL SOCIALIST STATE, ISN'T IT...?

LABOR CONDITIONS JUST DON'T WORK OUT THAT WAY... THE BRAINS CAN BE MANIPULATED WHEN NECESSARY WITH AN ALLOTMENT OF BLOOD...

WHERE THE HELL'S UNIT 2 ?!

BOX 3



THINK IT'S A TERRORIST BOMBING ?

C'MON, FOLKS-- QUIETLY AND QUICKLY!

MUST BE THE UNION AGAIN.

HEY, COME ON!



CITIZEN EVACUATION COMPLETED, SIR!

THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF NOISE AROUND HERE. PRESSURE'S AWFUL HIGH, TOO...

WARR, WE GOT SERIOUS MESS GOIN' ON!

BOX 5



MAJOR... SECURITY'S ALL READY TO GO...



I HEAR YOU, I HEAR YOU...

LEAVE THE DAMN CODE ENCRYPTION UP TO THE AI AND THE WHOLE WORLD'LL HEAR US...

BOX 4

BOX 6

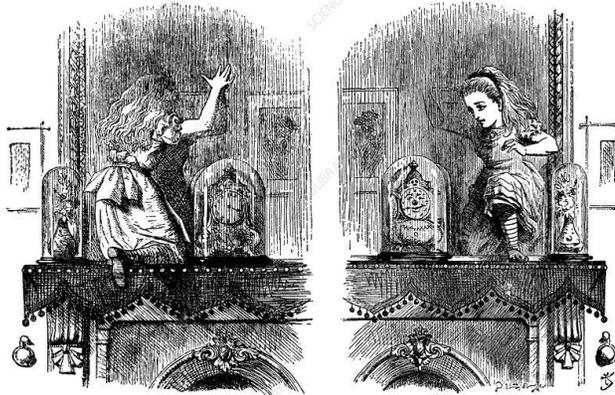


QUESTIONS DOCUMENT B (B1+)

1	Summarise the extract briefly in your own words.
2	Who are characters in this scene in Boxes 1, 2, 4 and 5?
3	What is being illustrated in Box 6?
4	What points in common does the document share with the other two documents?



EXTRACT C – THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS – 1871 (B2)



“Let’s pretend that you’re the Red Queen, Kitty! Do you know, I think if you sat up and folded your arms, you’d look exactly like her. Now do try, there’s a dear!”
[...]

“Now, if you’ll only attend, Kitty, and not talk so much, I’ll tell you all my ideas about Looking-glass House. First, there’s the room you can see through the glass—that’s just the same as our drawing room, only the things go the other way. I can see all of it when I get upon a chair—all but the bit behind the fireplace. Oh! I do so wish I could see *that* bit! [...]

“How would you like to live in Looking-glass House, Kitty? I wonder if they’d give you milk in there. [...] Oh, Kitty! how nice it would be if we could only get through into Looking-glass House! I’m sure it’s got, oh! such beautiful things in it! Let’s pretend there’s a way of getting through into it, somehow, Kitty. Let’s pretend the glass has got all soft like gauze, so that we can get through. Why, it’s turning into a sort of mist now, I declare! It’ll be easy enough to get through—” She was up on the chimney-piece while she said this, though she hardly knew how she had got there. And certainly the glass *was* beginning to melt away, just like a bright silvery mist.

In another moment Alice was through the glass, and had jumped lightly down into the Looking-glass room. The very first thing she did was to look whether there was a fire in the fireplace, and she was quite pleased to find that there was a real one, blazing away as brightly as the one she had left behind.

Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll, 1871



QUESTIONS DOCUMENT C

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Summarise the extract briefly in your own words. |
| 2 | How does the author help the reader to anticipate what the alternate universe beyond the mirror might resemble? |
| 3 | What comparisons can be made between the scene illustrated in the picture and the Red Pill/Blue Pill scene in the Matrix? |
| 4 | What points in common does the document share with the other two documents? |



EXTRACT D – THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS – 2016 (A2)

Scan the QR-Code to access the document.

Through the Looking Glass, James Bobin, 2016



QUESTIONS DOCUMENT D

1	Summarise the clip briefly in your own words.
2	How does the director create distinctions between the two universes he represents? How effective are these techniques?
4	What comparisons can be made between the scene in the extract and the Red Pill/Blue Pill scene in the Matrix?
3	What points in common does the document share with the other three documents?