

Name - \_\_\_\_\_

Start time - \_\_ : \_\_

End time - \_\_ : \_\_

**Read the following extract from a short story.**

"Howard, you made it!" Jiang beamed, ushering me through the doors of his mansion. "Come in, come in you don't want to miss a minute of this party; I promise you, it's my best yet!" He hastened me through the marble hallway towards the ballroom. I could already hear the thumping of music and the hum of voices. As the golden doors were opened, the noise hit me like a wave. The room was thronged with hundreds of guests, and they were all joking, laughing, making introductions. Their voices wove together into a single, undulating buzz of talk. Beyond their voices was the exuberant playing of the live band; drums and saxophones adding bass and melody to the already throbbing noise. There were other sounds too - the clinking of glasses, the occasional popping of champagne corks followed by cheers. And the colours! The men were all in tuxedos, cutting sharp lines of white and black, while the women were shimmering in silks of every colour - emerald and scarlet, gold and violet, cobalt and cerise. Lights glittered from the chandeliers, sparkling on the women's jewellery and the martini glasses and the silverware. The ballroom had become a never-ending kaleidoscope of wealth.

A student said, "This part of the story is very exciting. I feel like I'm at the party with Howard." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

In your response, you could:

- Write about your own impressions of the scene
- Evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- Support your opinions with quotations from the text.

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