CRITICAL THINKING ENTRANCE TEST
SAMPLE TEST ANSWERS

1. **What is the main theme of the passage? (1pt)**

   The main theme of the passage is plagiarism in the arts.

2. **Who do you think wrote this passage? Why? Give examples from the text to support your idea.** (2pts)

   It is likely either (a) a music journalist or (b) a fan/an amateur of Gainsbourg’s music wrote this passage. (1 mark for either answer)

   Examples to support answer (a): The author seems to have done some research on the topic and knows factual information on Serge Gainsbourg: he or she gives specific dates (‘In 1954’, line 1 and ‘in 1959’ line 15) and quotes the words of a critic, Denise Glaser, line 9. Examples to support answer (b): the author puts forward his/her knowledge (‘What is less known’, line 14) and uses a personal pronoun to support the point of view of people like him/her as in line 20: ‘there are many of us who believe’. (0.5 per example given).

3. **Explain in your own words: ‘it is perfectly fair to use other people’s work or ideas if you make them your own’. (1pt) Do you agree with this statement? Explain why using at least two arguments.** (2pts)

   The author writes that it is right to utilise other individuals’ published work or thoughts as the basis of one’s own work or thought. The full mark is given for a clear explanation that uses different words. Applicants can either agree or disagree: (a) I agree with this statement as all individual work is derived from previous work. In addition it is wrong to assume that an idea can be ‘owned’ by someone. (b) I disagree with this statement because taking someone’s work or idea is theft. Secondly, people are the owners of their work and ideas and have the right to be compensated or at least acknowledged for the effort they put in their work. (1 mark is given per argument given – but no mark is given for simply saying that you agree or disagree).

4. **Paraphrase: (1 pt each)**

   - ‘(people) …*applauded his creativity*’ (line 8)
   
   The phrase can be paraphrased as ‘they praised / saluted / admired / lauded Gainsbourg’s inventiveness / imagination / innovation / originality’. (Any of there are correct in this instance!)
- ‘Olatunji was never even credited’ (line 17)
The phrase can be paraphrased as ‘Olatunji was never publicly acknowledge for his central role in the production of several of the songs that were broadcasted under Gainsbourg’s name.’

- Gainsbourg’s music ‘has reached legendary status’ (line 29)
The phrase can be paraphrased as his music ‘got as far as being recognised globally as being outstanding / his music is celebrated / famed / renowned / acclaimed worldwide.’

5. **Is the author biased? Support your answer by giving 3 specific examples from the text, which illustrate bias or lack of bias. (3pts)**

   In this text, it is quite obvious that the author is biased. There are many examples we can find in the text to support this. As early on as line 4, the author uses a subjective term to describe Gainsbourg’s music: he writes that he ‘was famous for his beautiful lyrics’. This judgement is based on personal tastes or opinions and is totally personal to the author. Then in the fourth paragraph, lines 20-21, the author unashamedly gives his/ or her own opinion again: ‘there are many of us who believe that it is perfectly fair to use other people’s work or ideas’. The pronoun ‘us’ makes it perfectly clear that the author stands in favour of this idea. Finally, he or she is even attempting to make the reader agree: we are being made to consider that if many people think this way, then they may be right. He or she also seems to be disparaging concerning / critical towards those who do not agree and uses the direct style in a question at the end of paragraph 4: ‘so, again, why complain?’. Here one mark will be given for the correct answer (yes). Then 0.5 will be given per example given. An additional 0.5 will be given if the answer is well written and it is explained the examples were chosen.

   **TIP** This is quite ‘easy’ question and there are many examples you can use; the key to get all the marks is to take your time! Go through the text to find the best 3 examples and write down your answer neatly and convincingly!

6. **Plagiarism is defined as ‘the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own’. In the last paragraph, the author gives a number of arguments that people who do not believe that plagiarism is wrong use to support their view. What are they? (4pts)**

   The author gives a number of arguments that people who do not believe that plagiarism is wrong use to support their view. Some are general, such as the argument that an idea has no ownership (‘A good idea does not belong to anybody’); others concern the arts in particular. There are two main arguments regarding the arts: first, that ‘all art is copied’, and second, that when artists publish or show something, they somehow give it away (‘when you put something in the public domain, it is bound to be plagiarised, so you should not complain about it’). A last argument is based on the author’s personal admiration of Gainsbourg’s talent: he says that if ‘he used Olatunji’s music, surely it means that his music was excellent’. For the author and those who agree with him, plagiarism someone’s work is like giving this person a ‘compliment’ on his or her work. In this question, one mark will be given per argument given and another mark for the general quality of your writing and demonstration.

7. **What in your view is the difference between copying and stealing an idea? (3pts)**

   A good answer here will be precise. You will get 1 mark for stating clearly your position. There is a very big and important difference between the two words. Copying is when you use something (an idea or work) that is not yours and give appropriate attribution to the author of the idea or work; stealing is when you claim it is your own. You will get an
additional mark if you expand on the main answer; for instance by giving examples to support or illustrate your explanation. In school or academic work for example, you need to use quotation marks and to give the references of the works or authors you are using when you write your own essay.

8. **Explain in your own words what the expression ‘public domain’ means.** (2pts) Based on your understanding of the passage, did Olatunji put his work in the public domain? (2pts)

The expression ‘public domain’ defines work or ideas that are owned by the public. (1) This means they can be used by the public in any way and are not covered by patents, trademarks or copyrights (1). Based on the information provided on the passage it would seem that Olatunji’s work was not part of the public domain (1). He released an album five years before Gainsbourg and presumably with his music and his name written on the album. This being said, we do not know if he protected his work with a copyright or if at the time, copyright laws even existed.

9. We know that Olatunji later took legal action against Gainsbourg about his songs, and that Gainsbourg eventually lost the trial. Build an argument to defend Olatunji’s claim. Give at least 2 arguments. (3pts)

1 mark will be given for stating clearly your main position (why Olatunji’s claim is right); then a total of 1.5 marks will be given per argument depending on how well they are presented and illustrated. Try to use sophisticated words to gain time, for instance: ‘Olatunji’s case is one of exploitation and theft’, ‘cultural appropriation’, ‘morality’, etc.

10. **Some people say that all new ideas are inspired by previous innovation. Discuss to what extent the prevention of the free exchange and use of ideas may inhibit future creativity. Give specific examples to illustrate your argument.** (4 pts)

For this last question, there is no unique correct answer. You will get 1 mark for stating clearly your position; 1.5 marks per argument or example you provide; and another 0.5 mark for the general quality or sophistication of your demonstration. Examples need to be relevant and precise too.