

Britain's worst kept guilty secret: We can't get enough of fast food

By Stuart Maconie, Daily Mirror, 22/10/11

We British have always been a busy people. We have things to do, people to see, small countries to colonise, wars to fight, scandals to revel in.

Not for us the long, lazy, lunches of the indolent French and Italians with their cruel hamster pates and -effeminate "wine".

No, we have always needed something hot, tasty and nutritionally valueless to eat al fresco as we enjoy a public hanging, bear-baiting contest, or the burning of some poor sap who backed the wrong king. Nowadays, it's a football match or a fight at the taxi rank, but it's the same thing.

For us Brits, it hasn't been a decent Friday night unless we have witnessed some act of violence with chilli sauce and chip fat running down our chin.

Of course, not all "fast food" is this kind of nocturnal fighting fuel variety.

There's a long and rich tradition of ethnically diverse, artery -clogging snack food that's been guiltily enjoyed by Britons.

From the slack-jawed student in his hovel watching *The Inbetweeners* with his Pot Noodle to the Al Desco dining office girl with her M&S salad, from the sales rep in his Mondeo with his Ginsters to the picnicking family by the

fume-choked A38 with a KFC bargain bucket, we scorn the five-a-day and that parrot-faced sourpuss "Dr" Gillian McKeith.

Statistics suggest that while sales of garage forecourt pork pies are increasing, the number of people who say they eat them is dwindling.

So it's official. We are a nation of furtive fast foodies, secret scoffers.

...

And, of course, we Brits also love our guilty home snacks. The Vesta Chow Mein introduced a generation of British youth to the seductive tastes of the Orient and is still an occasional guilty pleasure for many.

As is the Findus Crispy Pancake, the Fray Bentos Tinned Steak Pie, Angel Delight and the now extremely rare and prized Toast Topper.

And remember, there are only two kinds of people in the world... People who really love the Spicy Curry Pot Noodle.

And liars.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/columnists/stuart-maconie/#ixzz1gnfBSIHn>

Q: How does the writer use language to make his points? (16 marks)

Mr B's hints: (a) look at structure (eg length of paragraphs, how ideas are linked, whether it's chronological or non-chronological); sentences (statements/questions; length); look at words (formal, personal, serious, accessible, general)

(b) aim for point – embedded quote – comment – additional comment