What he saw

Dark forces threaten Britain’s butlers

1 A GOOD butler needs many qualities. But above even the ability to starch a napkin, or to cut a cucumber sandwich, are "loyalty, respect and discretion", according to Robert Wennekes, chairman of the profession’s international guild. Now Britain’s reputation for producing the best butlers is shrivelling thanks to its currently most famous practitioner, Paul Burrell.

2 Once butler to Diana, Princess of Wales, Mr Burrell has made a lot of money selling a tabloid newspaper an account of her private life, complete with scandalous titbits, some of them not necessarily true. He elaborated them in a book published this week. Even worse for Mr Burrell’s claim to fame, it now turns out that his book is not based, as claimed at first, wholly on letters swiped from his employers, but also on his memories and notes.

3 Just so much trivia, then? Not if butlering is your livelihood. John Thomas, who runs a training outfit for British butlers, calls Mr Burrell "absolutely diabolical". Mr Wennekes’s International Butler Academy in the Netherlands once asked him to give out prizes. He will not be invited back. Butler academies and guilds have received angry letters from the public reflecting disgust at Mr Burrell’s treachery.

4 But hold the disapproving hisses a moment. Scandal-mongering by British domestic servants has a long and dishonourable tradition. Prince Charles’s valet of 12 years, Stephen Barry, wrote two insider accounts, published in America. The queen’s own nanny, Marion Crawford, wrote an unauthorised book in the 1950s about royal nursery life.

5 Like British nannies, another profession that has had brushes with scandal, the butlers’ brand will recover. The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences (yes, really) says that the British accent is particularly sought after in New York. But confidentiality clauses do feature in the job contracts.

The Economist
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“A good butler needs many qualities.” (eerste zin)

1p 5 Waarom was Paul Burrell volgens de tekst geen goede butler?

Kies bij de beantwoording van de vragen 6 tot en met 8 steeds één van de onderstaande omschrijvingen.

1 Aangeven welk effect Burrells daden op zijn verdere carrière hebben gehad.
2 Beschrijven wat Burrell heeft misdaan.
3 Duidelijk maken dat Burrells daden tot veel verontwaardiging hebben geleid.
4 Illustreren dat Burrells daden niet uniek zijn.
5 Uitleggen waarom Burrells verhalen niet serieus moeten worden genomen.
6 Verklaren hoe Burrell tot zijn daden gekomen kan zijn.

1p 6 Welk van de bovenstaande omschrijvingen geeft de belangrijkste functie van alinea 2 weer?
Noteer het nummer van deze omschrijving.

1p 7 Welk van de bovenstaande omschrijvingen geeft de belangrijkste functie van alinea 3 weer?
Noteer het nummer van deze omschrijving.

1p 8 Welk van de bovenstaande omschrijvingen geeft de belangrijkste functie van alinea 4 weer?
Noteer het nummer van deze omschrijving.

1p 9 Which of the following is to be concluded from paragraph 5?
A British butlers will no doubt remain in demand.
B Burrell has spoiled the good reputation of British butlers permanently.
C Butlers have profited enormously from the scandal created by Burrell.
D The most reliable butlers are those trained in the United States.