

## Task for *The Natural Way of Things*

### Three-level guide: *Damned Whores and God's Police*

Read the extract from *Damned Whores and God's Police* and then complete this exercise to improve your reading comprehension and to engage with the ideas expressed in this extract from Anne Summers' social history of Australia.

#### Level one: These are the facts

Put a **T** for **True** against those statements which can be found in the extract, although the words may not be the same. Be ready to explain your choices. Otherwise put an **F** for **False**.

- ( ) 1. Women today are able to express their opinions more openly.
- ( ) 2. In today's modern society the number of 'damned whores' is increasing.
- ( ) 3. A 'damned whore' can be recognised by the amount of hostility she attracts.
- ( ) 4. The author says that 'Slut Walks' by women ironically dressed as whores prove that the category of 'damned whores' is obsolete in today's society.
- ( ) 5. Verbal attacks on women today designed to intimidate and control them are seldom of a sexual nature.
- ( ) 6. Stereotypical views of masculinity and femininity are hard to overcome.

#### Level two: Drawing conclusions

Put a **T** for **True** against those statements which are implied by the author. Be prepared to justify your choice. Otherwise put an **F** for **False** against the statement.

- ( ) 1. Men today are anxious and angry about the growing numbers of opinionated women who challenge male power and authority.
- ( ) 2. Verbal attacks of a sexual nature are simply intended to let women know that they should behave with decorum and not disgrace themselves.
- ( ) 3. It is very difficult to undermine the binary opposition between 'good' and 'bad' women because it serves the interests of male power.
- ( ) 4. Women who behave outside the prescriptions of the 'God's Police' stereotype are just asking for trouble.

**Level three: Into the world beyond the text**

Put a **T** for **True** against those statements that you think Anne Summers would agree with. Otherwise put an **F** for **False**. Be prepared to justify your choice.

- ( ) 1. Women like sports commentator Caroline Wilson still face threats against them for expressing strong opinions in public.
- ( ) 2. Mark Latham, an Australian ex-politician and now TV commentator, was right when, attacking Rosie Batty, Australian of the Year in 2015 and anti-domestic violence campaigner, he said that domestic violence was really only committed by a small percentage of men.
- ( ) 3. When the editors of a journal for Wesley College (University of Sydney) in 2014 published a map of the sexual activity of certain young college women they were just having a bit of fun.
- ( ) 4. When Pauline Hanson, the leader of the One Nation political party, called for a ban on Muslim women wearing the hijab and the burka, she was simply acting as one of God's Police and putting Muslim women in their place on behalf of a patriarchal society.