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 The author says that ‘Slut Walks’ by women ironically dressed as whores prove that the category of ‘damned whores’ is obsolete in today’s society.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.