### Summaries

**Two Worlds**

Director Karen is making a documentary about social deprivation in Britain. Rather than concentrate on the north-south divide, she focuses on a sink estate, not a mile away from her plush London offices. Her subject is little Rosie, daughter of a single parent family, who knows little outside the grim reality of life on the estate. Karen takes Rosie outside her home environment to the Tate Modern art gallery, which is a revelation for the little girl.

**The Old Oak Bowl**

Elderly woodwork teacher Robert Walker has fixed ideas about nationality and does not consider immigrants really English. An antiques dealer gives him an ancient bowl in return for restoration work. Robert dreams of his bowl in an English monastery, where monks spoke neither English or Latin. A colleague tells him that the language may have been Flemish as the area had links with Holland in the past and also, his name, Walker, is Flemish in origin. Robert then revises his views on immigration.

**One of the Lads**

Luke Thomas is a reluctant member of a gang of Chelsea football hooligans. Too scared to stand up against the lads, he is compliant and useful to them. On leaving school, he becomes a carpenter; the job opens up new horizons, of moving away from London and the lads. But he dare not admit this. On a trip to Amsterdam, to watch England against Holland, a Dutchman berates the lads’ anti-social behaviour. Luke disassociates himself from the lads and vows to follow his own way in life.

**Frozen Pizza**

A foreign student studying in England opts to lodge with a family to improve his English. The landlady, Mrs Stonehouse, shows him round a clinically clean, luridly decorated, deserted house. He is struck by the emptiness of the home environment; a family lives there but all lead separate lives. He contrasts it with the cheerful chaos of his own home. Dinner consists of a solitary meal of microwaved pizza. The next day, the young man moves out.

**Sweetie**

Fashionable student Nikki Apton leads a fun-loving life, exploiting parents for money and leaning on her ‘friend’ Sue to cover up for absences at seminars. Her father loses his job and cannot subsidise her; meanwhile the bank stops her cash card. Sue complains to lecturer Mrs Martins about the way Nikki puts pressure on her. Nikki receives a letter saying she has failed the course. She remains convinced that she has a bright future despite her academic failure.

**The Star Reporter**

Ambitious student journalist, Mike, covers a story about a housing estate where residents are in danger of flooding. He visits with photographer Sue, who gets a photo of a young mother struggling through river mud. The mother, Carol Peterson, seems disturbed by the press, and Mike investigates on the internet to discover her real name is Carol Peters, a convicted child murderer. He immediately passes the story to the national press. As a result, Carol’s life is ruined, but Mike later regrets his actions.

**Don’t Miss the Mozart!**

Mel is sent to the train station to collect French pianist Louise Conte, the soloist at a festival concert. She mistakes visiting academic Nicole Leconte for the musician, and takes her to a luxurious hotel, which surprises Nicole. Through a mixture of Mel’s naivety, and Nicole’s difficulty with language and culture, neither realises there has been a mistake. On arriving at the festival office, Mel is fired – the real musician has returned to London in disgust. Later, Mel takes elaborate revenge on Louise Conte, by making her miss a concert.

**The Shivering Mountain**

Italian school student, Paolo, is spending the summer with the Fowler family in England. Paolo enjoys the
city but dreads the family trip to the Peak District, to go walking and bird-watching. To Paolo’s dismay, Nick Fowler shares his father’s enthusiasm. Paolo ruefully thinks about beach holidays in Italy. One morning, Paolo walks alone into the hills, unaware of potential danger. Confused in the mist, he almost steps off a precipice but he is saved by Nick. The incident brings the two boys closer together.

Before reading

1. ‘A film, piece of literature or a play might be described as a slice of life if it describes or shows ordinary details of real life.’ (Cambridge International Dictionary of English)

2. Student’s own answer.

3. Stories and themes:
   - Two Worlds – inner-city problems.
   - The Old Oak Bowl – immigration.
   - One of the Lads – football hooliganism.
   - Frozen Pizza – food.
   - Sweetie – student life.
   - The Star Reporter – the media.
   - Don’t Miss the Mozart! – leisure activities.
   - The Shivering Mountain – the countryside.
Check your reading

Two Worlds
1. The rich and the poor.
2. The rich south of England and the poor north.
3. The children who live on a poor estate and don’t go to school.
4. A housing estate with social problems.
   1 c, 2 b, 3 d, 4 a
2. Student’s own answer.

The Old Oak Bowl
1. a wrong, b wrong, c wrong, d right, e wrong, f right
   His opinions that have changed are b and c.
2. 1 c, 2 e, 3 a, 4 f, 5 d, 6 b
3. Student’s own answer.

One of the Lads
1. 1 f, 2 a, 3 c, 4 c, 5 b, 6 d
2. Luke, a Chelsea supporter and unwilling member of a gang of football hooligans, was always scared. He was needed by the gang because he was useful but was never an equal in the gang. He was frightened of being rejected by the lads. He left school with no qualifications and decided to become a carpenter and enjoyed the work. In fact, he had been offered a good job making furniture. He didn’t dare admit this to the lads – their only safe topic of conversation was football. On a trip to Amsterdam, to watch England against Holland, Luke realised he didn’t have to stay with the gang. He could do what he wanted, leave London and work in the country.
3. Student’s own answer.

Frozen Pizza
1. Mrs Stonehouse
   ✓ A neat, tidy house.
   ✓ Microwaved fast food.