

## Tekst 3

### Quizzed on television

## Pass marks

I'VE STARTED, SO I'LL FINISH, THE STORY OF MASTERMIND. By Magnus Magnusson, *Little, Brown*; 272 pages; £16.99

- 1 **H**ARDLY a pub in Britain does not have a quiz night and there can be few households without some version of "Trivial Pursuit". Being humiliated in front of your friends for not knowing the first name of the chief engineer of the *Starship Enterprise*, or being cheered for recollecting which father and son won Oscars for "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre", has become a national pastime. Mastery of useless information is a British obsession.
- 2 Who is responsible for this lamentable state of affairs? Passing on this question is not now permitted – it was Bill Wright, a BBC producer who was haunted by a wartime Gestapo interrogation. In 1971, he responded to the BBC's demand for a brainy television quiz by pitting one contestant at a time, spotlit and isolated in a sinister black chair, against an interrogator and the clock. Mr Wright exorcised his personal ghost, translating his name, rank and number responses as a POW into the introductory questions to each contender – name, occupation, and specialised subject. "Mastermind" is his masterstroke.
- 3 So compelling has been the format – the theme music aptly titled "Approaching Menace", the long walk to and from the chair, the camera angle tightening like a noose around the contestant's face – that it attracted 10m viewers. Most of them could not possibly have been interested in, let alone actually answer, questions about such improbable subjects as "The Postal History and Philately of South Africa". Yet for 25 years absorbed they were, perhaps by the programme's classlessness (the winners varied from a retired ambassador to a taxi-driver), but more certainly by the tension which destroyed more than one participant. The programme was presided over throughout by Magnus Magnusson and his history marvels at the keenness of people to endure the ordeal, not least the contestant whose appearance caused him to be exposed as an unfrocked priest and bigamist.
- 4 His is more than a tally of winners and losers lightened by disclosures of edited-out bloopers and backstage secrets. It is an account of how a television quiz show, normally held to be the enemy of intellect, made braininess respectable. Though the BBC has decided to kill it off before it declined, it seems improbable that it will not be revived. Then, surely, somebody will take as their specialised subject, "The Life and Times of Mastermind, 1972-97".

*'The Economist', November 15, 1997*

## ■ Tekst 3 Pass marks

- 1p **3 ■** Judging from paragraph 1, how does the reviewer appear to look upon the 'national pastime'?
- A In an objective manner.
  - B With approval.
  - C With sarcasm.
- 1p **4 ■** In what way did Mr Wright exorcise his personal ghost (paragraph 2)?
- A By appearing in a television quiz as an expert on the experiences of prisoners of war.
  - B By developing a concept for a television quiz inspired by his war experiences.
  - C By figuring in the role of interrogator in a TV quiz show.
- 1p **5 ■** What was the decisive success factor of 'Mastermind' according to paragraph 3?
- A The fact that it stuck to the same format for 25 years.
  - B The fact that the contestants came from all walks of life.
  - C The personality of presenter Magnus Magnusson.
  - D The relentless strain on the contestants.
- 1p **6 □** Waarnaar verwijst 'his history' in de laatste zin van alinea 3?
- 1p **7 ■** Which of the following should be taken as a small joke/small jokes on the reviewer's part?
- 1 'Passing on ... permitted' (paragraph 2).
  - 2 'improbable ... South Africa' (paragraph 3).
  - 3 'His ... secrets.' (paragraph 4).
  - 4 'Then, ... 1972-97.' (paragraph 4).
- A Only 1.
  - B Only 2.
  - C Only 3.
  - D 1 and 2.
  - E 1 and 4.
  - F 2 and 3.