**ENG 2DI – Exam Review**

**Date: Friday June 24th Time: 12:00 Room: 131**

# Part A – Read the article and answer the questions in complete sentences.

# A collision of hot-button issues

## Gay rights, guns and terror intersect in attack

In the hours after midnight Sunday in an Orlando nightclub, three of the most contentious questions in U.S. culture and politics — gay rights, gun control and terrorism — collided in a horrific way.

It has always been true that the toughest issues are those that pit our values against our fears. And in this tragedy, as with so many before it, Americans are left wondering what is to be done.

The country’s anxieties have been rekindled. "In one sense, all of this seems so far out of control, you just wonder if there’s any way of ever getting it under control," said George Pettice, an insurance agent from Charlotte, N.C. "Do we now start locking ourselves up in our houses, afraid to go anywhere?"

Across the ideological and political divide, it no longer seems possible to even explore — much less agree upon — causes and solutions. So the response has been to do nothing, except wait for the next tragedy while public faith in the nation’s government deteriorates further.

"Although it’s still early in the investigation, we know enough to say that this was an act of terror and an act of hate," U.S. President Barack Obama said Sunday. "And as Americans, we are united in grief, in outrage and in resolve to defend our people."

While Obama refrained from speculating about whether Mateen’s religious beliefs might have been a factor in the rampage — or even saying the word "Islam" — he did appeal for tighter gun control.

"The shooter was apparently armed with a handgun and a powerful assault rifle," the president said. "This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub."

"And we have to decide if that’s the kind of country we want to be," Obama added. "And to actively do nothing is a decision as well."

Obama’s comments reflected his frustration over the failure of his efforts to tighten the nation’s gun laws following the Newtown massacre.

Critics, however, would argue Obama’s call for stricter gun laws puts Americans at risk. Recent polls suggest support for gun control is on the decline.

Tough — and intolerant — rhetoric has often been a winner for politicians at times when Americans are worried about their security. Speaking at a private event in the heart of Atlanta's gay community, the Republican presumptive presidential candidate, Donald Trump, promised to protect the U.S. second amendment on the heels of Sunday's mass shooting.

"If some of those people who were in the club on that night had guns strapped to their waists or strapped to their ankles, and if the bullets were going in the other direction aimed at this guy, who was just open target practice, you would have had a situation that was always horrible, but nothing like the carnage that we all as a people suffered this weekend," Trump told supporters at the Atlanta rally.

What the American public is left with is the question of how to assuage fear with action: tougher gun laws, or more personal protection.

"The key thing here is, this was not a political event," said GOP pollster David Winston. "It is yet another tragedy the country has to deal with."

And perhaps, at some point, to demand a solution.

**Questions:**

1. Both Obama and Trump proposed solutions to prevent future mass shootings.
2. What was Obama’s solution?
3. What was Trump’s solution?
4. What does the author believe the American people should do as a result of the ongoing issue of mass shootings in America?
5. Provide 2 specific details from the text that support this argument and explain how each supports it.
6. Obama says, “This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that **lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub**”. Identify the literary device used in this quotation and explain its effect on the reader.
7. The author says, “It has always been true that the toughest issues are those that pit our values against our fears”. Explain what she means by this statement.
8. Provide one example from either *To Kill a Mockingbird*, or *Romeo and Juliet* where characters had their values pitted against their fears and explain how they resolved this issue.
9. In your opinion, what is the best way to respond to fear: tighten laws, or allow individuals to protect themselves? Use 2 specific reasons to defend your answer.

**Part B – Paragraph Response**

Choose either *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *Romeo and Juliet* and write a properly structured formal paragraph in response to the following topic:

**What is the result of citizens taking matters into their own hands**? Choose 3 characters and discuss how they contributed to this outcome by going against the law (or society) and handling an issue on their own.