Question 1 (10 marks)

How does narrative point of view and the language features used by McEwan in **Text 1** affect your interpretation of this scene?000

**Text 1**

*This is an extract from the novel* Enduring Love *(1997) by British writer Ian McEwan.*

When four of us let go, the balloon, with six hundred pounds shed, must have surged upward. When I stood up and saw him, he was a hundred feet up and rising, just where the ground itself was falling. He wasn’t struggling, he wasn’t kicking or trying to claw his way up. He hung perfectly still along the line of rope, all his energies concentrated in his weakening grip. He was already a tiny figure, almost black against the sky. There was no sight of the boy. The balloon and its basket lifted away and westward, and the smaller Dr Logan became, the more terrible it was, so terrible it was funny, it was a stunt, a joke, a cartoon, and a frightened laugh heaved out of my chest. For this was preposterous, the kind of thing that happened to Bugs Bunny or Tom and Jerry, and for an instant I thought it wasn’t true, and that only I could see right through the joke, and that my utter disbelief would set reality straight and see Dr Logan safely on the ground.

I don’t know whether the others were standing or sprawling. Toby Greene was probably doubled up over his ankle. But I do remember the silence into which I laughed. No exclamations, no shouted instructions as before. Mute helplessness. He was two hundred yards away now, and perhaps three hundred feet above the ground. Our silence became a kind of acceptance, a death warrant. Or it was horrified shame, because the wind had dropped, and barely stirred against our backs. He had been on the rope so long that I began to think he might stay there until the balloon drifted down or the boy in the basket came to his senses and found the valve that released the gas, or until some beam, or god, or some other impossible cartoon thing, came and gathered him up. Even as I had that hope, we saw him slip down right to end of the rope. And still he hung there. For two seconds, three, four. And then he let go. Even then, there was a fraction of time when he barely fell, and I still thought there was a chance that a freak physical law, some phenomenon no more astonishing than the one we were witnessing, would intervene and bear him up. We watched him drop. You could see the acceleration. No forgiveness, no special dispensation for flesh, or bravery, or kindness. Only ruthless gravity. He fell as he had hung, a stiff little black stick. I’ve never seen such a terrible thing as that falling man.

Question 2 (10 marks)

Explain how one or more visual elements used in the construction of **Text 2** affect your reading of the DVD cover.

**Text 2**

*A black and white copy of the DVD cover of* Enduring Love *a 1997 novel by* *Ian McEwan.*

