

Officially Dead by Richard Prescott

- 1 (a) *alibi*: information or proof that someone who has been charged with a crime was in a different place at the time the crime was committed.
(b) *Student's own answer.*
- 2 *Student's own answer.*
- 3 *Student's own answer. The following suggestions give the main details:*
Chapter 1: Long day – back late. Had meeting this afternoon with clients about developing new software for them. Colin in Essex (Brentwood) – teaching a course for Sutton Chemicals. C didn't call me this evening.
Chapter 2: In Bath all day, C went to see accountant – took accountant some documents, no problems. I had appointment on the other side of city.
Chapter 3: C away – in Brentwood to give another course at Sutton Chemicals.
Chapter 4: 9th January – angry with C because he has arranged to go see Slater at Jackman's in Manchester without me. 10th January – C in office all day, C leaves office to go home at 5.30 to pack and then on to Manchester.
[*Chapter 5: 10th January – Julie knows nothing of the events of this chapter.*]
Chapter 6: 10th January continued – at home in the evening, angry with C and worrying about a problem with software for Jackman's.
Chapter 7: 11th January – phone call from Jim Slater wondering where C is. I phone C's mobile several times – no answer, furious with him. Work till 6.30 testing a new computer program. Maggie doesn't know C's hotel name. Angry, worried, afraid. 12th January – contact police. They come to talk to me in the morning. Miserable and alone. I go to the office.
[*Chapter 8: Julie knows nothing of the events of this chapter.*]
Chapter 9: At work early, desperately worried, crying. Jackman's say they don't want the software. Go to see the accountant – he tells me about the business's problems. Don't like his unpleasantness, but am polite. Evening – very miserable, thinking about a holiday years ago. Decide to put advert in paper.
[*Chapter 10: Julie knows nothing of the events of this chapter.*]
Chapter 11: Advert appears in the paper. Stay at home. Mark Ashwood phones me, comes to visit me, tells me about the accident. Confused, angry, disbelieve his story. He leaves his card.
[*Chapter 12: Julie knows nothing of the events of this chapter.*]
Chapter 13: Thursday – all day at work. Decide to do some housework in the evening. Very tired. Find Colin's passport. Ring Mark Ashwood. Friday – got up early. Worked five hours in the morning. Drove to Stratford. Met Mark. Went to London with him in his car to find Linda. Linda leaves her house – car chase. I am shot in
- the shoulder. Mark hit on the head. We both end up in hospital.
- 4 *Student's own answer.*
- 5 *Student's own answer. Some possible answers:*
Colin: greedy, weak, silly, thoughtless, dishonest.
Julie: intelligent, loyal, hard-working, sensible.
Linda: manipulative, greedy, flirtatious, determined, independent.
John: weak, violent, volatile, dependent, easily-led.
Mark: dependable, reliable, intelligent, resourceful.
- 6 (a) and (b) – *Student's own answer.*
- 7 *Bath:* Colin and Julie Fenton live and have their business here.
Brentwood: Colin teaches a course here at Sutton Chemicals and meets the Bentleys who live here.
Thame: Colin dies in the Bentley's car on a road near here.
Saffron Walden: John and Linda drive to a village near here to have a drink and meal in a small pub because John is supposed to be dead and nobody must recognize them.
London: Sandwells, the jewellery shop at which Linda works and which John robs, is in London.
Swindon: Colin was seen when he stopped at a service area on the M4 near Swindon, when he was going to exchange cars with the Bentleys.
Stratford-upon-Avon: Mark Ashwood lives here.
Heathrow: Linda abandons Colin's car here.
Manchester: Colin is travelling to a meeting at Jackman's in Manchester when he is killed in a car crash while pretending to be John Bentley.
Glasgow: Linda was born here.
Dover: the Bentleys escape by getting on a ferry to Calais at Dover.
M4: the road Colin travels on to meet the Bentleys to exchange cars; he leaves this road and goes onto small country roads because he is slowed down by traffic, roadworks, heavy snow and high winds.
M40: the road Colin travels on towards Birmingham after he has met the Bentleys.
M25: the motorway that circles London; Colin crosses it before he meets the Bentleys to exchange cars.
M5: the most direct route to Manchester from Bath; the road Colin should have travelled on.