



4.50 Read the editorial below and complete the exercises that follow.

Humanity on the high seas

Editorial, *Herald Sun*, 24 February 2007

WHEN 85 Sri Lankans arrived off Christmas Island this week it reignited one of the most divisive and emotive political issues of recent times: how to deal with so-called "boat people" effectively and humanely.

The Prime Minister, whose policy on the issue was a key plank of his 2001 election victory, remains emphatic, rejecting out of hand any suggestion of relaxing his hardline stance. Within hours of the arrival of the Sri Lankans he was asked whether he'd rethink past practices. He left no room for conjecture: No, repeat no, boat people will be allowed on Australian soil under his administration.

He is right to be resolute.

Before the Howard Government

adopted its policy, boat people were arriving on our shores at disturbingly regular intervals. Once word got out that Australia would no longer be an easy haven, the flood dried up. In fact, the Sri Lankans are the first such arrivals since eight Burmese men landed off Western Australia last August.

Those who made it their business to send these vessels our way – so-called people-smugglers – had clearly abandoned their trade. Until this week.

Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd, mindful of the corrosive effect on Labor of their previous stance on the issue, appeared to have a bet each way, saying Labor Party policy would

have the Sri Lankans processed on Christmas Island – excised from Australia's migration zone – or returned to their homeland.

The worst outcome for asylum-seekers would be to leave them festering in camps for years while lawyers argue their status.

Australians are now in broad agreement that we have to adopt a tough stance in order to protect our borders. But the policy needs to be applied with a humanity that has been lacking in the past.

These latest arrivals should be processed quickly and any claims they make for refugee status dealt with fairly.

- a Write one sentence to pinpoint the point of view of the editorial. _____

- b Find examples of words or phrases with either negative or positive connotations used to support the viewpoint, and identify the subject being described (e.g., "resolute": John Howard). How are these word choices positioning the audience to accept the point of view? Suggest a different word or phrase for each example that would support a contrasting point of view.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

PART 4



