

NAME:

COURSE:

**JACKO FACES 74 YEARS**

*SITTING in a chair with his head bowed, Michael Jackson yesterday learned he would now be facing 10 charges in his child sex abuse case. He could be handed sentences totalling 74 years if convicted of every offence and given the maximum penalty. However, it is thought unlikely the sentences would run consecutively, meaning Jackson would serve between ten and 20 years if he was convicted on all counts. The 45-year-old singer tapped his feet as he listened to Judge Rodney Melville outline the allegations.*

*A new charge of conspiracy related to the alleged abduction, false imprisonment and extortion of the boy accusing him of lurid acts. It signalled a dramatic twist in the saga surrounding the star. During the 41-minute hearing Jackson was barely audible as he whispered 10 not guilty pleas to allegations which included giving 12-year-old accuser Gavin Arviso alcohol and molesting him. It is believed some of his team may also face charges as part of the alleged conspiracy that prosecutors claim involved trying to force the youngster and his family to flee to Brazil when it became clear he would name the star.*

*After the hearing at Santa Maria court in California, the star made a brief statement but did not mention the claims against him. Flanked by his family - including parents Joe and Katherine - he said: "I would like to thank the fans around the world for your love and your support from every corner of the earth." "I want to thank the community of Santa Maria. I want you to know I love the community very much, it's my community, I love the people, I will always love the people. Thank you very much."*

*He appeared calm and giggled after being asked to speak up and later refused to answer and questions as he walked to his limo. But he waved to screaming fans who had travelled from around the world to support him. Legal experts said the three new charges filed yesterday were not good news for Jackson.*

**QUESTIONS**

**1. Answer the following questions using your own words. (2 points)**

a. According to the text, why is Jackson being judged?


b. According to the text, how did Jackson behave during the hearing?


**2. Are the following statements true or false? (1 point)**

- a. Jackson wanted one of his accusers to go to Brazil:
- b. Jackson's relatives did not attend the hearing:

**3. Find a word or a phrase in the text which, in context, is similar in meaning to: (1 point)**

- a. Improbable:
- b. Shouting:

**4. Choose a, b or c in each question below. Only one choice is correct. (2 points)**

- 1. During the hearing Jackson spoke
  - a. in a loud voice.
  - b. in a low voice.
  - c. in a normal voice.
- 2. The hearing lasted
  - a. 74 minutes.
  - b. 20 minutes.
  - c. 41 minutes.
- 3. Arviso and his family accused Jackson of
  - a. giving him alcoholic drinks.

