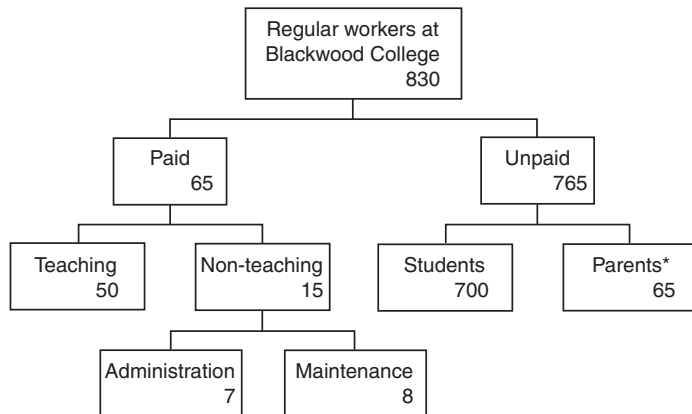## Reading Level 2
Critique and Review

Blackwood College

Note
* Volunteer parents work on average 1-2 days in a term.

The information about Blackwood College is presented as a tree diagram. It could have been presented as a written description, a graph, a table or a list.

The tree diagram was probably chosen because it is especially useful for showing

A how big each group is compared to other groups.

B the way the number of people in the school changes over time.

C how the larger groups can be broken down into smaller groups.

D the different things that are done by the workers at the school.

Answer: C. how the larger groups can be broken down into smaller groups.

Explanation

The student is required to identify the advantage of presenting information in a tree-diagram. To answer correctly, the read must reflect on why the author of this text chose its format for an audience. The student might mentally compare the text to the other text-types named in the question (if he or she is familiar with them), but this is not strictly necessary. What is needed to arrive at the correct answer is to understand that the primary purpose of the text is to display the staff in sub-categories.

Text complexity

The text has familiar aspects as well as a key aspect that is complex. Among the familiar aspects are the context and vocabulary. The context for the tree-diagram is a (fictional) school. The content comprises categories of people that are regularly associated with schools: teachers, parent volunteers, students, maintenance staff, etc. The vocabulary is mostly familiar, with a few hard words such as 'administration' and 'maintenance' that occur without contextual support. There is only one sentence in the text, and it is a complex sentence.

The key complexity of the text is that it is a tree-diagram. This may not be a familiar text-type to all students. The diagram is simple to interpret once the student understands its organisation, which is highly logical. Inferring the organisation of the diagram is the key complexity present in this text.