

Functional Skills English | Level 1

Reading Mini Test 2

This mini test will assess the following coverage and range points:

L1.9 Identify and understand the main points, ideas and details in texts

L1.10 Compare information, ideas and opinions in different texts

L1.14 Understand organisational and structural features and use them to locate relevant information (e.g. index, menus, subheadings, paragraphs) in a range of straightforward texts

L1.18 Use knowledge of punctuation to aid understanding of straightforward texts

Text A

Encouraging the use of public transport

Introduction

One of the biggest problems in towns and cities today is moving people around quickly on public transport. How can public transport be made more efficient and attractive for customers?

Recommendations

Reducing the amount of traffic Ideas include reducing the number of vehicles on the streets at busy times by banning private cars and only allowing public transport, taxis and bicycles during rush hour.

Controlling traffic

Having more speed bumps, traffic lights and speed cameras helps to slow traffic down, meaning journeys take longer than they would by public transport, so people are more likely to leave their cars at home. Charging people money to drive into the centre of cities also discourages people from using their cars.

Managing parking

Parking restrictions can also help. Making parking expensive and reducing the number of spaces available may encourage people to use public transport, keeping traffic off the roads.

Taking the bus

Having lots of bus stops means more people can take buses easily, but the journey takes a long time because the bus often has to stop. Having fewer stops means people may have to walk further to their closest one. However, if a stop is in a busy area, it can take time for a bus to pull out into traffic, slowing the journey down. Therefore, it is a sensible idea to have a stop in a quieter location. Buses can occasionally be crowded but are good value for money.

Using bicycles

Bicycles are an excellent method of transport. They are cheap and environmentally friendly (reducing noise pollution as well as emissions), as well as keeping cyclists fit. It can be quicker to cycle through queues of traffic rather than drive, but you need to take care while doing so. Having bicycle lanes and places to park bikes, such as bicycle racks, would encourage more people to cycle.

Questions 1 and 2 are about Text A

1

(a) Using Text A, identify one benefit of cycling to work.

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..... (1)

(b) Which organisational feature helped you find this information?

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..... (1)

(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)

2

‘Ideas include reducing the number of vehicles on the streets at busy times by banning private cars and only allowing public transport, taxis and bicycles during rush hour.’

Why is there a comma in this quotation?

A to add additional information to the sentence.

B to separate parts in a list.

C to split the sentence into two parts.

D to tell you what transport can be used.

(1)

(Total for Question 2 = 1 mark)

Text B

Speed Train Networks,
Brenchley Road,
Bidlowe
BW2 7DL
3rd June 2021

Dear Customer,

I am writing to you about the multi-billion pound, high speed upgrade of your rail service that will be completed by next year. This will involve both building new tracks and introducing brand new trains.

We realise this will cause inconvenience whilst the work is being carried out, but you will gain considerable benefits when the upgrades are completed. The environment will benefit too: less fuel will be used and so there will be less air pollution. Journeys will be quieter which means less noise pollution.

We have carefully chosen the routes so there will be minimal damage to rural areas. There will be projects to relocate wildlife, with ponds constructed and trees and hedges planted to provide new habitats for the birds and animals.

Our trains will have state-of-the-art air-conditioning, free high speed WiFi and high quality catering. The seats will be designed to be more comfortable with increased legroom and there will be plenty of space for luggage. Travel will be smoother because of our high-tech train design. The trains are much more environmentally-friendly because they will encourage people to travel by train rather than driving or taking aeroplanes.

Your journey time will be considerably shorter – you will reach your destination much more quickly and at no extra cost. We intend to keep prices at the same level for at least two years. It will make travelling throughout the country much easier and should increase the income of towns along the new routes.

This project will give us all something to be proud of, with 21st century transport to rival the best in the world. We are sure you will be delighted when you are benefiting from a faster, modernised, vastly improved service.

Yours faithfully,

Rob O'Drea

Managing Director Speed Train Networks

Questions 3 and 4 are about Text B

3

The main purpose of Text B is to:

A describe the catering arrangements on trains

B discuss the negative aspects of the new train routes

C say what benefits the new high-speed trains will bring

D explain why journeys will take longer on the new routes

(1)

(Total for Question 8 = 1 mark)

4

Using Text B, identify three benefits for you of the new train networks.

1

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..... (1)

2

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..... (1)

3

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..... (1)

(Total for Question 4 = 3 marks)

Question 5 is about Text A and B

5

Compare Text A and Text B to find ideas that are the same about how using public transport helps the environment.

In your answer you should:

- give one idea about how using public transport helps the environment that is the same in Text A and Text B
- give one quotation from Text A and one quotation from Text B that support this idea.

Idea

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..... (1)

Quotation from Text A

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..... (1)

Quotation from Text B

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..... (1)

(Total for Question 5 = 3 marks)

Answers

1. a. One of: cheap / environmentally friendly / keeping cyclists fit / quicker than driving
b. Heading
2. B to separate parts in a list.
3. C say what benefits the new high-speed trains will bring
4. Three of: state-of-the-art air-conditioning / free high speed WiFi / high quality catering / more comfortable (seats) with increased legroom / plenty of space for luggage / Travel will be smoother / Your journey time will be considerably shorter
5. One of: environmentally friendly / less pollution / less noise pollution
Plus suitable quotes