

# Principal Examiner Report

November 2011

FS English Reading Level 1

E102

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## **General comments**

Overall, this was a successful paper testing Functional Skills Level 1 Reading.

It is clearly evident that centres are preparing their learners well and the success of this paper supports this. The following points are intended to help centres in their preparations for future series.

1. learners must read the questions more carefully and identify key words
2. learners should use the evidence in the text, rather than providing an incorrect interpretation
3. learners need to be explicitly taught what questions are asking them to do
4. although learners are advised 'You do not need to write in full sentences', one word answers are not usually sufficient to gain a mark
5. learners continue to need more practice in identifying both layout and language features of various texts

On a very positive note, it is good to see that most learners are attempting all questions and there were very few blank responses.

### **Questions 1-3**

The multiple choice questions gained most learners full marks. Answers were made clearly and any changes made by learners were clearly identified.

### **Question 4**

There was a great deal of success with this question. There were two options available and learners were clearly able to identify the required information in order to gain a mark.

### **Question 5**

Some learners still do not understand what is meant by 'features' and need to learn that the layout or language features of the text are acceptable answers; not the content. The learners who did not understand 'features' often gained a mark for the 'real life stories' point of the mark scheme. Some learners referred to the use of 'rhetorical questions,' which are not a feature of this particular text, whereas a 'question and answer' is. A mark was awarded for identifying a fact, but this had to also include a reference to the first sentence or the statistic provided, as this was the only fact in the text.

### **Question 6**

A full range of marks was awarded for this question. Often learners did not gain marks as their answer was providing advice, rather than saying how one could '*recognise*' a scam. Learners must remember that answers must be made clear and a one-word answer is not enough to gain marks for this question. If a learner had written 'contact' for example, there was not enough here to demonstrate a correct answer.

### **Question 7**

This was the question that many learners experienced a difficulty with. The information was readily available within the text and did not need to be interpreted or re-phrased. Often, by re-phrasing the text it resulted in the advice being inaccurate. Another key problem was where learners simply state 'ignore all texts,' which is not what the text advises the reader to do. Learners again need to be reminded to read the question very carefully; many overlooked the word 'advice' and, as a result, did not provide *advice* in their answers. It was essential for learners to identify: 'Don't call 090...', 'ignore text', 'delete emails' and 'ignore offers.' Several learners used the word 'avoid', which is not what the text states.

### **Question 8**

This multiple-choice question was generally answered correctly and gained a mark for the learner.

### **Question 9**

Most learners were able to identify that B and D were the correct options in this multiple-choice question.

### **Question 10**

Although this was a relatively straight-forward question, which drew the learners' attention to the information just above the guidelines which had been placed in the box. There were two possible correct answers. Several learners just stated 'bins' or 'recycling' and they needed to provide more in their response to gain the mark, such as 'going through your bins.' The second bullet of the mark scheme required learners to identify: 'Contacting you pretending to be someone from a real organisation.' Often learners did not use this information or tried to re-phrase the sentence and then got it confused.

### **Question 11**

Many learners gained two marks for this question, if they remembered that they had to identify two pieces of advice about keeping personal details secure when using a computer. The most popular answers were 'antivirus software' and having 'firewall installed.' Some learners did not clarify their responses fully enough. For example, a response 'don't open attachments,' was incorrect. The 'From people you don't know' was required in order to make the point valid. Any answers provided that were not about computer security were not credit-worthy, such as: 'Don't write your password down.'

### **Question 12**

The majority of learners gained a mark for this question.

### **Question 13**

A wide range of answers were available in the text. Several learners provided advice on computer security and often repeated the answer which they had used in Question 11. The most frequent correct answers included: 'keep you bank details secure' and 'don't use the same password ...'

**Examiner tips for the level 1 Reading paper:**

Explicitly teach learners what is meant by 'features of the text'

Remind learners to refer to the text and avoid providing interpretations

Do not generalise or provide personal experience: all the answers are in the text

Practice looking at the key words in the question, such as: advice and features

Remind learners that they **are allowed** to use a dictionary

Pay close attention to emboldened words in the question

## Pass mark for E102 in November 2011

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Maximum mark	<b>20</b>
Pass mark	<b>15</b>
UMS mark	<b>6</b>

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