

Examiner's Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

May 2012

Functional Skills English

Reading Level 1

E102

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E102 - Functional Skills English, Reading Level 1

General Comments

Learners responded positively to this paper and engaged with the 'Stress' and the 'Take it Easy Hotel' texts. A full range of marks were.

As in previous series, the key areas of difficulty experienced by learners were found in the L1.2.1 area of the standards mapping, specifically when identifying how ideas are presented in texts, particularly when identifying features of the text in Q5. Other areas of difficulty arose from where learners had not read the questions carefully enough, particularly when responding to Q11 and Q13.

It is recommended that centres continue to focus their lesson planning and teaching on preparing learners for the specific areas identified above and in particular the specific terms and phrases used in Q5, Q11 and Q13.

Questions 1, 2 and 3

Most learners identified the correct answers to these multiple choice questions. The majority of learners gained one mark each for these questions.

Question 4

The majority of learners gained a mark for identifying that for more information about stress one should 'visit the website' or 'go to www.health.estrack.net'. There were the occasional answers suggesting that people should go to the doctor, which did not gain a mark as it is not rooted in the text.

Question 5

Learners are still finding Q5 challenging. Often, answers relating to content are provided, which suggests that the learners do not understand what is meant by features. In Text A, there were a number of available features, which many learners failed to identify. For 'title' or 'heading', we always require this to be supported with 'bold' or, if appropriate, 'large' in order to gain a mark. Some learners responded with 'writing in bold'. In order for this to be awarded a mark, the learner must be specific, such as linking this to the heading or 'important' or 'key' words in the text.

Question 6

The most popular answers for this question were 'to help you in an emergency' and 'helps you when the pressure is on', which were both acceptable answers. Those learners who did not qualify their responses did not gain a mark. In answer to the question, if one replied with 'exam' for example, it would not be a sufficient response, whereas 'when taking an exam' would be an appropriate answer. Although we do not demand full sentences, the answer needs to be made clear. Often, one-word answers for this question would not gain a mark.

Question 7

Many learners gained two marks for this question, but often specific words were omitted from the response. For example, the word 'difficult' (or a suitable synonym) was required in order to gain a mark for 'journeys to work or school'. Similarly, 'being shouted at' required 'down the phone' for a mark to be awarded.

Questions 8 and 9

These multiple choice questions were correctly answered by the majority of learners.

Question 10

Most learners gained two marks for this question.

Question 11

This question posed some difficulty for learners who had not read the question carefully enough. The question asks for two things that the *Take it Easy Hotel* provides. The answers were those relating to the facilities or provisions within the hotel complex, as listed on the mark scheme. Many learners responded with 'sea view', which is not something provided by the hotel. Similarly, any answers relating to 'boat trips around the coast' were incorrect, as these are not actually provided by the hotel.

For the activities, we allowed for specific examples, such as yoga, painting or aerobics. Rather than referring to the provision of a DVD player, some learners suggested that you can 'relax and watch films in your room'. This would not have gained a mark, as answers need to be rooted firmly in the text. A film can be viewed on a device brought by the guest. There were also some generalisations, such as 'It's a good place to relax', or 'you can get away from the stresses and pressures' rather than providing specific examples from the text.

Question 12

Most learners gained a mark for identifying that the hotel is 'Open all year round'. Some variations were offered, but as long as it was made clear that the hotel was open every day of the year, the response gained the mark.

Question 13

Similar to Q11, the difficulty learners had with this question was due to not reading the question carefully enough. The question asks for 'information about the area', such as the attractions, facilities or features, not facilities within the hotel complex itself. Some learners responded with 'landscaped gardens', which was incorrect as it is a feature of the hotel. Several learners responded with points about the views from the hotel, which was not credit-worthy. For any 'countryside' point, this had to have 'beautiful' or an appropriate synonym to suggest its appeal.

Pass mark for E102 in May 2011

Maximum mark	20
Pass mark	15
UMS mark	6

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