

# Examiner's Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

March 2013

Functional Skills English

Reading Level 1

E102

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March 2013

Publications Code FC035009

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## **E102 - Functional Skills English, Reading Level 1**

### **General Comments**

On the whole, this paper has been very successful and a substantial number of learners have gained a pass in 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.

The main points arising from this paper are:

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 or adding from own knowledge or experience.
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 (or sometimes two) word answers are not usually sufficient to gain a mark.
5. Learners need more practice in identifying features of a text that help to present information.

On a positive note, it is good to see that most learners are attempting all questions.

### **Questions 1-3**

Most multiple choice questions were correctly answered. Almost all learners indicated their answer as instructed and any deleted responses or changes tended to be clearly made. Centres are encouraged to help learners devise strategies for selecting the correct response.

### **Question 4**

This question asked what people needed to do to find out more about the outdoor gyms. Learners needed to indicate that they should 'look on the website' or 'go to [www.estrackhealth/outdoorgyms.web](http://www.estrackhealth/outdoorgyms.web)'. Most incorrect answers did not focus on what people should do. Many answered 'website' or 'www.estrackhealth/outdoorgyms.web' which would have been an acceptable answer had the question been: Where can you go to find out more about the outdoor gyms?

### **Question 5**

In general, this features question was much better answered than in previous series. A considerable number correctly identified 'bullet points', 'bold title' and 'picture'. Incorrect answers tended to focus on content rather than features and a small number listed the features of an outdoor gym.

### Question 6

This question was not generally well answered because many learners did not read the question carefully enough and take note of the emboldened words, 'other than' which excluded any information pertaining to any aspect of outdoor gyms. Those, for example, who wrote 'health experts are there' and 'equipment is safe and easy to use', gained no marks. Other learners lost marks because they repeated the words of the question: 'Estrick Council takes health and fitness seriously' or generalised, 'this is a positive step to encourage the adult residents of Estrick to keep fit and healthy'. Most correct answers featured 'organised cycling' but a few lost the mark for 'swimming' as they omitted to say it was free. This question was an effective discriminator. Centres are encouraged to remind learners to read the question carefully, paying particular attention to emboldened words.

### Question 7

This question, which asked learners to give two reasons why their friend should use the outdoor gyms, was generally very well answered, with most learners gaining both marks. Incorrect answers tended either to be extremely brief, lacking sufficient detail: 'fresh air', 'health experts' or generalised without answering the question: 'they're a great idea'. A number listed the features of the outdoor gyms without saying they were similar to indoor gyms. Some drew on own experience rather than searching the text: "you go whenever you like".

### Question 8

This multiple-choice question was generally correctly answered, with almost all learners awarded the mark.

### Question 9

Most learners gained one or both marks for correctly identifying (C) 'menu' and (E) 'website address' as features of a webpage. Almost all correctly identified 'menu' but a number selected (B) 'bold heading' or an alternative as the second feature. A few identified only one feature.

### Question 10

This question asked learners to identify two things you must have to take part in a planned walk. In most cases incorrect responses were caused by a rephrasing of 'sturdy walking shoes' or were the result of failing to distinguish between what was essential and what was considered to be useful to bring. 'Sensible footwear' and 'walking boots' were not mentioned in the text and 'waterproof clothing' was a recommendation rather than being essential. A number correctly identified 'water' or 'a bottle of water' but there were others who suggested bringing 'a mobile', 'a first aid kit', 'a camera' and 'a map'. Perhaps surprising was the number who answered: 'The Gentle Stroll and the Power Walk'.

**Question 11**

This question was generally well answered with many learners awarded both marks for correctly extracting two reasons from the text saying why their friend would enjoy one of these walks. Other responses were less successful, often because they interpreted the text: 'make new friends' or 'meet new people' and there were a few answers so brief that they were too vague to gain a mark: 'take a camera'. Repetition of the same point was awarded one single mark: 'identify wildlife' and 'identify plants', and a few made generalisations about taking exercise. A small number of answers appeared to be a response to Question 7.

**Question 12**

Almost all learners gained a mark for 'turn up at the Town Hall'. A number gave details of times to turn up on different days but failed to say where.

**Question 13**

This question was, in general, very well answered, with most learners gaining either one or two marks, most often for 'guides carry a first aid kit and a mobile phone in case of emergency'. Some incorrect answers, such as 'mobile phone' were too brief to indicate how the organisers ensured that walkers stayed safe. Other responses were confused, some appearing to suggest that 'you carry a first aid kit' and 'have your mobile in case there is an emergency.' The text clearly states that 'the guides are qualified in first aid and always carry a mobile telephone in case of any emergency'. A few repeated the same correct point: 'the guides are qualified in first aid' and 'they carry a first aid kit'.

### Recommendations for Centres:

- Centres should explicitly teach learners 'features' of a text which help to present information
- Learners should be reminded to read questions very carefully. They should take note of key words (often emboldened) and look for the focus of the question
- Centres are encouraged to remind learners to refer to the text and avoid adding own knowledge or providing interpretation of the information given
- Learners are reminded that extremely short answers are unlikely to answer the question
- Learners should use the correct text (A or B) in order to answer the question
- Centres should remind learners that they *can* use a dictionary

Pass mark for E102 in March 2013

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

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