

Principal Examiners' Report

November 2015

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills
English Reading Level 1 (E102)

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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 continue to need more practice in identifying features of a web-page.

On a positive note, it is good to see that most learners are attempting all questions and that single word answers are less common.

Questions 1-3

Although Questions 1 and 2 were generally answered correctly, this was not always the case with Question 3. Many chose option A, that Frank Piper 'thought the restaurant meal was boring'. Careful reading of the text would have indicated the opposite. Frank Piper used to think that vegetarian food was boring before he tried it and found that it was delicious.

Question 4

Almost all learners were able to identify one nutrient found in meat.

Question 5

A considerable number of learners were able to give two features of Text A that help to present information. Many wrote 'bullet points' 'picture' and 'bold'. Incorrect answers included 'website', 'search box' and 'font'.

Question 6

Many learners gained both marks for giving two ways your friend could learn more about becoming a vegetarian. Most answered 'www.vegplate.web', 'emailing Frank' and 'leaving a comment on the blog'. A few suggested 'going to a vegetarian restaurant' but this was not rooted in the text. Marks were lost because of vague answers: 'ask friends', 'look on the internet' and 'do research'.

Question 7

This question asked for the stated benefits of being a vegetarian. Marks were frequently awarded for 'improves health' and being 'full of energy'. Some responses included lengthy and irrelevant explanations that vegetarians would not miss out on key nutrients because their diet could be supplemented by 'dairy products, vegetables, beans and pulses'.

Question 8

Most learners correctly identified the main purpose of Text B as C, 'to describe the new vegetarian restaurant in Dintone'.

Question 9

This question was generally well answered, with many gaining both marks for identifying two correct statements from Text B. Most marks were lost because of only one answer being selected.

Question 10

Learners were asked for two pieces of information to show that the restaurant is welcoming. The correct responses were, 'the atmosphere is warm and inviting' and 'the waiter is friendly'. Some learners gave their own interpretation of a welcoming restaurant, 'it is good value for money' and 'you get a good deal'. Others explained that there were 'three dining rooms' because this preceded 'the atmosphere is warm and inviting' in the text. A small number misunderstood the phrase, 'What a welcome addition to the restaurant scene of Dintone!' as evidence of the restaurant being welcoming.

Question 11

This question was very well answered. Asked how Claire's Orchard supports local businesses, many wrote 'the furniture was bought in local shops' and 'food is sourced locally'. Marks were lost if the response did not indicate a local aspect.

Question 12

Most learners were able to identify www.clares-orchard.web to book a table at the restaurant.

Question 13

This question focused on the range of food available at Claire's Orchard. Many learners wrote about the 'buffet-style experience' and the 'three dining rooms', rather than the various eating options. Other incorrect responses included 'the chef has 20 years' experience', 'a family of four gets a good deal' and 'the food is local'.

Examiner tips for the Level 1 Reading paper:

- Features of a web-site should be explicitly taught.
- Centres should remind learners to read questions very carefully, looking for key words (often emboldened) and for the focus of the question.
- Centres should remind learners to refer to the text and avoid adding own knowledge or providing interpretation of the information given.
- Learners should take note of detail found in the text in order to write clear and precise answers.
- Learners are encouraged to read their response to each question: to check that they have answered the question which has been set and to be certain that their answer is clear.
- Centres should remind learners that they *can* use a dictionary.

Pass mark for E102 in November 2015

Maximum mark	20
Pass mark	14
UMS mark	6

Ofqual



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