

Write your name here

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Other names

**Pearson Edexcel
Functional Skills**

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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English

Level 2

Component 2: Reading

14 – 18 March 2016

Time: 60 minutes

Paper Reference

E202/01

You may use a dictionary.

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 30.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets.
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- This question paper assesses your reading skills, not your writing skills.

Advice

- Read all three texts before you attempt to answer the questions.
- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Keep an eye on the time.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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PEARSON

Context

You are interested in the availability of housing in the UK. You decide to find out more about the topic.

Instructions

Read Text A, Text B and Text C, then answer questions 1 – 13.

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Text A

Homes for everyone

The housing crisis isn't about houses – it's about people. It's the family struggling to meet next month's mortgage payment. The young family renting a rundown flat, wondering if they will ever be able to afford a home of their own. The children living in temporary accommodation, forced to change schools every time they move.

The lack of affordable, decent homes being built is affecting people across the whole country. Here's how:

- **Home ownership is slipping out of reach** – On average, house prices are now almost seven times people's incomes. No matter how hard they work, young people are finding it more and more difficult to save up and buy a home of their own. In the last decade, home ownership fell for the first time since records began.
- **Housing costs are hugely expensive** – Many of the people on the housing ladder got there by taking out loans that stretched them to their financial limit. Some people are finding it harder to meet their monthly repayments, often with difficult consequences.
- **More families are renting from private landlords** – There are now more than nine million renters in private rented accommodation, including almost 1.3 million families with children. Renting can be uncertain, with increasing rents, hidden fees and eviction a constant worry. And it can mean living in dreadful conditions too – one third of private rented homes in England fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard.
- **Levels of homelessness are rising** – The ultimate impact of the housing crisis is the huge numbers of people forced out of their homes altogether. The number of homeless households has risen to more than 50,000 a year. Some of these households – many with dependent children – will then wait for years, sometimes in temporary rented accommodation, before they get a home of their own.

Things have to change. Urgent reform is needed. This is why we are campaigning tirelessly to end the housing crisis and to make sure everyone has a decent, affordable home.

Adapted from http://england.shelter.org.uk/campaigns/why_we_campaign/the_housing_crisis/what_is_the_housing_crisis



Text B

Do It Yourself

Nine families hit by London's housing crisis learned skills including carpentry, tiling and painting to enable them to self-build their own homes.

The families, who were all on waiting lists – some for as long as 12 years – worked together to convert 50 garages into 10 homes.

The project was the idea of Waltham Forest resident John Struthers, a 47-year-old surveyor with two teenagers and a seven-year-old. All three children were sharing a room and the family had been on the borough's housing waiting list for seven years. He decided to team up with Circle Housing, a housing association which owned the land. This association provided £2 million for the scheme and also secured a £300,000 grant from the Greater London Authority.

Mr Struthers recruited eight other families, many of whom had no building experience, and spent four months attending Waltham Forest College evening classes. The garages were demolished in winter 2013 before bricklaying was completed by local builders Kind & Company. The residents helped where they could and added the finishing touches.

The families now rent the homes in Headway Gardens at 'an affordable rate', with a typical weekly rent for a two-bedroom house of about £120. This is a big saving on similar homes in the surrounding area.

Mr Struthers said: 'We have all eaten, slept and dreamt this project, so this is the end of a very long and challenging journey. Thanks to a lot of hard work, this scheme will not only transform our family's life but also benefit the community as a whole.'

Helen Franklin, 38, learned skills such as kitchen fitting, and Brigitta Canonica, 39, said her new DIY skills gave her confidence to tackle almost any job, most recently the painting of her staircase.

Circle Housing wants to extend self-build schemes across London and create 1,500 homes. They claim that the more houses they build, the more it will help reduce the cost of such housing in the future.

Adapted from <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/diy-families-build-own-london-homes-after-being-stuck-for-years-on-council-waiting-list-10298963.html>

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Text C

Letter to the Editor

The housing crisis will always be with us

Dear Sir,

Everyone agrees that we need to do something about poor quality accommodation, long waiting lists for housing and high house prices. These issues will be addressed only if we build more houses.

UK house prices rose by 8.4% in 2014 and by 13% in London. People are concerned that prices are rising too fast and that it is becoming *impossible* for the young and for families to buy their first house. A growing trend is for families to live with their parents in order to save money.

So why is nothing being done about house prices? Is it because bringing down house prices, by building more houses, would mean that people who had already bought a home would see the value of their property go down?

In the UK today, twice as many people own homes rather than rent them. And for many people the value of their house is just as important to their financial well-being as what they earn.

What's more, parents are keen to pass on property to their children. In many cases, the only chance people will have of owning their own home will be if they inherit the family home from their parents. Property owning is incredibly important to British people and most homeowners are aware of the value of their house. This means that any action that is likely to reduce the value of housing will be unpopular with many people.

Maybe one solution to the housing crisis is to allow people more freedom to construct their own properties as was the case in the past. In fact, in parts of the UK, people have already started self-build schemes to address the shortage of housing.

Despite positive developments like these, it is still unlikely that we will see a quick solution to the housing crisis. In my opinion it's not going to happen; never in a *million* years.



Answer question 1 with a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

1 The writer of Text A believes that the housing crisis:

- A only affects young people
- B is caused by first time buyers
- C is making it harder to buy a home
- D only helps families wanting to rent

(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

2 In Text A, what do the following quotations suggest about the writer's view of the housing crisis?

'The housing crisis isn't about houses – it's about people'

.....

..... (1)

'stretched them to their financial limit'

.....

..... (1)

(Total for Question 2 = 2 marks)

3 What is the **main** purpose of Text A?

.....

.....

.....

(Total for Question 3 = 1 mark)

4 Give **one** reason why Text B is the most suitable for someone who wants to solve the housing problem in his or her area.

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(Total for Question 4 = 1 mark)

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Answer question 5 and 6 with a cross ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

5 In Text B, the paragraph beginning 'The families now rent...' implies that the writer believes that renting is:

- A popular with the rich
- B becoming more common
- C expensive for many people
- D for people who want to pay weekly

(Total for Question 5 = 1 mark)

6 In Text B, 'We have all eaten, slept and dreamt this project' is an example of:

- A a rhetorical question
- B direct speech
- C a slogan
- D direct address to the reader

(Total for Question 6 = 1 mark)

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7 Explain **two** ways the writer of Text C presents his ideas to convince the reader that the housing crisis will not end soon.

Give an example to support each answer.

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(2)

2

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(2)

(Total for Question 7 = 4 marks)

8 Your friend does not realise how serious the housing crisis is in the UK.

Using Text A and Text B, explain to your friend just how serious the housing crisis is in the UK.

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(Total for Question 8 = 5 marks)

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9 Give **one** quotation from Text B and **one** quotation from Text C which convey the view that people are building their own homes in response to the housing crisis.

Quotation from Text B

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..... (1)

Quotation from Text C

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..... (1)

(Total for Question 9 = 2 marks)

10 Use Text B and Text C to answer this question.

Explain how these texts have similar ideas about how the housing crisis has affected families.

Give examples from both texts to support your answer.

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(Total for Question 10 = 5 marks)

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11 You are preparing a talk on problems that people can have when renting a home.

Which text is the **most** useful when preparing your talk?

Give **one** reason for your choice and **one** example to support your answer.

Text (1)

Reason (1)

Example (1)

(Total for Question 11 = 3 marks)

12 You are concerned about whether enough houses are being built.

Identify **one** piece of evidence from **each** of the three texts that suggests it is important to build more homes.

Text A (1)

Text B (1)

Text C (1)

(Total for Question 12 = 3 marks)

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Answer question 13 with a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ☒ and then mark your new answer with a cross ☒.

13 Which statement below is an accurate summary of points made in the texts about the housing crisis?

- A Texts A and B both inform you how children have been affected.
- B Texts A and C both suggest that private landlords are to blame.
- C Texts B and C both state only people in England are affected.
- D Texts B and C both claim people are unable to make changes.

(Total for Question 13 = 1 mark)

TOTAL FOR PAPER = 30 MARKS



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