

Principal Examiners' Report

February 2017

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills
English Reading Level 1 (E102)

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Publications Code E102_01_1702_ER

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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 continue to need more practice in identifying both layout and language features of various texts.

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 made their choice clear, deleting changed responses. Centres are encouraged to help learners devise strategies for selecting the correct answer.

Question 4

This question was very well answered, with almost all learners able to name one way to buy music. Many wrote 'CDs', 'vinyl' or 'streaming'.

Question 5

Most learners were awarded either one or two marks in this features question. Many identified a 'heading', a 'picture' and 'bold'. A small number referred to the content of the text rather than identifying features. A few identified 'bullet points' which were not a feature of this particular text. To gain both marks, learners should look at the text carefully and identify two features they can see.

Question 6

This question was not always well answered. The learner was asked to give two ways a friend can share her thoughts on how she listens to music. Some learners failed to read the question carefully. They answered the more straightforward question – give two ways your friend listens to music – and gained no marks. Correct answers included 'online discussion', 'interview', 'email Genna', and 'text Genna'.

Question 7

A substantial number of learners were awarded both marks in this question which asked for two reasons a neighbour might prefer to own CDs and vinyl albums. Most wrote that the music 'sounds better' and it was 'fairer to musicians'. Others gained marks for 'hold in your hands', 'look at the artwork' and 'admire on the shelf'.

Question 8

This question asked learners to select the main purpose of Text B from four options. The correct answer was C, 'encourage the reader to attend the music talk'. Some selected A, 'tell the reader about Tuesday Talks' and D, 'inform the reader about music and exercise'.

Question 9

Most learners gained one or both marks for correctly identifying B, 'heading' and E, 'bullet points' as features of the leaflet. Some identified C, 'hyperlinks' and A, 'address'. There were no hyperlinks and no address. The venue for the meeting was Kindon College Main Hall. A small number of learners identified just one feature.

Question 10

This question asked for two ways music can change how you are feeling. Correct answers included 'cheers us up', 'makes us feel happy' and 'makes us feel relaxed'. Marks were not awarded for 'happy' or 'relaxed' or for answers which failed to address how feelings were changed. Answers such as 'helps us in the gym' and 'makes us work harder' were not awarded marks as they did not give ways that feelings are changed by music according to Text B.

Question 11

Question 11 asked for two other benefits of listening to music apart from changing how people are feeling. Some missed the distinction and gave answers more appropriate to Question 10. In some cases this was then changed with arrows indicating that the answer to this question was located somewhere else on the question paper or in the answer space belonging to Question 10. Those who read the question carefully were able to gain two marks from a range of answers including 'eases pain', 'improves work',

'helps exercise' and 'aids memory'. 'Relax muscles' was awarded a mark but 'help us relax' was not as this related to a change in feelings and was therefore a correct response to Question 10.

Question 12

Learners were asked how to book a free place for the music talk. The answer was 'ring and press 1' or 'ring 01876 987000 and press 1'. Some marks were lost because of omitting 'press 1'.

Question 13

Almost all learners were awarded both marks in this question which asked what sort of music is best to listen to when exercising. Any two of 'fast', 'upbeat', 'rock', 'rap', and 'dance' was accepted. 'Classical', 'jazz', 'R&B', 'new age' and 'indie' were not awarded a mark.

Examiner tips for the Level 1 Reading paper:

- 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 February 2017

Maximum mark	20
Pass mark	15
UMS mark	6

Ofqual
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