

Principal Examiners' Report

October 2015

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills
English Reading Level 1 (E102)

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General Comments

This paper was successful with a significant number of learners demonstrating functionality at this level.

The following points are intended to help centres in their preparation for future series.

The main points arising from this paper are:

1. Learners must read questions very carefully in order to find the focus of the question.
2. Learners must read the options in multiple-choice questions carefully to select the correct answer.
3. Learners should use the evidence in the text, rather than making assumptions based on own knowledge or experience. Answers must be rooted in the text.
4. Learners need to be explicitly taught what different types of questions are asking them to do.
5. 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. Some questions may require a verb or some indication of an action.
6. Learners should aim to give precise answers rather than make vague statements or generalisations.

Questions 1-3

Almost all learners answered Questions 1, 2 and 3 correctly.

Question 4

Asked to identify the day on which most resolutions are broken, some learners gave imprecise answers: 'Friday' or 'Friday in January'. The correct answer was 'fall Friday' or 'the 4th Friday in January'.

Question 5

Most learners were able to identify at least one feature of Text A that helps to present information. Many identified 'heading', 'picture' and 'bold.' A number of learners repeated a feature, such as 'heading' and 'title' rather than giving a second feature. A few gave content or identified specific examples of punctuation.

Question 6

This question was generally well answered. Marks were lost when learners gave examples of New Year's resolutions, rather than stating reasons why people make New Year's resolutions. There were some generalisations, based on own experience: 'be a better person'; 'become easier to live with'.

Question 7

Learners were asked to give two reasons why people fail to keep New Year's resolutions. Most were able to give at least one correct answer. Marks were lost because of vague responses such as 'the time of year' or 'the weather'. A few gave information about fall Friday rather than answering the question.

Question 8

In most cases this multiple-choice question was correctly answered and learners gained a mark for D: 'explain the arrangements for the New Year's Day Swim'.

Question 9

Almost all learners were awarded at least one mark in this question. The correct answers were A: 'The Dintone New Year's Day Swim occurs every year' and D: 'The swimmers can have breakfast in the Harbour Inn'. Marks were lost because of only one option being selected.

Question 10

This question was reasonably well answered. Learners needed to write 'check that you are fit to swim' or 'check with your GP' as well as identifying that 'a doctor will be present' or 'Dr Pat Wilson will be present'. Some learners suggested: 'valuables will be safe in the beach hut' or 'swimmers should bring towels and warm clothes'. A few wrote: 'hot drinks will be served' and 'there will be breakfast'.

Question 11

This question was reasonably well answered. Marks were most frequently lost because of the suggestion 'bring family and friends'. A verb was needed in the answer because of having to state what you would do. 'Sponsorship form' and 'towels' were therefore not awarded marks. The response 'get as many sponsors as you can' referred to something to be done before the event, not on the actual day.

Question 12

Most learners correctly identified either 'Dintone Youth Club' or 'Dintone Lifeboat Association' ('Dintone Lifeboats') as an organisation which would benefit from money raised at the event.

Question 13

This question was generally well answered. Learners were asked for two pieces of information which showed that The New Year's Day Swim was a successful event. Some gave responses which failed to show evidence of success: 'family and friends can watch'; 'you will be given breakfast'. Similarly, 'money is raised for charity' does not indicate success but 'large sums are raised for charity' or '£5000 is raised for charity' does.

Examiner tips for the Level 1 Reading paper:

- Centres should explicitly teach learners what is meant by 'features' which help to present information.
- Centres are encouraged to remind learners to read each question very carefully, taking note of key words which may be emboldened. Learners should look for the focus of the question and should pay attention to an initial sentence when present.
- Centres should remind learners to refer to the text and avoid making assumptions based on own knowledge.
- Centres must encourage learners to give precise information when answering questions.
- Centres should remind learners that they *can* use a dictionary.

Pass mark for E102 in October 2015

Maximum mark	20
Pass mark	14
UMS mark	6

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