

Principal Examiners' Report

November 2016

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills
English Reading Level 1 (E102)

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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

This question was well answered, with most learners correctly identifying the aim of Dintone Animal Sanctuary as 'rescue animals' or 'rescue wildlife'. Incorrect answers included 'to get people to come to the Open Day,' and 'donate'.

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.' Answers included 'sub-headings' and 'bullet points' even though none appeared in the text. A number of learners suggested 'dates and times'. Other incorrect answers included 'set out neatly', 'the structure of the writing' and 'easy to read'. Few identified specific examples of punctuation.

Question 6

This question asked for reasons why Dintone Animal Sanctuary is a successful organisation. Most learners wrote about the 'many supporters', 'increased numbers of volunteers' and 'going 'from strength to strength'. A few repeated the question, 'it is successful' and some used their own knowledge to suggest that 'having parking spaces available' and 'not charging for the Open Day' was evidence of success. Learners are

encouraged to read the text carefully as there will be a range of information from which to select appropriate answers.

Question 7

Many learners gained both marks by identifying two things children could do at the Open Day. The text included a large range of activities from which to choose. Marks were lost when learners concentrated on one activity. 'Sit in the children's area, do puzzles and colour in pictures' gained one mark, not two. Those who were awarded both marks gave two distinctly different activities such as 'pony rides' and 'picnic'.

Question 8

In most cases this multiple-choice question was correctly answered and learners gained a mark for B 'advertise the position of a new Press Officer'.

Question 9

This question was well answered by those who selected two options. Learners are asked to 'put a cross in the two boxes you think are correct'.

Question 10

This was a straightforward question requiring the identification of the 'Dintone Daily News' and the 'Dintone Herald'. Most gained both marks. Incorrect answers included 'Daily News', 'Dintone Daily Herald' and 'the local newspapers'.

Question 11

This question was reasonably well answered. The focus was on ways Dintone Animal Sanctuary benefits from having its stories covered in the local newspapers. Most marks were awarded for 'volunteers' and 'donations'. Marks were lost because of short, incomplete answers such as 'get homes' and 'people like pictures'. It needed to be clear that 'animals get homes' and that the sanctuary is 'in the public eye' or 'gets publicity'.

Question 12

Almost all learners correctly identified 'email' or 'apply@dintoneanimalsanctuary.web' and were awarded the mark.

Question 13

Many learners gained both marks for identifying the kind of person required for the position of Press Officer, often for 'loves animals', 'outgoing' and 'positive'. Marks were lost because of short, incomplete answers such as 'communicates' rather than a 'communicates well' and 'passionate' rather than 'passionate about rescue'. No marks were awarded for 'commit 4-6 hours per week' as this does not indicate the kind of person required.

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 November 2016

Maximum mark	20
Pass mark	15
UMS mark	6

Ofqual



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