

Principal Examiner's Report

November 2016

Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills
English Writing Level 1 (E103)

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Functional Skills English Writing Level 1: E103

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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 should be made aware of the need for an appropriate level of organisation and development of material in responding to questions on this paper.
3. Learners need to be explicitly taught what different types of questions are asking them to do and the different style requirements of questions.
4. Learners should be aware of the need for a level of accuracy of English in order to respond to the demands of this paper.

Task 1

FCP

Examiner reported a generally good level of response with many answers achieving marks at the top of the middle band or above. Learners were often able to make good use of the stimulus material for this task and take advantage of the opportunity to create a persuasive response. As a result, many answers showed a good level of development. Such answers developed the material to produce lively answers, some elaborating on how the charity helped the mother and baby unit. In contrast, weaker responses merely repeated the information given or only some of it.

Task 2

Learners generally found this task accessible and there were some very detailed responses and often more imagination shown than was often the case in Task One. Many e mails were very realistic with some very heart-warming comments.

SPG

SPG quality varied greatly, as usual. Some candidates with English as a second language scored high on FCP and much lower on SCP. General

errors with homophones were evident and there were general basic skills issues. Also, some candidates struggled with grammar and sentence construction, although the content of such responses was often good.

Examiner tips for the Level 1 Writing paper:

- Centres should explicitly teach learners to respond to the different demands of tasks on this paper.
- There should be an emphasis on the use of correct English, particularly grammar and sentence construction.
- Centres should remind learners of the benefits of developing responses based on the stimulus material, rather than merely reproducing the material in their answers.
- Centres should remind learners that they *can* use a dictionary.

Pass mark for E103 in November 2016

Maximum mark	25
Pass mark	16
UMS mark	6

Ofqual



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