Functional Skills Level 2 Reading

Question 10, Level 2 Reading: Language Features

Question 10 on the Level 2 Functional Skills Reading paper is about language features. Using the sample papers as a guide, let’s have a look at what is required.

The Questions

10 Using Text C, identify two language features used to persuade the audience to consider a career in IT.

   Give an example to support each answer.

   Language feature
   ........................................................................................................... (1)
   Example
   ........................................................................................................... (1)
   Language feature
   ........................................................................................................... (1)
   Example
   ........................................................................................................... (1)

   (Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)

10 Using Text C, identify two language features used to advise readers how to reduce device use.

   Give an example to support each answer.

   Language feature
   ........................................................................................................... (1)
   Example
   ........................................................................................................... (1)
   Language feature
   ........................................................................................................... (1)
   Example
   ........................................................................................................... (1)

   (Total for Question 10 = 4 marks)
The Texts

Text C
A transcript of a speech about working in IT

Thank you for inviting me to your college to talk about how I started working in the IT industry. I love my job and am passionate about encouraging young people to follow in my footsteps.

When I was a teenager, I loved gadgets and spent endless hours playing on my phone. Technology was much more basic then, but the thrill of taking pictures and sending messages to my friends was enough for me. I never really considered a career in IT, because I thought that you had to be brilliant at maths to work with computers.

After school I started working in sales for a local company and, while I was no computer expert, I was the most computer-literate person in my workplace and so often ended up giving support to colleagues with technology problems. This was something I enjoyed and when a position came up with the IT Helpdesk I applied and was successful, much to my astonishment. It was my experience of helping others that got me the job.

Working with computers all the time made it obvious to me how much I didn’t know and I started taking evening courses in programming and web design. The skills and qualifications I gained from these courses added to my work experience and strengthened my CV - this all helped me to get my current job as a web designer. What I find inspiring about my work is that no two days are the same and I am constantly developing my knowledge, getting to work on many different projects and with a huge range of people.

If you are thinking about taking the plunge into the IT industry, then I would highly recommend it. The sector is expanding rapidly and there are lots of different roles you could work in, with more than 1.5 million people employed in IT in the UK. You will find the work interesting, challenging and rewarding and the remuneration is usually quite generous, reflecting the fact that computer professionals are in high demand. As college leavers looking for a job, you will find an opening in IT. You just need to be enthusiastic about technology and prepared to work very, very hard to develop your skills and knowledge.

Good luck for the future.
The Mark Schemes

The mark schemes for these questions state:

- Award 1 mark for each valid language feature identified, up to a maximum of 2 marks
- Award 1 mark for each valid and linked example, up to a maximum of 2 marks

In other words, the language feature and the example must match up.

In addition, other valid language features not highlighted here can be accepted, but note layout features, such as heading, bullet points and paragraphs are not accepted.