

EXAM BOOST

SECTION A

Reading for specific information

You need to identify a section of text which contains certain information. You first need to understand what you are looking for and then scan the text to find the equivalent information.

- 1 Read the questions and identify the words that will help you find the information.

Which paragraph mentions

- 1 a disagreement over how a classroom activity was conducted?
- 2 a reluctance to show her inadequacy at school?
- 3 a concern over ways her progress was assessed?
- 4 a consideration for the feelings of classmates?

- 2 Read the text and match paragraphs A and B with two of the questions from Ex 1. Which two questions are not answered?

A I enjoyed going to school when I was very young. There was less pressure than in later years and friendships made then were strong, some lasting throughout my whole education. I don't mean that there weren't any arguments, far from it. My best friend now and I were sworn enemies for a long time after practically fighting over our interpretation of a teacher's instructions in an art class!

B At that time little things seemed to have great importance. For example, where you sat had huge implications as it showed others who you liked most. I hated offending anyone so when two girls asked me to sit next to them I avoided the issue completely and sat next to someone completely different. At least it showed I hadn't chosen one over the other.

SECTION B

Understanding implication

The questions will not use the same language as the texts. Therefore, it is necessary to look for what is implied but not stated. There may also be references which appear to relate to the question in more than one text.

- 3 Read texts A and B, which are about people's attitudes to their work. For questions 1-4, choose from texts A and B. The texts may be chosen more than once.

Which writer mentions

- 1 an enthusiasm for external training days?
- 2 a desire for promotion?
- 3 a complaint about his work performance?
- 4 a dissatisfaction with his work environment?

A I love my current job and this is mainly down to the fact that I don't have time to get bored as I did in my last one. I was even given a higher position a month after starting, which surprised me! But I'm content with the workload I have now – just right. I get on well with the majority of my colleagues. This is probably a result of the company practice of sending employees away on team-building courses. These are both instructive and fun for everyone involved. My only complaint is the hot desk policy, where no one gets to have their own regular work space. It doesn't affect the quality of my work – well, no one has moaned about it yet – but it can be quite frustrating to have to move my things around all the time.

B My job involves a lot of commuting but I'm happy with that as I'm working for a company which appreciates my skills. Unlike my previous boss, who never praised anyone or gave them any support. We had an argument when a client objected to the way I dealt with her situation, and he didn't even ask for my side of the story. This company respects their staff. The organisation of our office space cleverly allows us privacy when necessary but also room for interaction. There are plenty of opportunities for advancement, something I didn't have before, and I find that motivating. In addition to this, they have a realistic programme for on-the-job training. This often focuses on how best to work in groups without taking us out of the office. I'm very glad I made the move.

SECTION C

Paraphrasing in questions

The questions will sometimes use a noun when in the text a phrase is used.

- 4 Match three of the nouns in phrases 1-6 with the extracts (A-F) they relate to and identify the paraphrases.

Which writer mentions

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 a delay in | 4 a fear of |
| 2 an increase in | 5 a lack of |
| 3 an example of | 6 an enthusiasm for |

- A** We should definitely have been given more details about how to claim on the insurance.
- B** The departure lounge was noticeably more crowded than in previous years.
- C** I personally get a little worried on planes, but I'd never seen my son so excited before.
- D** Through experience I'd learned to take a paper map with us in the car wherever we went.
- E** In spite of repeated requests, our sandwiches never arrived.
- F** We were supposed to have taken off an hour before we did and as a result missed our coach to the resort.

ABOUT THE TASK

- You will read one long text which is divided into different sections or up to six shorter texts all on the same topic.
- There are ten questions to answer.
- The ten questions state information or ideas taken from the text.
- You have to match each question or statement with the correct section of the long text or the correct short text.

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS

10

TASK

One long text or up to six shorter texts

SCORING

1 mark per question

What is being tested?

This part of the exam tests your ability to skim or scan a text quickly to find the information you need. You need to:

- read quickly without worrying about the meaning of every word
- read carefully to match the exact meaning of the question or statement with the relevant part of the text
- understand the detail, specific information, attitude or opinion in the question and find the part of the text where those ideas are stated or implied
- recognise that there may be ideas in other sections which appear to be similar, but which don't match the question accurately

How do you do it?

BEFORE THE TASK

- Read the context sentence as this tells you what type of text it is and what it's about. It will also tell you the overall topic if you are given several short texts.
- You don't need to read the whole text first because you don't need to understand the whole text in order to answer the questions.
- Read all the questions **before** you look at the text. Think about what each one means and underline any key words. You won't see these words in the text, they will be paraphrased, but identifying the key information you need will help you.

DURING THE TASK

- Focus on each question in turn.
- Scan the text and mark any sections where you think the answer to the question might be.
- Skim or scan the part of the text where you think the answer is.
- Once you have found the answer, check it carefully to make sure that it matches the question completely. If you're not sure, keep looking.
- You will find that the more times you scan the text, the easier it becomes to remember the information. You will be familiar with the texts by the time you come to the last questions.
- If you have difficulty with one of the questions, don't spend time worrying about it. Move on to another question and then come back to it.

AFTER THE TASK

- Quickly check your answers to make sure you are happy with them.
- Make sure you have answered all the questions - don't leave any question unanswered.

Are you exam-ready?

Did you ...

- ... read the context sentence to find out what type of text it was and what it was about? ☐
- ... read the questions carefully? ☐
- ... focus on each question in turn and skim or scan the text to find the information that matched? ☐
- ... read the relevant part of the text very carefully to make sure the meaning matched exactly? ☐
- ... check that you had answered all the questions? ☐