

EXAM BOOST

SECTION A

Understanding what someone wants, likes or needs

In this exam task, you need to match people to places, activities or products. To do this, you need to understand what each person wants, likes or needs.

1 Read about four people. Answer the questions.

- 1 Stella loves the mountains and wants to find a place with an amazing view that she can reach on foot. She hates travelling in a group.
A Would she be interested in hiring a car?
B Would a day trip with other people be good for her?
- 2 Max wants to explore some beautiful places near the sea. He is interested in meeting new people. He can only take holidays from April to June.
A Would he enjoy a group walking holiday on a coast path?
B Would a beach holiday in July be suitable for him?
- 3 Abi enjoys exploring quiet places that not many people have discovered. She loves warm weather, and can't afford to spend much money.
A Would she like to stay near a very popular beach?
B Would a holiday at a small, cheap campsite be suitable?
- 4 Leon wants to explore places that are far from towns and cities. He would like to travel by car and he likes experiencing the power of the natural world.
A Would he be interested in driving to a huge waterfall?
B Would a train journey to European capitals be suitable?

In this exam task, you need to scan the descriptions to find out which ones mention the things each person wants.

2 Scan descriptions A-C to find who they are suitable for.

- 1 Someone who wants to visit a place by boat.
 - 2 Someone who would like to see a view from the air.
 - 3 Someone who wants to visit a natural place that hasn't changed for a long time.
 - 4 Someone who wants to walk and then sleep in a tent.
 - 5 Someone who wants to meet some people in the area they are visiting.
 - 6 Someone who wants to visit something that people have built.
- A Visit the Grand Canyon in the USA to enjoy beautiful views that stretch as far as the eye can see. There are many different hiking trails, with plenty of places where you can stop and camp overnight. Helicopter flights are available.
- B You can only reach the Blue Caves on the island of Zakynthos by sea. The water is such a bright blue colour that you can hardly believe it is natural. There are not many visitors, and the caves look the same as they did thousands of years ago.
- C The Old Piano Bridge in Zhejiang, China, is an amazing structure. It looks like a piano because it is made of hundreds of large, square stones that people put in a line across the river over 200 years ago. Local people are always friendly and keen to talk about it.

SECTION B

Matching words and ideas

In this exam task, you need to make sure that all the information in the description matches what a person wants or needs. Often some of the information matches, but not all.

3 Read about each person and underline what they want/need. Then read the extract below. Underline the parts which match what the person wants/needs. Decide if the extract matches (M) or doesn't match (DM) what the person wants.

- 1 Greta is looking for a restaurant in the city centre. She enjoys eating Italian food, but she doesn't have much money.

Dario's is a new restaurant in the heart of the city that serves great-quality dishes from France and Italy. Book in advance as it is very popular, even though the prices are high.

- 2 Neil wants to watch a comedy film. He prefers films that aren't too long, and he would like to see something modern.

'George's Week' is a new film set in LA. George believes he has the talent to be a professional musician, but life keeps getting in the way. This short film will make you laugh from start to finish!

- 3 Monica is looking for a class at her local college. She enjoys fiction and would like to learn more about modern novelists. She is only free in the evenings.

'Great Writers' is a new course which explores the work of the important authors of the nineteenth century. It is aimed at students who love reading and want to know more about these writers and their work. Classes are 7-9 p.m.

- 4 Henrik is looking for a book to read. He enjoys reading about the lives of real people, especially about people who have dealt with a lot of problems.

'On the Move' is a new novel by a young American writer. It tells the true story of his life, from growing up in a poor family to living on the streets of New York and finally finding his dream job.

ABOUT THE TASK

- You will match five descriptions of people to eight short texts.
- The texts are all on the same topic and contain similar ideas and information.
- You have to decide which person matches each short text.
- There are three short texts which do not match any of the people.

NUMBER OF
QUESTIONS

5

TASK

Eight short texts and
five descriptions of
people

SCORING

1 mark per
question

What is being tested?

This part of the exam tests your ability to read texts quickly and find the information that you need. You should:

- read quickly without worrying about the meaning of every word.
- read carefully to match the information about the people to the information in the texts.
- recognise that there may be ideas in other texts which seem to match, but don't match the people exactly.

How do you do it?

BEFORE THE TASK

- Read the instructions carefully, as these will tell you what the five people are looking for and give you an idea of the general topic.
- Read the descriptions of the five people and think about what each one wants or needs. Each person usually has three wishes or needs. Underline key words. Remember, you won't see these exact words in the texts, but you will find the same information.

DURING THE TASK

- Focus on each person in turn.
- Scan (look quickly at) the texts carefully and mark any parts that seem to match the person.
- Read these parts carefully, to see which text matches the person completely. If you are not sure, keep looking.
- If you cannot find a perfect match, move on to the next person and come back to this one later.
- You will find that the task becomes easier as you match each person in turn, as you will become more familiar with the texts.

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 questions unanswered. If you are not sure of an answer, make a sensible guess.

Are you exam-ready?

Did you ...

- ... read the instructions to get an idea of the general topic? ☐
- ... read the five descriptions of people to underline key words and identify what each person wants or needs? ☐
- ... focus on each person in turn, and scan the texts to find the information that matches? ☐
- ... check that you answered all the questions? ☐
- ... choose the most likely answer if you are still not sure? ☐