

WJEC English

How to get a grade C on Paper 2 Reading

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Timing – Paper 1 Reading

You are advised to spend 50 minutes on Section A

You are given non-fiction/media passages and 4 questions

Each question is worth 10 marks

You must answer all 4 questions.

Give equal time to each question:

6 minutes to read (skim read) the passages

11 minutes on each question

Your answers should be roughly the same length,
about a side of A4

Remember...

There is no point writing loads for question 1 and nothing for question 4 because you ran out of time.

Watch the clock! Be strict with yourself. You can always come back to finish an answer.

How to answer question 1...

This is an information retrieval question (search and find).

If it asks you to make a list, do just that, make one eg.

Ten things mentioned in the first five paragraphs which help explain why bananas are so popular are:

The banana is healthy

It's the ideal snack food

It's packed with energy...etc.

You might also be asked questions like:

1. According to this text or writer, how or what or why...
2. Explain how and/or why...

Remember:

It is important to gain 10/10 on question 1. Always try to list 12 things just in case...

How to answer questions 2-3

The question will tell you where in the text to find the answer – do as the question tells you. If it asks you to look at the first 5 paragraphs, don't talk about the sixth!

You are given bullet points of the types of things you might want to consider. Don't 'consider' them. **Always use the bullet points...never leave one out!** Every bullet point must be explored, the examiners have set aside marks for each bullet point – if you don't comment on it – you'll lose marks. Start a new paragraph each time you start writing about a new bullet point (If necessary sub title them).

Types of questions:

Impressions/images –

- What impression do you get of the writer or an organisation, or a place or people?
- What image does this create of the writer or an organisation or people or place?

Viewpoint/Attitude –

- What are the writer's attitudes to...
- What are the writer's opinions of...
- What are the writer's thoughts and feelings about...

Intended Audience –

- Who is this text aimed at?

Analysis of Persuasive Technique –

- How does the writer try to encourage or attract or interest or argue?
- How does this text try to persuade or sell or influence?

Remember: find what is interesting and explain why it is – be selective – always talk about the pictures last!

How to answer question 4...

There are two types of questions here:

1. Comparison of texts

You might get a question like... *Compare and Contrast these texts*. Make sure you write about both of them, not just the one you like the most. Use the bullet points to help you.

2. Evaluation of texts

The question might be ... *Which of these texts do you find more effective?* Again, make sure you write about both texts and conclude with your final preference.

Use the bullet points to plan your answer. One bullet point per paragraph. In each, comment on both texts using words that help compare eg. '*on the other hand, in contrast, in a similar way*' etc.

10 Rules to get it right!

1. **Use the bullet points.** Spend time commenting on each.
2. **Be methodical.** Work through each passage in a systematic, step-by-step way, looking for interesting features.
3. **Read the question carefully.** What are you being asked to comment on?
4. **Find the evidence and comment on it.**
5. **Be selective.** Find the most interesting points.
6. **Think about the mark scheme.** Try to find at least 2 interesting things to say about each bullet point (and evidence of course).
7. **Be objective.** Stand back from the piece and think about how it works as a piece of writing for the intended audience and purpose.
8. **Question why you find something interesting in the text.** Why is it effective?
9. **Think intention (what is there) and effect (why it is there).**
10. **Don't let your own opinions about the text hinder you from getting a C.** Even if you think it is 'as dull as dishwater', find something interesting to say about it!