

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Reading Part 1: B1 Level

Format of the task

There are three parts to the B1 Reading test. In **Part 1** candidates will read 10 short texts (40-80 words each). The text types can include messages, including signs, notices, adverts and so on. This will be appropriate to B1 candidates.

There will be 10 questions in total for Part 1, one for each text. The type of question found in this part is 3-option multiple choice questions. The focus of these questions will be on the main message of each text.

The language of the texts and questions is accessible and appropriate to candidates at B1 level. Candidates should spend approximately 15-20 minutes on Part 1.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Understanding the main message of a short text
- Understanding the main points being communicated
- Comprehension of a straightforward text

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Opportunities to read a variety of short texts written for different purposes and identifying main points and objectives of the text
- Practice of multiple-choice questions with a variety of texts
- An awareness of the test format and layout through the use of practice tests
- Skills in time management by setting timed activities

Tips for learners

- Read the questions carefully and think about what is being assessed, such as the main point of the text and the purpose of the text
- Don't expect to understand every word – use the context of the text to help with comprehension
- Use the wording in the question to locate the relevant piece of information in the texts
- Keep your eye on the timer and try to leave some time to check your answers
- Prepare by using the online Skills for English (SfE) practice tests

Sample B1 Reading Part 1 Task

The extracts below are an example of the type of text and questions a candidate may encounter in Part 1.

Read each short text and answer the question that follows. For each question, choose, A, B, or C.

Hi Pete.

You free Saturday? Sam's organising a barbecue at his house for 3pm - looks like it will be sunny and warm too. I'm planning to drive there so text me if you're free and I'll pick you up on the way.

Cheers, Bob

Note how these texts use authentic language relative to their context or

1) Why is Bob writing to Pete?

- a. To arrange a barbecue.
- b. To offer a lift.
- c. To discuss the weather.

Note that each option is mentioned in the text. You should therefore read the whole text and think about what is being communicated to answer the question.

The purpose of the text is to offer Pete a lift to the barbecue.

LOST RING - Leeds city centre

I lost a ring on 16th November. I must have dropped it in the public car park on Church Street. I very much doubt that I will ever see it again and I'm so upset. It is not worth much, but it has been in the family for years. It's a very old ring and not in the best condition, but I will gladly offer a small reward if it is found or returned. Many thanks, Elaine

2) Why is Elaine upset?

- a. Because the ring is very expensive.
- b. Because the ring was damaged.
- c. Because the ring is important to her.

Option B is incorrect the ring was not in a good condition anyway.

Option A is incorrect because the ring is not worth much.

Answers:

1. b
2. c

Note: this sample task is for guidance purposes only. For examples of level-specific reading tasks, please refer to the Skills for English Practice Tests available through the Skills for English website: <https://skillsforenglish.com/language-learning/>