

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Reading Part 2: B1 Level

Format of the task

There are three parts to the B1 Reading test. In **Part 2** candidates will read one longer text (330-370 words). The text type can include brochures, manuals, letters of instruction/communication (for example from local council, hospitals), leaflets, websites and so on. This will be appropriate to B1 candidates.

There will be 10 questions in total in Part 2. The types of questions that can be found in this part are True/False/Not Given (T/F/NG), multiple choice questions (MCQs), note completion, and matching, but only 1 or 2 of these item types will be used for example 5 MCQs and 5 T/F/NG. The focus of these questions will be on reading for information, orientation and instruction.

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 2.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Ability to read for information, orientation and instruction
- Understanding of a variety of text types written for information
- Understanding of key information

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- A focus on informational reading texts where key information can be identified in various formats
- Practice in skimming and scanning techniques to see if statements are true/false or not in the text
- A variety of texts so that main ideas and information can be identified
- Skills in time management by setting timed activities

Tips for learners

- Read the questions carefully, study the text to see if the statements are taken from the text, different to the text or not in the text
- Don't expect to understand every word – use the context of the text to help with comprehension
- 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 2 Task

This is a short example extract from the type of text and questions a candidate may encounter in Part 2.

Read the information below from a website and answer questions 1 to 4.

JOB DESCRIPTION: Cold Store Assistant Salary: Based on experience

All questions progress chronologically.

Q1

Katz is a Manchester-based **food supply company**. We aren't just a fresh foods supply company, we have a passion for fruit & vegetables. That is why we are one of the UK's leading companies which delivers high quality foods to chefs and restaurants.

The Part 2 text is informational and usually includes aspects like bullet points and headings

Job details

Q2

Work times will be from 9pm to 7am, 5 days a week **and may include weekends and bank holidays**. The job requires working in a cold store environment at around +1 degrees Celsius. You will be **given safety wear**, but you will need to wear warm clothes when working in very cold areas.

Q4

Q3 Is 'Not Given'. The information should be around this part of the text, but nothing is mentioned.

For each question choose True, False or Not Given.

1. The job is in the food industry.
2. You will be expected to work every weekend.
3. The job will involve working outside.
4. You will be provided with some work clothing.

Answers:

1. T
2. F - "May" is written in the text which shows that it is not every weekend.
3. NG - The information does not mention about working outside.
4. T

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/>