

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Reading Part 2: B2 Level

Format of the task

There are three parts to the B2 Reading test. In **Part 2** candidates will read one longer text (450-600 words). The text type can include brochures, manuals, letters of instruction or communication (for example, from local councils, hospitals), leaflets and so on. This will be appropriate to B2 candidates.

There will be 10 questions in total in Part 2. The type of question found in this part will either be T/F/NG, multiple matching and multiple choice questions (MCQs) or sentence/table completion with 1 or 2 words. 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 B2 level. Candidates should spend approximately 20-25 minutes on Part 2.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Understanding of a variety of text types written for information
- Understanding of key information
- Identifying relevant sections of text

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- Informational/formal reading texts that could include features such as bullets points and sections
- Opportunities to identify points which are true or false based on the opinions and the ideas of the writer
- Skimming and scanning techniques to identify key words from the text
- 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. Identify the parts of the text the question is aimed at
- Practice identifying facts and opinions, specific pieces of information in various types of texts
- Don't expect to understand every word – use the context of the text to help with comprehension, taking special note of when meaning is inferred or implicit
- 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 B2 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 guidance information about an exercise bike and answer question 1- 3 with True, False or Not Given.

Informational texts found in Part 2 often contain headings, bullet points and short sentences.

Exercise bike Instructions

Safety Guidelines

- Tests have shown that even with extreme use, the bike will not overheat. However, as time of use and intensity increases, the brake can become very hot. Before touching the brake, be sure to let it cool down for at least 2 minutes.
- **This bike has been designed to be water resistant and can be used outdoors but should be stored indoors when not in use.**
- Never open the brake unit as this may cause damage.
- Do not brake suddenly during the workout. Because the bicycle wheel continues to rotate even when pressure is applied to the rear brake, rapid braking can cause unnecessary wear on the rear tires. Soft breaking is therefore encouraged at all times.
- Clean only with a dry cloth. Do not use household cleaning products.
- **This bike may be operated by children aged 10 and above** if they have been given supervision or instructions about how to use it in a safe way and understand the dangers involved.
- When using the machine, the rear wheel of the bicycle turns at a very high speed and could be harmful if touched. When cycling please make sure that there are no children or pets near the wheels and avoid wearing loose fitting clothing that could contact the wheel.

This is an instructional text and therefore uses language called 'imperatives' to give commands such as 'never' and 'be sure to...'. This is common in instructions.

Q1

Q2

Q3

The answer to question 3 is 'not given' but information related animals/pets appears here.

- 1) The exercise bike is suitable for use in wet conditions.
- 2) Children can use the bike as long as they are supervised by an adult.
- 3) Animals should be kept away from the bike when it is not being used.

Answers:

1. True
2. False
3. Not Given

The answer to question 2 is 'false' because whilst children do require supervision, they must also be over the age of 10 years old.

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/>