

Exploring Skills for English Tests

Reading Part 2: C1 and C2 Level

Format of the task

There are three parts to the C1 and C2 Reading tests. In **Part 2** candidates will read one longer text (600-800 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 C1 and C2 candidates.

There will be 10 questions in total in Part 2. The types of questions that can be found in this part are multiple choice questions (MCQs), note completion, and sentence/table completion, but only 1 or 2 of these item types will be used. 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 C1 and C2 level. Candidates should spend approximately 20-25 minutes on Part 2.

Skills/functions being assessed

- Ability to read for information, orientation and instruction
- Understanding of information material provided through a variety of text types
- Understanding of detailed complex information, instructions and points of relevance
- Understanding of implicit and explicit attitudes, emotions and opinions

Tips for teachers

Provide candidates with:

- A focus on informational reading texts that include features such as bullets points and sections. Texts which explore opinions, feelings, and specific detail
- Skimming and scanning techniques to identify key words and phrases
- An awareness of the test format and layout through the use of practice tests such as multi choice questions, filling in gaps and note taking
- Skills in time management by setting timed activities

Tips for learners

- Read a variety of complex texts and identify relevant information using different test formats
- Read the questions carefully and think about what is being assessed. Identify main points and phrases from the question in the text.
- Don't expect to understand every word – use the context of the text to help with comprehension. Practice identifying attitudes, emotions and opinions in 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 C1 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 this extract from a travel guide website and answer questions 1 and 2.

St Andrews is a worthy place to stop for anyone travelling up the east coast of Scotland. A wander through **the medieval grounds of the University** is the quintessential experience, one that makes you feel like you've been **transported back in time. Founded in 1413 it is Scotland's oldest academic institution and played a key role during the Scottish enlightenment during the 18th century.**

Sweeping to the north of this coastal town is the **West Sands Beach, made famous by the 1981 film Chariots of Fire.** Extending for almost two miles and lined with an immense sand dune system that dates back thousands of years, this spacious and unspoilt beach is the perfect getaway from other busier attractions.

Golf is synonymous with St Andrews and situated next to the West Sands Beach **is the historical Old Course. Founded in 1754** on the undulating grassland that lies next to the sand dunes, this golf course is reserved months in advance by international visitors, meaning it is virtually impossible to walk on and play. The popularity of the course also means it can be a laborious task to unearth a free table in a restaurant near to the golf course. That can work in your favour however, as the inflated cost of the more **prominent** restaurants near to the course can make dining out in this area an expensive decision. For **acclaimed** food that does not break the bank, try the restaurants found to the south of the town, away from the tourist hot spots.

Q1

In Part 2 you can face up to 2 different types of question. Here we have MSQ and sentence completion.

Q2

For the first question, choose, A, B, or C.

- 1) The writer mainly focusses on the historical significance of ...
- a. **The West Sands Beach.**
 - b. **The Old Course.**
 - c. **The University of St Andrews.**

Q1 - The green text shows that history is linked to all three options, so word matching will not work. You must instead compare the overall focus of each option.

Now, complete the note with ONE word from the text. Make sure you check your spelling.

- 2) The writer encourages his readers to choose the more _____ eating-out options.

Q2 – The word ‘prominent’, highlighted in yellow, shows how incorrect answers are also mentioned within the text – candidates therefore need to consider each option carefully.

Answers:

1. c
2. acclaimed

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/>