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OVERVIEW

PAPER 1: READING AND WRITING

About the paper

The Reading and Writing paper lasts 60 minutes and there are seven parts. Parts 1–5 are reading tasks. Parts 6–7 are writing tasks.

- In Reading and Writing Parts 1–3, you are given a variety of reading texts. You answer different types of questions to show that you can understand the main message and some of the details of the texts.
- In Reading and Writing Parts 4 and 5, you are given texts with gaps for you to complete. You must show that you can use language correctly by finding the missing words.
- Reading and Writing Parts 6 and 7 are both guided writing tasks.

Reading Parts 1–3

Part 1

In Part 1, you read six short texts. These will include emails, signs, notices, text messages, labels and adverts. There is one multiple-choice question for each text. You have to choose from three options the answer which is closest to the overall meaning of the text.

Part 2

In Part 2, you read a simplified newspaper, internet or magazine article. The article will contain three short texts. The texts are all on the same topic and contain similar ideas and information. The texts can be about people, places or events. There are seven questions and you have to match each one with the correct text. This part of the paper tests your ability to find specific information by reading quickly.

Part 3

In Part 3, you read a simplified newspaper, internet or magazine article. This time there is one long text. You have to answer five three-option multiple-choice questions about the text to show that you can understand the main ideas and some of the details of a longer text. You may also have to answer questions on the opinions and feelings of the writer.

Reading Parts 4 and 5

Part 4

In Part 4, you read a simplified, factual article. This may come from a newspaper, magazine, the internet, or an encyclopedia. The text contains six gaps and for each one, you need to choose the right word from **A**, **B** or **C** to complete the text. These words will usually be verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs. This part of the paper tests your ability to read a text and use vocabulary correctly.

Part 5

In Part 5, you read one or two short emails or messages. There are six gaps and you have to think of the right word to complete each one. There is an example at the beginning (0). The missing words will be grammar words such as auxiliary verbs, prepositions, determiners and pronouns. You must spell the words correctly. This part of the paper tests your understanding and knowledge of grammar and text structure.

Writing Parts 6 and 7

You must do two pieces of writing.

- The first is a short message, usually an **email** (Part 6). You write 25 words or more for this part.
- The second is a **story** (Part 7). You look at three pictures and write the story shown in the pictures. You write 35 words or more for this part.

You should spend about 20 minutes on the writing tasks. That includes the time to think before you start writing and the time to check what you have written.

You get the same number of marks in Part 6 and in Part 7 (15 marks each), so you must try to do both well.

Examiners use a mark scheme to decide which band your answer falls in. There are five bands, from 0 to 5. Band 5 is the best. To get a band 5:

- you must include all the information needed (all three points in Part 6 and all three pictures in Part 7)
- your writing must be clear and easy to understand, with good spelling and punctuation
- you must organise your writing in a way that helps the reader understand your meaning.

Your answer does not have to be perfect to get a band 5. However, you can go down one or more bands if your writing is hard to understand, if you don't write enough or if you miss out any of the important information needed.

Part 6

In Part 6, you are given a short text (a note, an email or a postcard from a friend) or some instructions. These tell you what you need to write. There are always three pieces of information that you must include in your email or note. This part of the paper tests your ability to communicate a message to a friend in writing.

Part 7

In Part 7, you write a story. You are given three pictures. Your task is to write the story shown in the pictures. You must include information from all three pictures in your story. You should describe what you see in the pictures and link the events together using simple connecting words such as 'if', 'and', 'so', 'because', etc. This part tests your ability to write a short narrative.

See **WRITING BANK** for sample answers, useful language and practice

See **GRAMMAR BANK** for reference and practice

Focus on the instructions

- 1 Look at the exam task on page 9 and 11.
 - a How many questions do you have to answer?
 - b How many options do you have to choose from for each question?

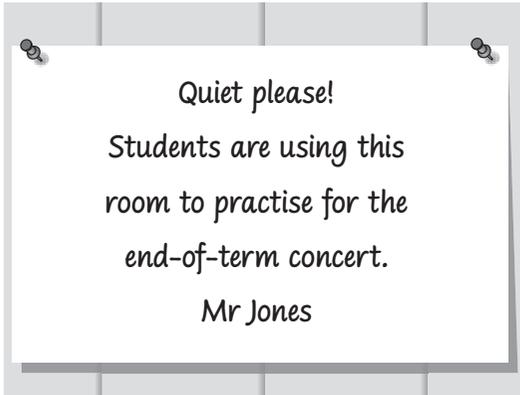
Focus on the questions

- 1 Look at question 1 on page 9. What kind of text is this?
 - a an email
 - b a text message
 - c a notice
- 2 Where might you see it? Underline the words that help you decide.
 - a in a theatre
 - b in a school
 - c in a music shop
- 3 The answer to question 1 on page 9 is **B**. Underline the words in the notice that match the meaning of **B**.
- 4 Why are **A** and **C** wrong? What is Mr Jones telling students to do in the notice?
- 5 Now look at question 2. What kind of text is this?
 - a an email
 - b a notice
 - c a message posted on the internet
- 6 Now answer these questions about question 2.
 - a Who wrote the message? Who do you think she is writing to?
 - b What is her problem? Underline the words that tell you.
 - c Read the question and the message. What is Hannah doing? Is she asking for information, or giving information? How do you know?
 - d Read options **A**, **B** and **C**. Which one matches Hannah's reason for writing this message?
- 7 Look at question 3. What kind of text is this?
 - a an email
 - b a sign
 - c a text message
- 8 Look at question 3 again and answer these questions.
 - a Where would you see it?
 - b Who can use this equipment?
 - c Is it OK to use the equipment when it is raining?
 - d Read the three options **A**, **B** and **C**. Which one says the same thing as the sign?

Questions 1 – 6

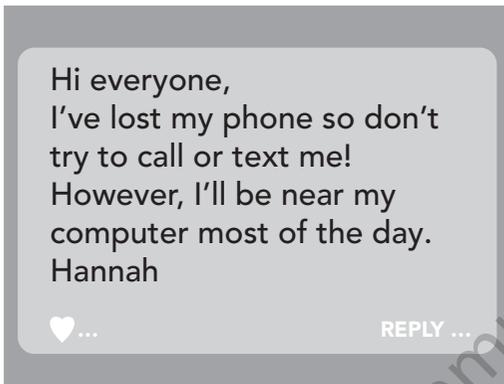
For each question, choose the correct answer.

1



- A Mr Jones would like students to practise quietly.
- B Mr Jones does not want people to talk loudly here.
- C Mr Jones wants to know which students were noisy.

2



Why did Hannah write this message?

- A to tell her friends how to contact her
- B to find out if anyone has seen her phone
- C to check if her friends are going out today

3



- A You should not exercise here in wet weather.
- B It's not safe to use this equipment at the moment.
- C Children under 12 must be with an adult when using this equipment.

- 9** Look at question **4** on page 11. What kind of text is this?
- a** an email
 - b** a notice
 - c** a text message
- 10** Now answer these questions about question **4**.
- a** Who are Pete and Jenny – friends or brother and sister? How do you know?
 - b** Underline the verbs in options **A**, **B** and **C**. What is the difference between *lend* and *borrow*? What does *return* mean?
 - c** Read the message carefully. Decide which option is the answer. Why are the other two wrong?
- 11** Look at question **5**. What kind of text is this?
- a** an email
 - b** a sign
 - c** a text message
- 12** Now answer these questions about question **5**.
- a** Where might you see it?
 - b** Read option **A**. Is the sign giving information about opening hours?
 - c** Read option **B**. Does the sale begin or end on May 18th?
 - d** Read option **C**. What is happening on May 18th?
 - e** Decide which option means the same thing as the sign.
- 13** Look at question **6**. What kind of text is this?
- a** an email
 - b** a notice
 - c** a message posted on the internet
- 14** Look at question **6** again and answer these questions about it.
- a** Who wrote the message? Who do you think she is? Who do you think Harry is?
 - b** Read option **A**. Has Harry already started his painting?
 - c** Read option **B**. Does she say anything about helping him?
 - d** Read option **C**. Is she asking when Harry will finish his painting?
 - e** Choose **A**, **B** or **C** and underline the words that helped you choose.