

Open Awards Online Functional Skills English Level 1 Reading Exam

Sample Answers

Text 1

Q1: Is the idea of a cat café new? How do you know? (2 marks)

The idea of the cat café is not a new one. In fact, it first started in 1998 in Taiwan and was popular in Japan before it came to the UK.

Q2: Identify one layout feature that makes the text easier for the reader to understand. Use this feature to find two pieces of information about cat cafés. (3 marks)

Bullet points are used in the text to make the information easier to read. The bullet points inform the reader about important information or rules, such as not picking up the cats and not disturbing them when they are sleeping.

Q3: Identify two phrases used in Text 1 to persuade people to come to the café. (2 marks)

The text persuades the reader to come to the café by describing it as the 'best' in the UK. It also discusses the benefits of visiting, such as how the cats are 'very soothing' and can 'make people feel better'.

Q4: Why does the writer use the unusual spelling of 'purrfect' in the first paragraph? (1 mark)

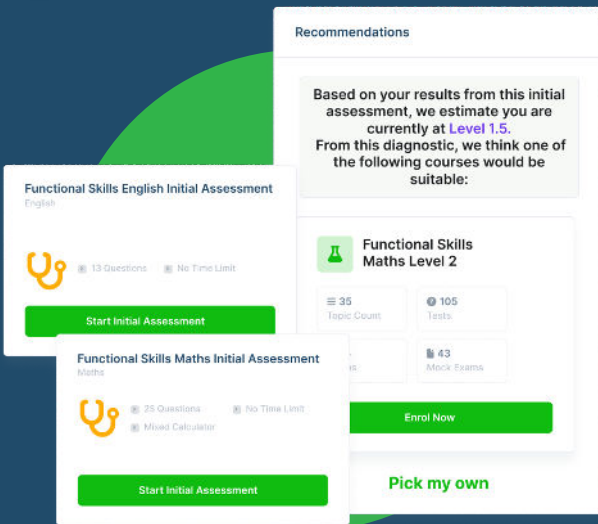
The writer is making a pun by combining the sound that cats make when they are happy (purring) with the word perfect.

Q5: Identify two benefits of cat cafés for people who go there. (2 marks)

People who visit cat cafés can feel soothed if they spend their time working in front of computer screens. They are also a good place for people who like to spend their time with cats, but are unable to have them at their homes.

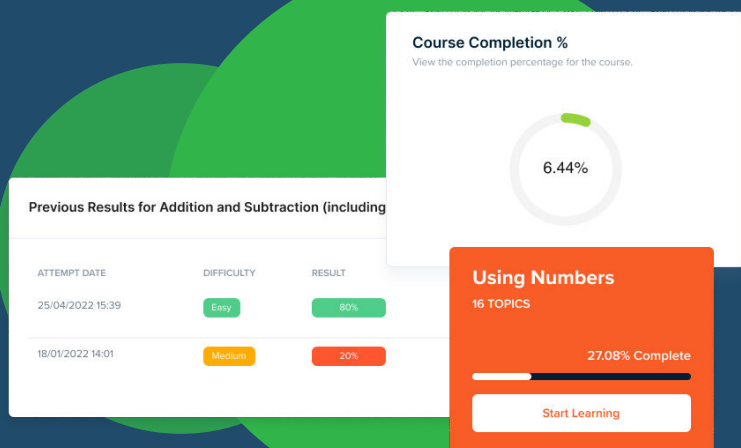
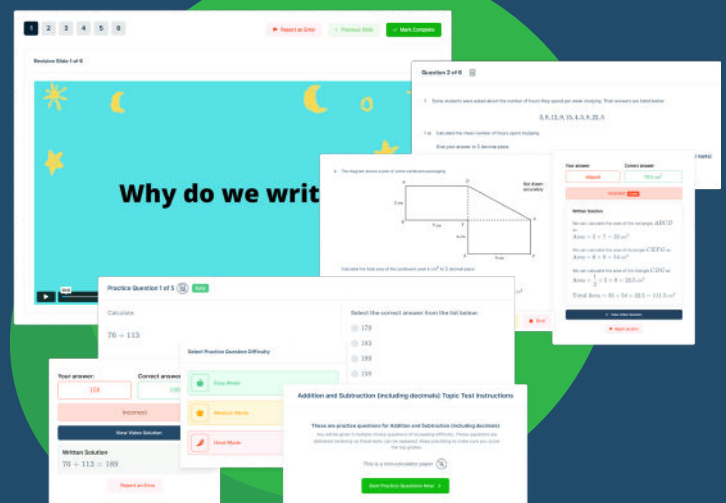


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Q6: What do the following two images mean, as used in Text 1? (2 marks)



This image is telling the reader that they should not feed the cats.



This image is telling the reader not to take photographs of the cats.

Text 2

Q7: Identify one fact and one opinion from Text 2. (2 marks)

The writer discusses the fact that 3 million cats need to be rehomed each year, and gives the opinion that cat cafés are not a suitable home for these cats.

Q8: Why are some animal welfare societies against cat cafés? (2 marks)

Some animal welfare societies are against cat cafés because they believe that cats are independent and it is not healthy for them to live together in such a confined space. They also think that cats can become stressed or aggressive if they are stroked and handled by lots of people.

Q9: Give two reasons why some cat cafés have been closed down. (2 marks)

Some of the cafés have been closed down due to poor hygiene and ill-treatment of the cats.

Q10: According to Text 2, what should the government do?

The text tells us that the government should introduce new legislation which regulates cat cafés. The government should also encourage cat owners to get their pets neutered.

(2 marks)

Q11: Explain the meaning of the following words, as used in Text 2: (3 marks)

Re-homing means to find a new, or another home for a pet.

Unrelated means from a different family.

When cats breed, it means that they have kittens.

Text 3

Q12: Compare what Farhat and Martin thought of the food at the cat cafés they visited. (2 marks)

Farhat enjoyed his time at the Fluffy Café, saying that the cats were friendly and the food was fresh. Martin, on the other hand, hated the food at the café, saying that it was 'awful'. Both Farhat and Martin said that the staff at the café were friendly and nice.

Q13: What punctuation do the contributors to the forum use to emphasise how they feel about cat cafés? (1 mark)

The contributors use lots of exclamation marks to emphasise their words or ideas.

Q14: Identify three ways Helen uses language to show her dissatisfaction with the café she went to. (3 marks)

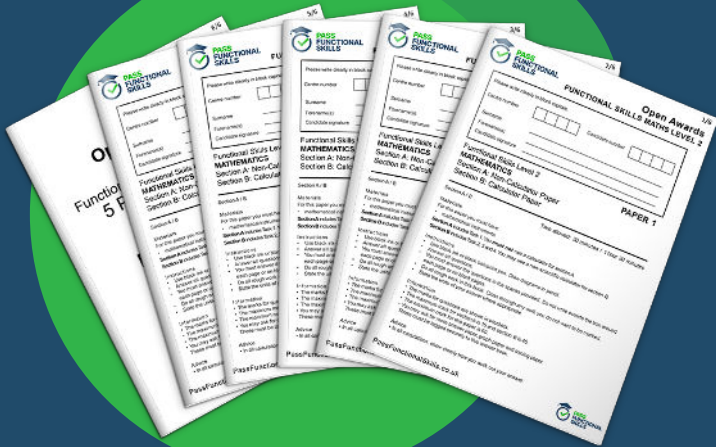
Helen uses lots of negative language, for example calling the staff 'miserable' and 'unwelcoming'. She also uses repetition to emphasise her point when she describes being 'disappointed, really really disappointed'. Helen also uses imperatives and tells her reader what to do when she writes 'don't go there' and 'go elsewhere'.

Q15: What does Helen mean when she says that the children were 'undisciplined'? (1 mark)

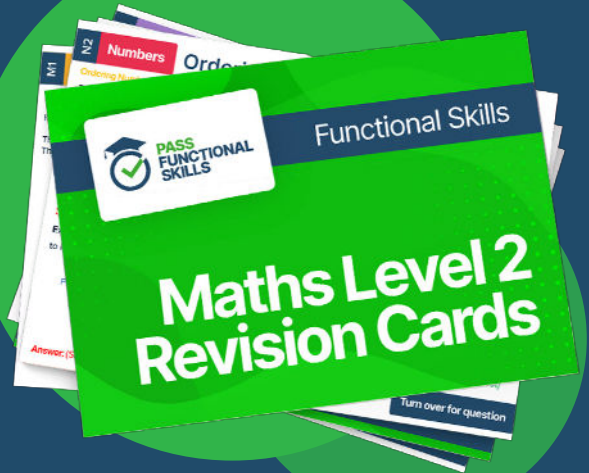
When Helen talks about the children being 'undisciplined', she means that they did not follow the rules and either their parents or the staff did not do a good job at making sure they behaved well.



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