



FUNCTIONAL SKILLS ENGLISH

AQA | Edexcel | City & Guilds | Open Awards | NCFE | Highfield

Level 2

Reading: Fact or Opinion?

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions.
- Answer questions on separate paper if required.

Information and Advice

- The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide on how long to spend on each question.
- Read each question carefully before you answer it.
- Check your answers.

Source A:

[THE PROPERTY BRIEF] June 2021



Photograph by Paul Birch

HOUSING CRISIS CONTINUES

We take a closer look at the ongoing housing crisis, and how the government refuses to act

By Jenny Pennace

The affordable housing crisis is not something new to any of us. For years, people have struggled to find housing in their price range, in either the renters' or buyers' market. The government have refused to rectify this for too long, and refuse to fund affordable housing schemes or new council housing.

Priced out

The average house price is increasing by the day in the UK. In Leeds, the house prices are astronomical, especially in my area. Hardly any young people can afford houses at all, and being priced out of the market is completely unavoidable. It is totally ridiculous and the situation is not getting any better.

The situation is a similar story when we look at the rental market. Not only is there a distinct lack of rental properties on the market in Leeds, but also the properties that are available are completely extortionately priced. This past Thursday, I went to view one such property, priced at a shocking £1010 per month to rent. When I arrived, I was astounded. The flat was tiny, smelt of damp and was, in my opinion, in dire need of a new kitchen and bathroom. At the back of the flat, there was one miniscule bedroom which, at best, would fit a single bed, a desk and a chest of drawers. How can this be what our society has come to? £1010 per month rent to live in what I can only describe as sub-standard conditions.

Lack of government intervention

Despite these problems escalating for years, and particularly coming to a head during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government continues to fail to act. They seem to think if they just ignore it, it will disappear.



Throughout years of austerity, the government has underfunded affordable housing and council house development. People being permitted to buy their council houses at a reduced rate is all well and good, but where does this leave the thousands that need to live in such residences?

In my opinion, the government needs to channel more funding into the affordable housing sector. This includes building more council houses, and putting pressure on private developers to create more affordable housing on their housing developments. Furthermore, the private rental market needs to be centrally regulated, with caps on rental prices being introduced to stop exploitation by greedy and corrupt landlords.

Something needs to be done about this now, before it gets any worse. I implore this government to act before it is too late.



Source B:

Sam Cartwell
67 Gravesend Road
Leeds
LS17 6JK

Inter Stationary
Unit 6
Hornbeam Business Park
Harrogate
HG3 7GH

15th May 2022

Dear Ms. Bridgend,

I am writing regarding the recent order my company made on your website. Two weeks ago, on the 1st May 2022, we made a purchase of 200 crates of plain white paper, and 50 crates of black ink cartridges. As per your company policy stated on your website, orders should reach the recipient within 3 to 5 working days.

Therefore, I am writing to request that the location of the order is investigated further. Your company has been very helpful to us in the past and I hope that you can resolve this issue.

For your convenience and ease, the reference number is: 876312495, and the name the order was placed under is Samuel Cartwell.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,
Sam Cartwell

Q1 The **purpose** of Source **A** is to....

- a) Entertain
- b) Mock
- c) Argue
- d) Discuss

[1 mark]

Q2 The purpose of Source **B** is to....

- a) Entertain
- b) Advise
- c) Mock
- d) Inform

[1 mark]

Q3 In Source **A**, what phrases are used to suggest that it is an opinion text?

Give **2** phrases.

[2 marks]

Q4 In Source **B**, which of these 3 examples from the text suggest it is a factual text?

- a) 'For your convenience and ease'
- b) 'Yours Sincerely'
- c) 'orders should reach the recipient within 3 to 5 working days'

[1 mark]

Q5 'The reference number is: 876312495'.

This quote, from Source **B**, can be proven.

True or false?

[1 mark]

Q6 In Source **A**, which of these 3 examples from the text is the most **factual**?

- a) 'the government needs to channel more money into the housing sector.'
- b) '£1010 per month to rent'
- c) '...years of austerity, the government has underfunded affordable housing'

[1 mark]