



# FUNCTIONAL SKILLS ENGLISH

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

Level 2

## Reading: The Exam

### 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:

# Responsible logging - too good to be true?

By Sarah Birch



Photograph by Oscar Oak

## We explore how responsible logging works, and the arguments for and against it.

### **What is responsible logging?**

Responsible logging is the practice of growing trees for timber in an environmentally conscious way. The trees are replanted quickly so the process is nearly carbon neutral.

### **How does logging work?**



As shown in the image, specialist machines are bought in to safely bring down the tree. Some people argue the machine photographed is too loud, but others say that it gets the job done well.

Common trees can be grown in the UK in large numbers, as they are native to the country. Over 150,000 trees are planted, cut down and replanted every year in one site.

### Trees that are commercially logged in the UK:

- Conifers
- Sitka spruce
- Birch

The government has recently pledged to increase logging in the UK by cutting down 1.5 million trees a month. They state that this is to boost the economy and make use of unused land. This has sparked a reaction from both sides of the issue.

### **Why should responsible logging continue?**

Some experts argue that responsible logging should continue, specifically on UK soil for financial and environmental reasons.

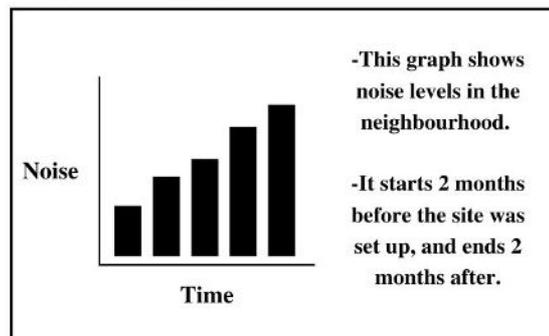
Simon Jipp, head of South Logging, states: "Local commercial logging sites have been proven to raise employment in the surrounding areas by over 45%." Jobs being created in the current cost of living crisis is a clear benefit of commercial logging, and more people than ever need a high level income which logging work can create.

Claudia Chestnut, Financial Officer for South Logging talks about the environmental benefits; "Native, slow-growing species can be planted alongside faster growing commercial ones to help the environment and encourage wildlife". South Logging argues that their logging sites encourages biodiversity and protects the environment, but others disagree.

### **What are the arguments against logging?**

There have been over 25 protests, backed by scientists, in the last 5 years about commercial logging in the UK. Environmental science expert, Matthew Driver, explains the issue. "The use of large machines in logging damages the soil and environment, and causes noise problems for local residents."

A study found that noise levels had reached higher levels than ever before in a neighbourhood 3 miles away from a logging site.



### **What next?**

It's clear that commercial logging has benefits to the UK economy and environment. Jobs can be created and biodiversity encouraged by the planting of native species. However, the damage to the ground and creation of noise pollution should be more carefully managed in the future by large companies. Residents should be compensated for high noise levels, and given the option to vote on whether more should be built.

Turn over ►

Source B:

# South Logging Logging Site Proposal

## EMPLOYMENT • ENVIRONMENT • BIODIVERSITY • PROGRESS

### ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

- At South Logging, we pride ourselves on responsible logging and have opened 6 new sites in the last year. Our logging sites are hugely valuable to local residents. This is because we provide jobs for the area.
- Responsible logging means replanting trees as soon as they're cut down to ensure that no excess carbon is released into the atmosphere.
- We're here to tell you the proposal for a new responsible logging site next to your town and to gain the town's approval for this!



### EMPLOYMENT

As you can see from the map in the first image, the proposed logging site will be 4 miles away from the town centre. We've placed it here for ease of access to the site for locals. This means that local people will have an easy route into work when they begin their employment with us.

We plan to create over 1500 new jobs directly on this site, and a further 2000 supporting roles like cleaning, catering and transporting goods. We are committed to only hiring people from the local area to ensure that the money made from this venture goes back into the local economy as quickly as possible.

### ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY

In addition to this incredible employment opportunity, we believe that planting trees encourages biodiversity in the area. This could be through giving birds a place to rest, sheltering smaller animals from the rain or providing habitats for badgers. While the benefits have not been backed by a study yet, we are looking into this option.

Protesters argue that the environment is being damaged by the presence of logging sites, but we believe it truly is being saved by them. Our workers say they have seen lots of birds on site!

### HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

- 1 Visit our website, linked below, and take a look at the proposal.
- 2 Tick 'yes' next to our proposal.
- 3 Check the vacancy site on our website for the perfect job for you!
- 4 Watch biodiversity improve, and your life too!

• 'It's a great opportunity for the town to grow, both economically and environmentally!' - Simon Jipp, CEO of South Logging	• 'I personally love having a logging site next to my house, I feel like I'm contributing to society!' - Hayley Snail	• 'I got a job at the logging site near me and never looked back, I've been able to save for a holiday this year!'- Tim Wake
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### WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Website: [www.southlogging.com](http://www.southlogging.com)  
Proposal link: [www.southlogging/proposal.com](http://www.southlogging/proposal.com)

 @southloggin  @logginsw  South Logging

Turn over ►

Source C:



## Forum on environmental issues

### RESPONSIBLE LOGGING



20.04.2025

#### **CHAINS4WGUY**

Dress it up anyway you want, logging is destroying the environment! 'Responsible' is, quite frankly, an insulting term to use when you consider the fact that trees take around 10 years to reach full maturity begin sinking carbon. It's essentially the same as cutting the forest down completely with all the good it does, by the time it sinks any carbon, there will be 20 other logging sites set up. I don't see how the government can be giving the go-ahead for these logging sites to go ahead - haven't we done enough damage to the earth already?

#### **EARTHLOVER42**

I'm a local resident next to Dartmoor Logging Site and let me tell you, it's a living hell! We are startled awake from slumber like clockwork every day at 4AM, as the huge trucks rumble past our cottage windows. They also churn up dust and dirt as they go, and my poor dog Timmy has developed severe breathing problems which we have had to get him medication for. The children at the local primary school are also finding it difficult to focus with all this racket going on. They have exams coming up soon too and are becoming very stressed about the prospect when their learning is so disrupted. This simply can't continue anymore, we must fight back against the government's bill to introduce more logging sites now, so that no one else has to go through this!

#### **SOPHIE GREEN**

My son wants to work at the logging site, but I can't help but feel he's joining the dark side. These companies claim to be 'responsible', but I've seen first-hand the replanting job they do: it's abysmal. For every field or so of trees cut down, they replant about half the trees, and the saplings look so weak that a heavy exhale might blow them over! How is the land and soil meant to recover if the companies using it don't look after it properly? When the rainfall is heavy, as it has been recently, it has begun to cause landslides due to the volumes of mud being shifted. This is dangerous for locals, such as children and dog walkers.

Turn over ►

- Q1** Identify one **fact** and one **opinion** from Source **A**.  
[2 marks]
- Q2** Identify the **purpose** of Source **A**. Explain how you know this.  
[2 marks]
- Q3** Identify **two organisational features** from Source **B**. **Explain** why they are used.  
[4 marks]
- Q4** The author of Source **B** has used quotes.  
**Explain** why they have done this, and the **effect** it has on the reader.  
[2 marks]
- Q5** Identify **two reasons** that the contributors in Source **C** are **against** responsible logging sites.  
[2 marks]
- Q6** Identify the **purpose** of Source **C**. Explain how you know this.  
[3 marks]
- Q7** Which of these texts is the **least biased**? Give **examples** from each text to support your decision.  
[4 marks]

**Q8** **Compare** the views of SOPHIE GREEN in Source **C** to the views conveyed in Source **B**.

Is there a **difference** in the way these views are conveyed?

[4 marks]

**Q9** **Identify** the **styles of writing** of Source **A** and Source **C**.

Provide an **example** from **each text** to support your answers.

[4 marks]

**Q10** Which of these texts is the most **formal**?

Give **reasons** from each text to explain your answer.

[4 marks]