



Open Awards Online Functional Skills English Level 2 Reading Exam 1

Sample Answers

Text 1

Q1- What is the purpose of Text 1? Explain how you know this.

The purpose of Text 1 is to persuade people to come to the Westfield Centre for acupuncture. We know this because the text is entirely positive about acupuncture and contains no negative aspects, in order to convince the reader to get the treatment. The text also tells the reader to book a consultation and gives them information on how to do so, therefore showing the persuasive purpose.

(3 marks)

Q2- Give a definition of holistic therapy, as stated in Text 1.

It means it treats the whole person and not just the symptoms.

(1 mark)

Q3- Identify two organisational features used by the author of Text 1. Give one example of information which each feature helps you find.

Two organisational features in Text 1 are subheadings and a heading. Subheadings help us to find out how acupuncture works. The heading tells us that the whole text is going to be about acupuncture.

(4 marks)

Q4- What does it mean when acupuncture is described as having an 'antiarrhythmic' effect?

It means it prevents or alleviates heartbeat irregularities.

(1 mark)

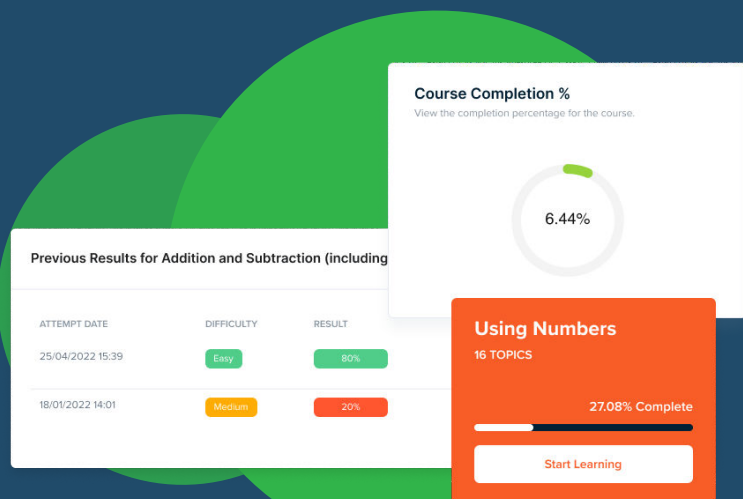
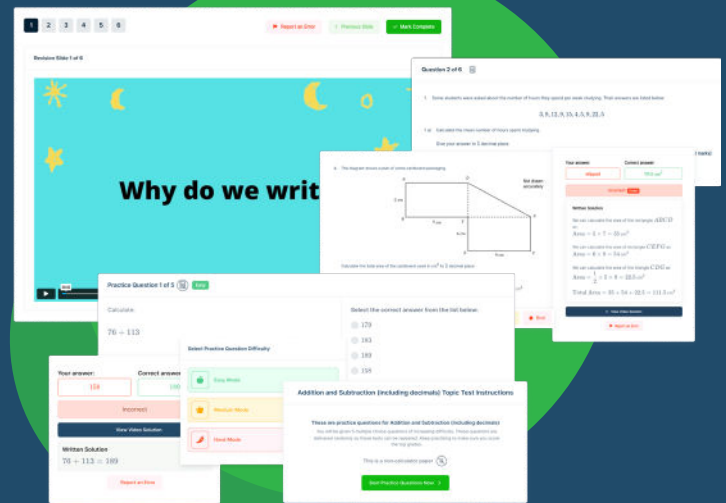


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Text 2

Q5- The writer of Text 2 has given a great deal of detail about the person they are looking for as well as what the applicant might expect. Why do you think they have done this?

This text is a job advertisement so the reader will need to know what they would be expected to do in the job, as well as the pay being offered for the position.

(2 marks)

Q6- What is meant by 'empathetic' as used in this text?

It means you are able to understand and experience what another person is feeling.

(1 mark)

Text 3

Q7- In Text 3 Akash says he felt nervous before the acupuncture. How does he feel during the procedure? Explain why you think this.

During the procedure, he felt sleepy and comfortable. This is clear as in the text Akash says 'I almost drifted off', meaning he felt comfortable enough to nearly fall asleep.

(2 marks)

Q8- In Text 3 Akash says to Sam, "I thought you might be interested in how I got on". Is this a fact or an opinion? Explain why you think this.

This is an opinion as Akash uses the phrase 'I thought', showing that it is only based on his thoughts and feelings.

(2 marks)



Q9- In Text 3 Akash frequently uses brackets. Give two reasons why you think he does this.

Akash uses brackets to add extra information which is not directly related to the point he is making. He also uses them to show that what he is saying inside the brackets is not really needed, and the sentence could be understood without the brackets.

(2 marks)

Texts 1, 2 & 3

Q10- Compare the views of the writers of Text 2 and Text 3 about the personal qualities an acupuncturist should have, and how these views are conveyed.

Text 2 and Text 3 express similar views about the qualities an acupuncturist should have. Text 2 says that an acupuncturist should be 'empathetic' and non-judgemental'. Similarly, in Text 3 Akash states that Lynn made him feel 'comfortable' and was 'very understanding'.

In Text 2, formal, concise language is used to convey these views, for example 'the successful applicant' and 'empathetic'. By contrast, in Text 3 the views are conveyed in an informal, more personal way. For example, Akash uses contractions such as 'didn't tell me off' to show what he liked about Lynn.

(4 marks)

Q11- Which text do you think is the least biased? Using all three texts, explain your selection.

Text 2 is the least biased text. This is because it does not promote acupuncture, it just talks about what is needed for the role in an objective way, using lots of facts and an impersonal tone. Text 1 is written by the Westfield Centre who are trying to promote acupuncture offered at their centre. Therefore, it is biased as it only talks about the positives of acupuncture and is trying to persuade the reader to come to the centre. Finally, text 3 is also biased as it is based on a personal experience and written in a personal style. It is entirely positive towards acupuncture and mentions no negatives, therefore making it one-sided.

(4 marks)



Q12- Identify the styles of writing in Text 1 and Text 3. Give one example from each text which suggests that style of writing.

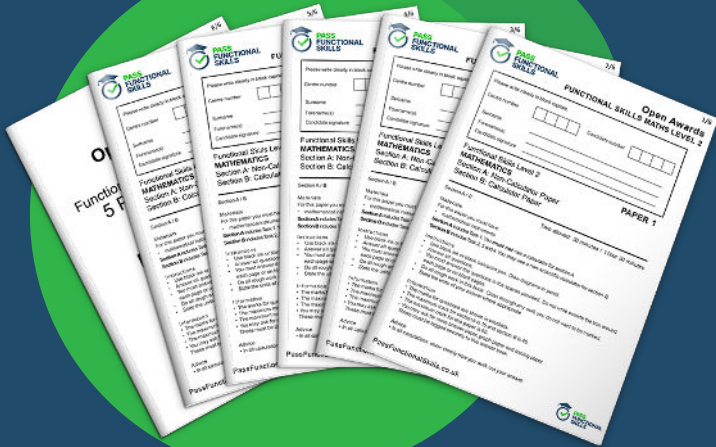
Text 3 is written in a personal style. An example of this is the use of emotive language, for example 'I was a bit nervous'.

Text 1 is written in an informative and impersonal style. An example of this is 'acupuncture is a holistic health therapy which focuses on the root cause of the disease'.

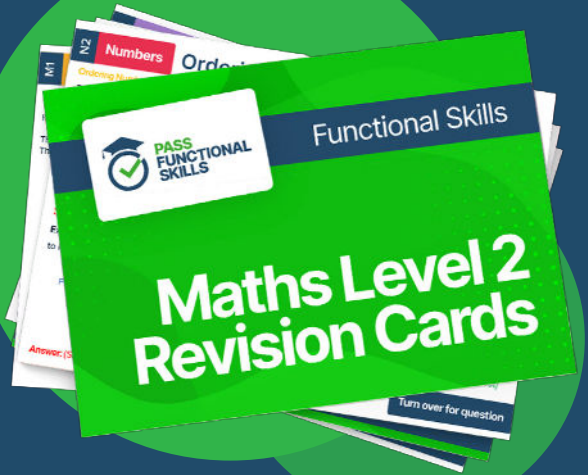
(4 marks)



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