
Open Awards Online Functional Skills English Level 2 Reading Exam 4

Sample Answers

Text 1

Q1- Text 1 contains no details about the personal experience of homeless people. Give two reasons why you think this is the case?

Text 1 contains no details about the personal experience of homeless people because it is an information sheet, meaning only facts are presented, rather than personal experiences. As well as this, the main point of the text is to inform the reader generally about the issue of homelessness, so personal cases are not discussed.

(2 marks)

Q2- What is meant by 'affordable housing' in Text 1?

Affordable housing means housing that can be afforded by people earning a low income.

(1 mark)

Q3- What is the purpose of Text 1? Give a reason to explain how you know this.

The purpose of Text 1 is to inform the reader about the state of homelessness and its causes. This is clear as the text is an 'information sheet' with subheadings detailing various parts of the whole issue, for example 'causes'.

(2 marks)

Text 2

Q4- Identify two organisational features used by the author of Text 2. Give an example of information which each of these features helps you to find.

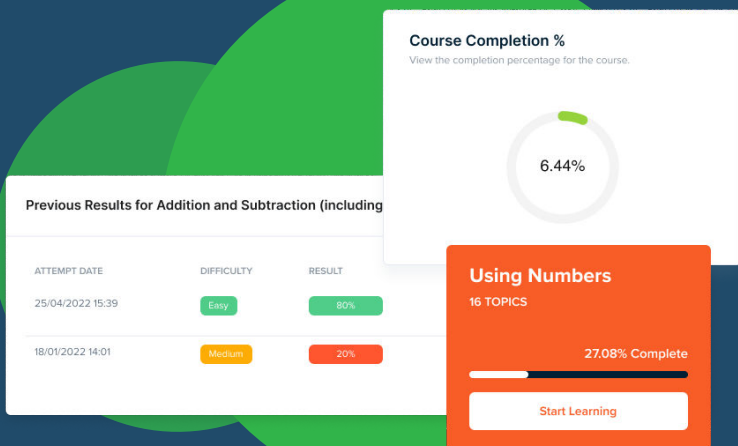
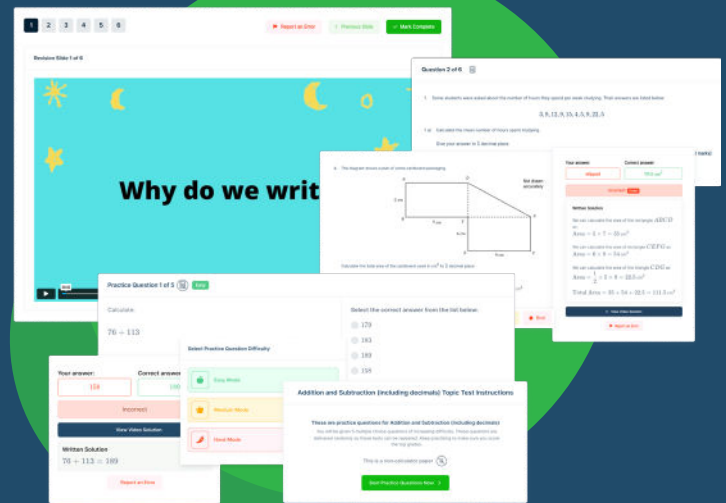


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One organisational feature used by the author of Text 2 is a heading. An example of information that this helps us to find is that the text is going to be about life on the streets. Another organisational marker used in Text 2 is a caption. This comes underneath the image and tells us that the drawing is of Trevor (a homeless person).

(4 marks)

Q5- Identify how the writer of Text 2 feels when he leaves in the morning. Explain how you know this.

In the morning when he leaves, the writer feels sorry for the homeless people. I know this because he says he was 'painfully aware' that he doesn't have to experience having nowhere else to go.

(2 marks)

Q6- What is meant by 'camaraderie', as used by Trevor in Text 2? Give a reason why you think rough sleepers have no 'camaraderie'.

'Camaraderie' means 'mutual trust and friendship between people sharing the same experience'. The rough sleepers have no camaraderie as they steal from one another.

(2 marks)

Text 3

Q7- In the fourth paragraph, the writer uses a rhetorical question. Give two effects this has on the reader.

The rhetorical question here makes the reader think more deeply about the council's problem, as well as emphasising the ridiculousness of the expectation placed upon them by the government.

(2 marks)

Q8- What does the author mean when he talks about prioritising 'those with a local connection'?

Those who have relatives in the area would need to be given preference.

(1 mark)



Q9- Edward Jennings, in Text 3, gives his views on homelessness and who is responsible. Give one fact and one opinion he uses to support his point of view.

One fact he uses is 'some 50 people sleep rough every night'. One opinion is 'it is unclear how'.

(2 marks)

Texts 1, 2 & 3

Q10- Compare the views of the writers of Texts 1 and 3 on homelessness, and how these views are conveyed.

In both texts, the authors mention how local councils are expected to intervene with homelessness. In Text 1, the author says that 'Local councils have a duty to help those in priority need'. Similarly, in Text 3 the author states that 'The council has for a long time had a duty of care for those in priority need', but the council are now required to do more to prevent homelessness. In Text 1, this is conveyed using facts and statistics and an impersonal tone, as the author is presenting facts to inform the reader. The author of Text 3 also uses facts, however they also use a lot of opinions to show their point of view on the issue of homelessness, for example 'it is unclear how'.

(4 marks)

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

Text 1 is the least biased text. This is because Text 1 is an 'information sheet', meaning it is fact based and gives facts about homelessness, rather than points of view. Text 2 is much more biased, as it uses strong emotive language and a personal tone to put forward personal views and opinions about homelessness. Finally, Text 3 is also biased as although it is formal and does include facts, it is written by a local politician who clearly disagrees with the government's stance, so is writing from only the council's perspective.

(4 marks)

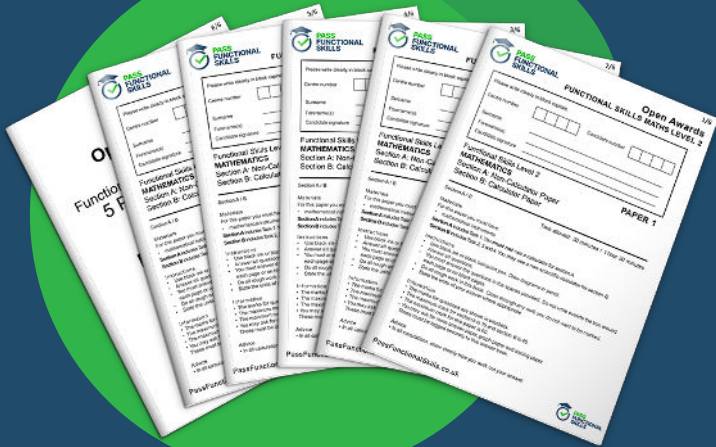
Q12- Identify the styles of writing used in Text 2 and Text 3. Give one example from each text which suggests that style of writing.

Text 2's style is personal. An example of this is 'I felt lucky', showing the author's opinion. Text 3's style is formal, for example 'I find myself obliged'.

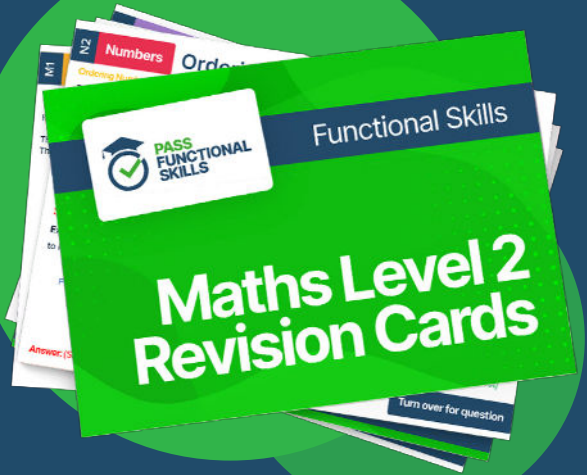
(4 marks)



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