

Functional Skills English

Level 2



Answers 5
Reading for Understanding

Exercise 1

Main Points

- Paragraph 1 – call for government ruling on sex selection.
- Paragraph 2 – consultation finding.
- Paragraph 3 – sex selection only for health reasons.
- Paragraph 4 – how doctors are able to select sex of baby.
- Paragraph 5 – sex selection ruled out for social reasons only.
- Paragraph 6 – seeking treatment abroad.

Exercise 2

Points to Ponder

- Yes.
- Not alone.
- Yes – some details of figures and specialist jargon would be useful.

Exercise 3

Our sparkling young company of gifted soloists and enthusiastic chorus will once again be delighting audiences at our intimate theatre next month. This new production will star most of your local favourites, with our own Richard Button and Samantha Wade in the two principal parts. Richard has spent the last six months at the Royal College in London where he has had voice training with the world renowned John Bateson. He made quite a name for himself while he was there, winning the “most improved learner of the year” award. Samantha has not been without her successes either; she took first place in a nationwide music competition held in Birmingham to find the most outstanding young female artist in amateur theatre.

So, together with these two most successful artists and our very talented ladies and gentlemen of the chorus, we can look forward to an entertaining family show full of lively dancing and superb singing. We are also fortunate in having the help of Kirbyfield Art College final year learners who have produced for us a stunning set and gloriously rich costumes. To keep the whole show in order, we have our energetic resident musical director Karen Baker, who will be conducting a full orchestra of splendid instrumentalists, and our inspirational producer, Jo Turner. A spectacular event that you **must not miss!**

Exercise 4

- Most of the highlighted words are adjectives.
- Because advertising materials use persuasive writing which tends to over use adjectives and other descriptive features.
- (Asks for personal opinion)

Exercise 5

Didn't like it. Thought both singing and dancing poor.

Just that (amateur), out of tune, did not coordinate, rather flat, pity about the sound, bad night, weren't up to much, missed top notes

Probably not – would be put off by the art critic's opinion.

Exercise 6

For works of art and the finest treasures of the Renaissance period look no further than the beautiful city of Florence, the cultural capital of modern Italy. This is the home of the famous Michelangelo statue of David, amazing paintings by da Vinci and Botticelli in the Uffizi Gallery and the magnificent Duomo, just one of the many splendid churches to visit. Enjoy a romantic evening stroll on the mediaeval Ponte Vecchio, a photographer's paradise. Climb Giotto's bell tower for a wonderful panoramic view of Florence.

If you want a change from its cultural history, then visit the many small specialist shops and markets for stunning leather goods, gold jewellery and, of course, clothes. Florence, after all, is also a city of fashion, choice and taste. After a full day of touring the sites or scooping up all those bargains, what could be better than a traditional plate of pasta and a glass of chianti at one of the many welcoming bars in the piazzas, or for an authentic flavour of Florence you could do no better than choose a Steak alla Fiorentina and while away a balmy evening watching the world go by.

Back at your 4* luxury hotel in a quiet suburb of Florence, yet only 10 minutes from its heart, you can indulge in the luxuries of the indoor pool and health club, sip cocktails on the terrace while admiring the magnificent views over the rooftops or enjoy live entertainment in the grotto bar before retiring to your spacious air-conditioned room. Wake up refreshed and ready to enjoy another packed day of sightseeing and absorb the wonderful atmosphere that is Florence.

Exercise 7

Advertising Techniques	Examples
Verbs written in 2nd person .	you want, you could do
Imperative form of verb (command or order).	look, enjoy, visit, climb
Use of positive words for description.	finest, amazing, magnificent
Names of must-see places/works of art.	Michelangelo, Ponte Vecchio
Words to induce positive feelings in potential holidaymaker.	welcoming, romantic, luxury
Words to tempt potential holidaymakers.	enjoy, bargains, traditional

Exercise 8

- Yes.
Eager anticipation; looking forward; words taken straight from the brochure description – fine treasures; beautiful, cultural city;
- Disappointment
Culture closed; unreliable; expensive; long queues; hotel too far from centre; large crowds; limited shopping;

Exercise 9

- Cultural places closed at weekends;
- Long queues because of public holiday;
- Hotel too far from centre;
- Suggestions for future holidaymakers.

Exercise 10

The main points are underlined, the important details are emboldened. The learners will have highlighted them in different colours.

SOLAR FLARES

Confirmed as biggest

Solar scientists have confirmed that last Tuesday's explosion on the sun was by far the biggest flare ever recorded. Powerful flares are given an "X" designation; **last week's weighed in at X28**, the previous biggest being X20. The blast sent **billions of tonnes of super hot gas into space**, some of it being directed towards Earth.

Build-up

Astronomers had been watching the build-up to this huge explosion as **several smaller explosions had taken place during the preceding fortnight**, particularly in the two days immediately before Tuesday's flare. They had also been on the look out for **spectacular aurorae** in the night skies. These dancing polar lights are generated when fast moving particles from the sun are trapped in the magnetic field around the Earth.

Huge energy

Space weather forecasters have also been on the alert during this past fortnight as they tracked the impact of geomagnetic storms on Earth. As a result of the magnetic force from these storms, **aircraft crossing the North Atlantic Ocean have been flying along a narrow corridor to minimise radiation exposure; astronauts on board the International Space Station confined their activities to its most protected section while they passed through high magnetic latitudes and two Japanese satellites were affected so badly they stopped working**. A cloud of charged particles also hit the **Mars Express** but astrophysicists were not concerned as they say it was designed to withstand such eventualities.

Exercise 11

Learners' own answer.

Exercise 12

Learners' own answer.

Exercise 13

- 1) Soon, we will be overrun by shoppers' children getting through the fence.
- 2) It has always been a pleasant area and we object strongly to this new building.
- 3) The plans show that the hypermarket will come to the bottom of our garden.
- 4) Yes.
- 5) **Fact** - The plans show the new hypermarket will come to the bottom of our garden.
Opinion - We don't want the development to happen because we are afraid it will spoil the area and we shall be bothered by shoppers' children.
- 6) – 9) Learners' own answers.

Exercise 14

The facts are highlighted.

The opinions expressed are underlined.

Any second opinion is emboldened.

The learners will have highlighted these in three different colours.

BADGERS AND TUBERCULOSIS

What is T.B?

Tuberculosis is a very serious disease affecting both humans and animals. It is caused by various species of bacteria called "Mycobacteria".

History of T.B.

During the 1930s, dairy cows were often kept in crowded, poorly ventilated cowsheds near large cities to enable their populations to have fresh milk. Many cows developed infections, which spread quickly because of the confined conditions. As milk was then often drunk untreated, T.B. spread easily to humans, with over 50 000 new human cases being recorded each year during this time.

Resulting government action

- The government of the day began testing cattle and slaughtering any that tested positive.
- Cattle were not allowed to be moved from farms infected with T.B. to avoid spreading the disease.
- Since the 1930s most milk has been pasteurised to reduce the risk of T.B. to humans.

Connection with badgers

For farmers who have cattle with T.B., the disease can be devastating with animals having to be slaughtered. One of the main areas of concern amongst people who live in the country has been the possible connection between bovine T.B. and badgers who have been blamed for the spread of the disease.

History of badger controls

In 1971, a dead badger infected with T.B. was discovered on a farm that had suffered bovine T.B. giving credence to the theory that badgers are a cause of T.B. in cattle. The Badger Act of 1973 protected badgers from being persecuted while at the same time allowing licences to be issued permitting individuals to kill badgers to prevent the spread of T.B. The 1975 Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act ordered that only staff under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) would be allowed to cull badgers, by means of gassing.

In a review by Lord Zuckerman in 1980, it was concluded that badgers were probably a significant source of T.B. **contrary to the views of many nature lovers. Gassing was believed to be an inhumane way of culling** so cage trapping, followed by shooting, was introduced.

The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 made it an offence to

- Kill, injure or take a badger
- Cruelly ill-treat a badger
- Interfere with a badger sett

Licences for badger culling could still be applied for and would be issued to individuals by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) after satisfying certain conditions.

DEFRA Study

For the past five years DEFRA have been studying the possibility of a connection between bovine T.B. and badgers and the effect on the occurrence of T.B. if badgers are culled. The trial was split into three parts, with differing amounts of interference of the badger population involved

- Localised culling of badgers where there has been an incidence of T.B. in cattle
- More widespread culling regardless of outbreaks of the disease
- Areas where no badger culling takes place

Badger cull in Cornwall 2002

In an example of the second part of the DEFRA trial where more widespread culling took place, almost 700 badgers had been culled in an area of Cornwall by October 2002. **The West Cornwall Badger Group (WCBG) claimed that the whole exercise was a total waste of money with the cost of policing the cull standing at tens of thousands of pounds. The group questioned how the effect on the incidence of bovine T.B. could be measured when cattle were still being moved in an area where all badgers had been culled. If after badger culling had taken place, cattle were not moved then, the WCBG suggested, the cause of bovine T.B. could perhaps be made more conclusive; whether badgers are to blame for spreading the disease or whether it is transmitted from cattle to cattle. Until definite scientific proof has shown which of these possibilities is correct, many farmers will continue to ask for badgers to be culled and many badger supporters will believe that badgers are blameless.**

There will be individual responses and group discussions followed by appropriate responses to answer the questions following this text.

Exercise 15

Drivers prevented from using mobiles

Recent government legislation has meant that motorists should no longer be making or receiving phone calls or text messages from hand held mobile phones while they are driving. Research has shown that drivers are four times more likely to have an accident if they drive while using a mobile phone. **F**

Before this legislation came into force, motorists holding a mobile phone could only be stopped by the police if they were driving “without due care and attention”. Now they can be stopped no matter how careful they are being. At the present time, motorists who are caught using a hand held mobile phone will receive a fixed penalty fine of £30, although this could be greatly increased if Road Safety experts get their way. **F**

People who have been victims of accidents caused by drivers talking on their mobile phones are asking for further penalties to be handed out, such as higher fines, having the phone confiscated and having penalty points on driving licences. They would also like to see vehicle manufacturers being asked to construct vehicles with devices that would not allow a driver to use any mobile phone while the car engine was switched on. **O**

The present legislation does not as yet include hands free sets and Road Safety experts would like this to change as they feel that driving while using any mobile is dangerous, risking road users' lives. They feel that drivers are distracted by the conversation they are holding and are therefore not concentrating 100% on their driving. Even with hands free mobiles, there is no point in having two hands connected to the steering wheel if the brain is not connected to the hands. **O**

To endorse their view, the Lord Chief Justice, as early as April 2003, suggested that a driver convicted of death by dangerous driving while using a mobile phone should face a longer jail sentence than the average. That sentence now stands at anything from 12-18 months to a maximum of 10 years, but should perhaps be increased to a minimum of 6 years. ○

Whatever the outcome of this legislation, nobody will be prosecuted unless the police catch drivers actually in the process of using their mobile phones, or, as a result of being called to an accident, find that the driver was using a mobile at the time. Unfortunately, from the Road Safety campaign's point of view, with the present level of policing, there will still be motorists getting away with talking on their hand held mobiles while driving their vehicle. ○

Now that you have identified the **fact** and the **opinion** from this article, try constructing an argument **opposing** this one, whatever your own views. Jot down your ideas in this space below and use them to discuss this issue with a partner or in a group.

Individual and group discussion and answers.

Exercise 16

Police Speed Cameras on the Increase

It has been reported by West Blottinghamshire police that the number of people fined for speeding on the county's highways this quarter has increased by an all time high of 25%. This will have increased police funds by a staggering £60,000 all at the expense of the already exploited motoring public. Chief Constable Mackle refused to comment when asked about the boost to police funds that will have been generated by this increase in convictions. Much of this increase is due to the extra numbers of speeding cameras that have been added to the county's roads over the last few months rather than any increased efficiency in the county's police force.

Increase in Safety Measures on our Roads

West Blottinghamshire's roads are some of the safest in the country according to a statement made by the county's police chief this week after a 25% increase in speeding convictions throughout the county was announced.

Chief Constable Mackle was delighted with the increase in convictions saying that he was proud of the extra vigilance his officers had obviously been making. "The message we are trying to put across to the public is that speed kills! If it means that we have to increase the number of speeding convictions by 25% to save just one life it will have been worth it," he commented to the local paper this week. When questioned about the increase the speeding fines would make to the local police funds he declined to comment.

The relevant information missed out of the second article was how the speeding convictions had been detected and what happened to the speeding fines.

The different titles showed bias.

Exercise 17

e.g. Internet, text books, specialist magazines, newspapers, guide books, maps.

Exercise 18

Learner's own choice.

Exercise 19

Group discussion

documents on a computer;
reference books in a library;
files in an office;
records at a doctor's surgery;
findings on a website search;
books in a book shop.

- files, folders
- non fiction – Dewey system, fiction – alphabetically
- alphabetically/ chronologically
- alphabetically / date of birth
- under headings
- genre

Exercise 20

Learner's own research.

Exercise 21

Group discussion.

Exercise 22

- 1) Scanning
- 2) Skimming
- 3) Skimming, scanning, detailed reading
- 4) Detailed reading
- 5) Scanning
- 6) Skimming and scanning

Exercise 23

Group discussion.

Exercise 24

Skim extracts A, D, E, F, H, I

Exercise 25

Learner's own research

Exercise 26

Learner's own research

Exercise 27

Learner's own summary