
B1/B2 Multilevel Exam

Sample Tasks for Reading Comprehension

B1/B2 – Reading Comprehension Sample Tasks

1. B1 level - The Truth about Kids and Tech

Read the text below and match the headings A to H with paragraphs 1 to 5. There are two more headings than you need. Write the answers on the answer sheet.

- A. Boys prefer video games; girls prefer communicating online.
- ~~B. Reading is not dead.~~
- C. Most young people spend too much time looking at screens.
- D. Teens can look at more than one screen at a time.
- E. The Digital Revolution is not making young people more creative.
- F. Kids who use social media get more exercise than kids who play video games.
- G. Kids with smartphones watch less TV.
- H. TV and music are not losing popularity.

The Truth About Kids and Tech

A new study reveals some surprises about kids and technology

Common Sense Media, a non-profit group focused on helping children, parents and teachers better understand media and technology, has conducted a study. It looked at a wide range of media-related activities, from old methods like reading and listening to the radio, to new favorites like using social media and video chatting. More than 2,600 kids from around the country were surveyed. Here are some facts that the study revealed about tweens (8 to 12 years) and teens (13 to 18 years).

(0) B. Reading is not dead.

While the average time young people spend reading, either in print or on a screen, is only 30 minutes per day, kids who took the survey say reading is one of their favorite activities.

1. _____

One in five tweens uses more than six hours of screen media each day, and 18% of teens are looking at their screens for more than 10 hours a day. Often they're doubling up on screens, watching television on one while chatting with friends on another.

2. _____

Among tween boys, 71% enjoy playing video games, twice as many as tween girls. And while more than 25% of teen boys list playing video games as their favorite media activity, only 2% of teen girls do. Teen girls, meanwhile, spend about 40 minutes more each day on social media than boys do.

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3. _____

For tweens, TV is still the top media activity. They enjoy it the most and watch it every day. In fact, 47% of tweens have television sets in their bedrooms. For teens, while 57% have TV sets in their rooms, music is the reigning form of entertainment. However, only about a third listen to music on the radio. Most teens listen to it on their smartphones.

4. _____

Kids report spending about an hour each day being active. For gamers, that average drops to 47 minutes, the lowest for any kind of media consumer. Social media users are the most active, spending one hour and 13 minutes per day doing some form of physical activity.

5. _____

So far, kids are too busy consuming to be doing much producing. Tweens spend an average of five minutes and teens nine minutes per day making something with all their digital tools, whether it's art, music, or writing.

In a statement, Common Sense Media chief executive officer James P. Steyer said that the study "provides parents, educators and the media industry with an excellent overview of what kids are doing today and how we can make the most of the media and technology in their lives."

<http://www.timeforkids.com/>

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B1/B2 – Reading Comprehension Sample Tasks

2. B1 level - The Importance of Music in Schools

Read the text below and **complete the sentences with a maximum of 4 words**. Record your answers on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done as an example for you.

The Importance of Music in Schools

"Music helps the mind develop and grow," my dad often says, and I have found this to be very true. It is a proven fact that participating in a music program in school will help develop your brain to a higher level and faster than other students. Music actually improves communication between the right and left sides of the brain, allowing you to gain better comprehension and memorization skills.

So, why do we need music in our schools? Well, because music is everything.

Music is science. It is exact and demands acoustics. The conductor's score is a graph that contains volume changes, melody and harmony, all the while keeping the group at a constant pace.

Music is math. It is based on the rhythmic subdivisions of time, done in a split second.

Music is history. The music you hear or play is usually an indication of the time and environment in which it was created.

Music is physical education. It requires an immense amount of coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheeks and facial muscles. Not to mention control of your diaphragm, back, stomach and chest muscles to make sure every note comes out clearly and in pitch.

Music is a foreign language. Its terms are usually in Italian and the music is not in any language known to man. It is its own language and uses symbols to represent ideas.

Music is the universal language that everyone understands and can relate to. Music is what brings everything together.

Most of all, music is art. It is the greatest form of art that allows a human to take boring notes on a page, and transform them into an emotion and feeling you cannot measure.

Music is just as important as all the classes you are required to take, and it is critical that music classes remain in schools. Not only to provide a place for students to belong, but also something that will help their minds grow and develop like no other class.

<http://www.teenink.com/opinion/all/article/10083/The-Importance-of-Music-in-Schools/>

B1/B2 – Reading Comprehension Sample Tasks

Complete the sentences with a maximum of 4 words.

0. A number of mental skills get better if you go to a music program in school.

1. Music has elements that change or stay the same, comparing it to...

2. Music is a reflection of when it was composed, it can be related to...

3. Sport and music both need a lot...

4. Because music communicates ideas it can be compared to a...

5. Musicians create art by reading...

6. For many reasons, music lessons should...

B1/B2 – Reading Comprehension Sample Tasks

3. B1 level – My Holiday in California

Read the story below and complete the text with the correct phrase. Mark the correct answer on your answer sheet. There are two phrases you do not need to use. The first one **(0)** is given as an example.

- A. went to Hollywood
- B. couldn't go on
- C. had delicious
- D. was closed
- E. had lots of stars
- F. ~~stayed at our Grandpa's house~~**
- G. had really big
- H. was this really big wave
- I. loved the food there
- J. was really cool

My Holiday in California

At the end of May we went to California in America. We stayed in the Hotel Irvine for four days which was a brilliant hotel and then we **(0) _F_** for a week which was also really cool. Grandpa has a cool house and he also has the Disney Channel, which we loved!

The first couple of days, we went to Del Taco. This is a Mexican restaurant like you've never seen in England before. It has tacos, quesadillas (the soft ones) and it also has burritos. Del Taco was my favourite place to eat because it (1) _____ Mexican food. We also went to Rubio's (king of the fish taco) which is another Mexican restaurant. My sister BooJam went to a sandwich place called "Which Witch" and she (2) _____.

We went to Knott's Berry Farm and I went on the Jaguar rollercoaster ride. My sister (3) _____ because she was too small. The queuing was very scary because it was in an Egyptian tomb, but the ride was really good. One of the rides (4) _____. It was a ride where you got to lie down and fly in Camp Snoopy. I loved it and so did my sister too. We also went on a ride where we bounced up and down and that was so much fun.

We (5) _____ to look around. Our tour guide was Grandpa. We saw the Hollywood Sign, Mann's Chinese Theatre, the handprints in the concrete on the floor and the Hollywood Walk of Fame which (6) _____ on the floor. I saw the handprints of Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson.

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They are my favourite characters from Harry Potter.

Los Angeles has lots of swimming pools. We went in a swimming pool with diving boards and had lots of fun swimming around and diving.

We went to Newport Beach and I was swimming in the sea and there (7) _____ and I had to cling onto the sand as the wave washed over me. It really hurt but it was also cool at the same time. We also bought necklaces for each other.

<http://betsylouadventures.blogspot.com.es/>

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B1/B2 – Reading Comprehension Sample Tasks

4. B2 level - Teen millionaire

You are going to read an article about a social media site for girls. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (**A, B, C** or **D**) which you think best fits according to the text. Here is an example (**0**).

Example:

- 0.** What do we learn about Miss O and Friends in the first paragraph?
- A.** It made a big profit in 2005.
 - B.** The cool girls were based on Juliette’s school friends.
 - C.** Proctor & Gamble put \$15 million into the site.
 - D.** Juliette created the cool girls years before starting the website.

Example:

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|-----------|----------|
| 0. | D |
|-----------|----------|

How a 16-Year-Old Girl Started a Multimillion Dollar Social Network

By Teen Kids News



1. Juliette Brindak started a social networking site for tweens when she was 16, and it’s doing better than ever. *Miss O and Friends* generates 10 million monthly visits, a twenty-fold increase from its inception in 2005. It’s also worth around \$15 million, according to early investor Procter & Gamble. When she was ten, Brindak drew characters for a set of five friends she called “Cool Girls,” who were all inspired by real-life girls. The main cool girl, Miss O, represents her younger sister Olivia. The set of “Cool Girls” would eventually become “Miss O and Friends.”

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2. In the beginning — like many startups — Brindak reached out to family members and friends for investment money. Her mother, a graphic designer, brought her drawings to life while her father, who has a background in business, aided in the fundamentals of creating the company. What started out as a few sketches on the way home from a family vacation quickly ballooned into a haven for millions of adolescents. The site was ranked the third largest girls-only Web site in 2011, according to Inc. Magazine.

3. Now, at 23, Brindak isn't as in tune with what tween girls are looking for, so she uses the site as an avenue to understand their needs. Through polls, quizzes, and the "Girl2Girl" wall, members are able to keep Brindak updated. "In November 2011, girls were writing on the Girl2Girl wall asking if we could get them tickets to a One Direction concert. This was the first time we ever heard about One Direction and we were able to create a concert/sponsorship with Simon & Schuster's 'Dork Diaries' books and winning tickets." She's made it possible — through contests — for her users to see celebrities, such as Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus and the Jonas Brothers, in concert. Currently, she's offering an all-expense paid trip to Canada for four lucky fans to see Taylor Swift's show.

4. Through high school and college, the site has continued to improve. When it was originally launched, there was little more than a few catchy graphics. "There was a homepage, which had the five Miss O characters and simple flash animations," Brindak says. "There was hardly anything to it, but it was definitely a start." Now the site boasts message boards, quizzes, games, music, and more.

5. But managing the site as a college student at Washington University in St. Louis was no easy task. "One teacher, who ironically was an entrepreneur and taught my class on social entrepreneurship, was the only one who wouldn't budge about dates. I had a final on the same day I had to fly out to California for a really important meeting and he said that if I missed it, I would get an entire letter grade taken off my final grade. Luckily, the meeting got moved, but I was so shocked about his reaction."

6. Instead of the typical business majors most entrepreneurs study, Brindak decided to focus on Anthropology and Public Health because her site revolves around women's health issues. "I

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was able to learn so much about cultures around the world and also become informed and aware about different ways that I can reach out to women,” Brindak says. “The goal for the site was, and still is, to help young girls build confidence and self-esteem.”

7. To share her users’ stories with the world, Brindak published the book *Miss O & Friends: Write On! The Miss O & Friends Collection of Rockin’ Fiction*, a compilation of user-submitted stories. Brindak tells us she plans on publishing more books in the near future. “We started off with a business plan that we have used as our guide, but that business plan is always changing. We continue to find new ways to engage girls, to generate revenue, and new outlets that are appropriate for Miss O and our community.”

<https://teenkidsnews.com/tkn-news/careers/how-a-16-year-old-girl-started-a-multimillion-dollar-social-network/>

1. When the website first appeared...
 - A. It included photos of Juliette’s family.
 - B. Only two sites for girls had more visitors.
 - C. It needed some financial help.
 - D. Juliette’s parents gave up their jobs to help her.

2. What do we learn in the third paragraph?
 - A. Members provide information to help the site stay relevant.
 - B. The website now sells tickets for musical events.
 - C. Juliette was a fan of One Direction.
 - D. Site members can pay to meet famous singers.

3. How is the site described in paragraph four?
 - A. It’s quite basic, but is getting better.
 - B. There is a wide range of elements.
 - C. The original cool girls now sing.
 - D. It was more difficult to make in the beginning.

4. What do we learn about Juliette’s time at university?
 - A. She found her exams difficult to pass.
 - B. She had to cancel a business trip because of an exam.
 - C. She was surprised by a teacher’s reaction.
 - D. Some teachers were unhappy she was working and studying.

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5. How did she decide on her degree subject?
- A. Her ambition was to work in the health system.
 - B. It was typically chosen by business people.
 - C. She wanted to travel and work in other countries.
 - D. She thought it was relevant to the aims of her website.
6. What does Juliette say about the future?
- A. She wants to write another book.
 - B. The site will follow the original design.
 - C. She would like to encourage more international contributions.
 - D. She hopes to promote her members' writing.

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ANSWERS:

1. B1 level - The Truth about Kids and Tech

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | B | 1 | D | 2 | A | 3 | H | 4 | F | 5 | E |
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2. B1 level - The Importance of Music in Schools

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 0 | ...music program in school |
| 1 | ...science |
| 2 | ...history |
| 3 | ...(of) coordination (of body parts) |
| 4 | ...(foreign / universal) language |
| 5 | ...(boring) notes (on a page) |
| 6 | ...remain in school |

3. B1 level – My Holiday in California

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | F | 1 | C | 2 | I | 3 | B | 4 | J | 5 | A | 6 | E | 7 | H |
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4. B2 level - Teen millionaire

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| 0 | D | 1 | C | 2 | A | 3 | B | 4 | C | 5 | D | 6 | D |
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