B2 First: Reading and Opinion Writing

Paper 1 - Separate answers

Free original EWS skills practice | B2 | 20 practice marks

Independent B2 skills practice. EWS marks do not convert directly to Cambridge scores.

Answers, explanations and marking guidance

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Accept equivalent correct answers. For personal responses, the learner must use truthful details. These short-paper marks are for practice and are not official exam scores.

A. Read and understand - 5 marks

1. To lend tools that residents use infrequently. [1 mark]

Use the information in the passage.

2. Saving money and reducing waste. [1 mark]

Use the information in the passage.

3. Damaged equipment and/or supervision costs. [1 mark]

Use the information in the passage.

4. Repairs took longer than expected. [1 mark]

Use the information in the passage.

5. Useful ideas need realistic planning and user evidence. [1 mark]

Use the information in the passage.

B. Language practice - 5 marks

1. buying [1 mark]

Avoid is followed by an -ing form.

2. reliable [1 mark]

An adjective modifies information.

3. decision [1 mark]

A noun is required after the final.

4. Despite the cost of repairs, the scheme continued. [1 mark]

Despite is followed by a noun phrase, not a finite clause.

5. however [1 mark]

However signals contrast between the clauses.

C. Write for a purpose - 10 marks

1. Model response:
Sharing equipment can be a sensible choice when an item is expensive and used only occasionally. However, the benefits depend on clear rules.
First, sharing can reduce costs. A family that needs a drill for one small repair may prefer borrowing it to buying one. The lending service must still charge or budget enough to maintain its equipment properly.
Responsibility is equally important. Users should know how to operate a tool safely and what to do if it is damaged. Training and a fair repair policy can prevent disagreements.
Another advantage is reduced waste. When several households share one useful item, fewer products may sit unused in cupboards. This also saves storage space at home.
In my view, sharing is often better for equipment that people rarely need. Buying may be more practical for items used every day. A successful scheme offers reliable tools, clear responsibilities and enough funding to keep the service running. [10 marks]

Award 4 for relevant task content, 3 for clear organisation and 3 for suitable vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. Accept equivalent correct responses.

B2 language in a community project

FREE EXTENDED PRACTICE - SEPARATE ANSWERS / MODELS

Models are examples. Accept other accurate responses. Give feedback on task completion, clarity and suitable language. Extension tasks are unscored unless stated.

1. 1 organisation / organization; 2 reliable; 3 decision; 4 confidence; 5 accessible. The surrounding grammar requires nouns in 1, 3 and 4 and adjectives in 2 and 5. Both standard spellings of organisation/organization are acceptable.

2. 1 did not have to (4 words). 2 because of the (3). 3 asked me to send (4). 4 despite the room being (4). Preserve meaning and the keyword. These are EWS practice items; no official score conversion is supplied.

3. Model: A community project can bring people together. However, it may require more time and money than organisers expect. Accept other relevant balanced ideas with accurate linking.

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B2 writing and collaborative decisions

FREE EXTENDED PRACTICE - SEPARATE ANSWERS / MODELS

Models are examples. Accept other accurate responses. Give feedback on task completion, clarity and suitable language. Extension tasks are unscored unless stated.

1. Model: Schools should encourage students to take part in community projects, provided that these activities are carefully planned. They can offer valuable experiences that ordinary lessons sometimes cannot.
First, practical work helps students develop useful skills. Organising a book collection, for example, requires communication, teamwork and responsibility. Students can see how their decisions affect other people, which makes the learning meaningful.
However, schools must protect time for academic work. A project that demands several evenings every week may leave pupils tired and unable to complete assignments. Occasional activities, with clear limits, would be more manageable.
Another benefit is that students can meet people from different backgrounds. Helping at a local reading event may challenge unfair assumptions and create a stronger sense of belonging. This is difficult to achieve through a worksheet alone.
In conclusion, I support more opportunities for community involvement, but participation should fit around students' studies. Well-chosen projects can develop both practical abilities and an understanding of the wider community.
Feedback: develop both supplied points and a distinct third idea, state a clear view, organise paragraphs and use accurate varied language. No Cambridge score is assigned.

2. Model phrases: A reading club could help younger pupils, but we would need regular volunteers. What do you think about the garden? That sounds practical; however, it needs care during holidays. Would recycling be easier to organise? Let us choose the reading club because we already have books and two volunteers. Accept any reasoned choice and genuine negotiation.