B2 First: Reading and Opinion Writing

Paper 1 - Student paper

Free original EWS skills practice | B2 | 20 practice marks

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

Suggested time: 25-40 minutes. For speaking tasks, say your response before writing. Use extra paper where necessary.

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A. Read and understand - 5 marks

Read the text and answer the five questions. Each earns 1 mark.

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A town introduced a lending service for tools that residents rarely use. Supporters argued that borrowing a drill for a weekend could save money and reduce waste. Critics worried about damaged equipment and the cost of supervision. After a trial, staff found that most tools were returned in good condition, although repairs took longer than expected. The council kept the scheme but added training sessions and a modest repair fund. The experience suggested that a useful idea still needs realistic planning and evidence from its users.

1. What is the purpose of the service? [1 mark]

2. Give two proposed benefits. [1 mark]

3. What concern did critics raise? [1 mark]

4. Which trial result caused a practical problem? [1 mark]

5. What is the writer's overall conclusion? [1 mark]

B. Language practice - 5 marks

Choose or write the correct answer. Each earns 1 mark.

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1. The service helps people avoid ___ rarely used tools. (buying / to buy) [1 mark]

2. Complete with a word formed from RELY: Users need ___ information. [1 mark]

3. Complete with a word formed from DECIDE: The final ___ followed the trial. [1 mark]

4. Rewrite using DESPITE: Although repairs were costly, the scheme continued. [1 mark]

5. Choose: The scheme was useful; ___, it required careful funding. (however / because) [1 mark]

C. Write for a purpose - 10 marks

Write an essay of 140-190 words: Is sharing equipment better than buying it? Discuss cost, responsibility and one idea of your own. Give reasons for your view.

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1. Write your response below. [10 marks]

B2 language in a community project

FREE EXTENDED PRACTICE - STUDENT WORKSHEET

Original selected-skills extension using word formation and sentence rewriting. It does not reproduce a complete Reading and Use of English paper.

1. Use the word in brackets to complete each sentence.
1. Good ___ helped the volunteers finish on time. (ORGANISE)
2. The information on the website was clear and ___. (RELY)
3. The final ___ followed a discussion with residents. (DECIDE)
4. The project gave young people greater ___. (CONFIDENT)
5. The hall is now more ___ for wheelchair users. (ACCESS)

2. Complete each second sentence using the given word unchanged. Use TWO TO FIVE words.
1. It was not necessary for us to buy new chairs. HAVE. We ___ buy new chairs.
2. The storm caused them to cancel the event. BECAUSE. They cancelled the event ___ storm.
3. "Please send the form today," the organiser said to me. ASKED. The organiser ___ the form that day.
4. Although the room was small, everyone felt welcome. DESPITE. Everyone felt welcome ___ small.

3. Write two sentences explaining one benefit and one possible disadvantage of a community project. Use however or although accurately.

Use an extra sheet for longer writing if needed. Check the separate guide after your attempt.

B2 writing and collaborative decisions

FREE EXTENDED PRACTICE - STUDENT WORKSHEET

Write 140-190 words for the essay. The short discussion is additional speaking practice without photographs; it is not a complete speaking test.

1. Essay: Schools should give students more opportunities to help in their local communities. Do you agree? Discuss these points: 1 learning useful skills; 2 time for schoolwork; 3 your own idea. Give reasons for your opinion.

2. With a partner, compare three possible school projects: a reading club, a garden or a recycling campaign. Discuss the benefit and difficulty of each, then agree on one project. Invite your partner's view at least twice.

Use an extra sheet for longer writing if needed. Check the separate guide after your attempt.

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