

English B2. Reading Sample Tasks

Sequencing

Read the following text about James Cook and put events A to J into the order that they took place. There is AN EXTRA EVENT that you should NOT use. Write your answers in the spaces provided. An example (0) is given.

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK

Captain James Cook was a famous explorer of the 18th century. He was born on 27 October 1728 in Marton, Yorkshire. His father was a farm foreman. James went to Postgate School. When he was 17 Cook went to work in a shop in the village of Staithes on the coast of Yorkshire.

In 1746, when he was 18, Cook moved to Whitby where he joined ship owners John and Henry Walker as a merchant navy apprentice in the coal trade. (Their house in Grape Lane is now the Captain Cook Memorial Museum). When his 3-year apprenticeship ended, Cook began working on trading ships in the Baltic Sea. Then in 1755 Cook joined the navy. War broke out with France in 1756 and Cook spent most of his time on ships off the coast of North America. During the siege of Quebec in 1759 Cook mapped the mouth of the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

In 1760 Cook was appointed master of the Northumberland under the command of Captain Alexander. From 1760 to 1762 Cook carried out a number of surveys of the coast of Canada. He returned to England and was discharged on 11 November 1762. On 21 December 1762 Cook married a woman named Elizabeth Batts, the daughter of an inn keeper from Wapping. They had 6 children but only 3 survived to adulthood.

From 1763 to 1767 Cook was employed surveying Newfoundland during the summer, while he spent each winter in England. James Cook finally returned to England on 15 November 1767.

At that time the Royal Society planned to send a ship to Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus across the Sun. So in May 1768 Cook was put in charge of a ship called the Endeavour. It sailed from Plymouth on 25 August 1768. Cook arrived at Tahiti on 13 April 1769. The transit of the planet Venus occurred on 3 June. Cook then sailed to New Zealand and surveyed both islands. Cook then sailed to

explore the east coast of Australia, which he called New South Wales.
Cook returned to England on 12 June 1771.

Next Cook was put in charge of an expedition to try and find a great southern continent. He sailed in a ship called the Resolution on 13 July 1772. Cook did not find any great southern landmass but on 17 January 1773 he became the first person to cross the Antarctic Circle. Cook also discovered the South Sandwich Islands.

<http://www.localhistories.org/cook.html>

A	James Cook gave a name to a part of a country.
B	He was asked to examine the sky.
C	James Cook owned a ship.
D	He began as an assistant in commercial business.
E	He was asked to discover a new region.
F	His wedding took place.
G	James Cook spent his childhood in England.
H	He achieved a new record.
I	James Cook became a sailor.
J	For four years, he worked abroad for a season.

0.	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.	Q5.	Q6.	Q7.	Q8.
G								

Multiple-choice questions

Read the following text about mobile phone usage and decide which answer (a, b or c) is the most appropriate according to what you read. Write your answer in the space provided. An example (0) is given.

A bank in every pocket?

The idea that mobile phones bring economic benefits is now widely accepted. In places with bad roads, few trains and parlous land lines, they substitute for travel, allow price data to be distributed more quickly and easily, enable traders to reach wider markets and generally ease the business of doing business. Leonard Waverman of the London Business School has estimated that an extra ten mobile phones per 100 people in a typical developing country leads to an extra half a percentage point of growth in GDP¹ per person. To realise the economic benefits of mobile phones, governments in such countries need to do away with state monopolies, issue new licences to allow rival operators to enter the market and slash taxes on handsets. With few exceptions (hallo, Ethiopia), they have done so, and mobile phones are now spreading fast, even in the poorest parts of the world.

As mobile phones have spread, a new economic benefit is coming into view: using them for banking, and so improving access to financial services, not just telecoms networks. Pioneering m-banking² projects in the Philippines, Kenya and South Africa show the way. These "branchless" schemes typically allow customers to deposit and withdraw cash through a mobile operator's airtime-resale agents, and send money to other people via text messages that can be exchanged for cash by visiting an agent. Workers can then be paid by phone; taxi-drivers and delivery-drivers can accept payments without carrying cash around; money can be easily sent to friends and family. A popular use is to deposit money before making a long journey and then withdraw it at the other end, which is safer than carrying lots of cash.

There is no need to set up a national network of branches or cash machines. M-banking schemes can be combined with microfinance loans, extending access to credit and enabling users to establish a credit history. Some schemes issue customers with debit cards linked to their m-banking accounts. All this has the potential to give the "unbanked" masses access to financial services, and bring them into the formal economy.

What can governments do to foster m-banking? As with the spread of mobile phones themselves, a lot depends on putting the right regulations in place. They need to be tight enough to protect users and discourage money laundering, but open enough to allow new services to emerge. The existing banking model is both over- and under-protective, says Tim Lyman of the World Bank, because "it did not foresee the convergence of telecommunications and financial services."

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

Glossary

¹ **GDP**=gross domestic product: the total value of the goods and services that a country produces in a year

² **M-banking**=mobile banking

0. Most people

- a. *agree that mobile phone usage has a positive effect on the economy.*
- b. *feel that mobile phone usage helps control prices.*
- c. *agree that mobile phones are becoming more economical.*

Q1. Leonard Waverman says

- a. countries benefit equally from greater mobile phone ownership.
- b. that a higher ratio of phones per person helps countries be more competitive.
- c. that GDP¹ grows up with an increase in the number of mobile phones.

Q2. Mobile phones

- a. help people talk to their bank managers.
- b. help people in poorer countries to access money.
- c. are still not common in developing countries.

Q3. Using mobile phones for banking

- a. became popular in Kenya later than in many other developing countries.
- b. means that workers are more likely to be paid on time.
- c. makes it easier for people to catch taxis and get deliveries.

Q4. M-banking

- a. is ideal for first-time bank clients.
- b. has made illegal transactions more difficult.
- c. is a safer option for most people.

Q5. Banking regulations

- a. are currently too tight.
- b. need to help stop criminal activity.
- c. need to be more restrictive.

0	Q1.	Q2.	Q3.	Q4.	Q5.
a					

True/False Justification

Cal que l'examinand indiqui correctament si la frase és *True* o *False* i, a més, cal que ho justifiqui amb les quatre primeres paraules de la frase on es troba la resposta. La justificació també ha de ser la correcta perquè la resposta es consideri vàlida.

Read the following text about dogs and decide whether the statements are true or false. You must justify your answer by writing down the FIRST 4 WORDS OF THE SENTENCE where the answer is found. Write your answers in the spaces provided. An example (0) is given.

Man's best friend

Can dogs really show empathy towards humans?

Dogs quickly become part of the family. Tales abound of dogs celebrating joy in a household or commiserating when tragedy strikes. This may not seem surprising after 15,000 years of co-evolution. But what hard evidence is there of dogs' empathy with humans? A new experiment suggests that behind all the wagging tails there really is something deeper going on.

Past experiments have hinted that animals can feel sympathy. Rats and monkeys had been found to forgo food to avoid delivering electric shocks to relatives. Similarly, apes have recently been documented consoling one another after conflicts. However, all these experiments and observations were demonstrating an animal's sensitivity to distress in other members of the same species. Deborah Custance and Jennifer Mayer of Goldsmiths College, London, set out to see if dogs could detect the emotional state of humans.

To do this, Dr Custance and Ms Mayer conducted an experiment to study the response of dogs when a nearby human suddenly began to cry. The researchers knew that interpreting responses would be difficult, since dogs tend to whine, nuzzle, lick, lay their heads in laps and fetch toys for people in distress. Although such actions hint at a dog wishing to offer comfort, they could also be signs of curiosity, or suggest that a dog is simply distressed by seeing its master upset.

To work round this, the researchers presented 18 dogs of various breeds with four separate 20-second conditions. They included their owner crying, a stranger crying and both taking it in turns to hum "Mary had a little lamb". All four of these conditions were preceded by two minutes of mundane conversation between Ms Mayer, who filled the role of the stranger, and the dog's owner.

Dr Custance and Ms Mayer suspected that if exposure to crying led dogs to feel distress, then regardless of who was crying, the dog would go to their master to seek comfort. They also theorised that if curiosity, rather than empathy, was the driving force, then the humming would cause dogs to engage with people.

As they report in *Animal Cognition*, "person-oriented behaviour" did sometimes take place when either the stranger or the owner hummed, but it was more than twice as likely to occur if someone was crying. This indicated that dogs were differentiating between odd behaviour and crying. And of the 15 dogs in the experiment that showed person-oriented responses when the stranger

cried, all of them directed their attention towards the stranger rather than their owner.

These discoveries suggest that dogs do have the ability to express empathetic concern. But although the results are clear enough, Dr Custance argues that more work needs to be done to be sure that such behaviour is true empathy. It is possible, she points out, that the dogs were drawing on previous experiences in which they were rewarded for approaching distressed human companions. Dog-owners, however, are unlikely to need any more convincing.

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

	Statements	True	False	Justification
0	Scientists claim that movement of the tail has an important meaning.	X		A new experiment suggests
Q1.	Some animals ate a lot because of experiments.			
Q2.	Past research concentrated on behaviour within the same class of animals.			
Q3.	The experiment included two people talking.			
Q4.	The scientists thought dogs would go to the owner to show concern whenever they heard a person cry.			
Q5.	The results of the research seem to show that dogs are more sensitive to people in pain.			
Q6.	In the experiment, the animals almost always turned to the person known to them.			
Q7.	The experiment has definitely proven that dogs can feel real empathy towards humans.			