

## Preparing for the B1 Reading Test.

### Reading part 1. ( 3 option multiple choice )

In this part you will be given 5 short texts. They could be:

- Signs – warnings and requests
- Messages – requesting, apologizing etc.
- Postcards – describing a situation, informing
- Emails – apologising, suggesting, recommending
- labels – warning, giving advice.

Here is an example:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>NO BICYCLES</b>   | a. Do not leave your bicycle touching the window. |
| <b>AGAINST GLASS</b> | b. Broken glass may damage your bicycle tyres.    |
| <b>PLEASE.</b>       | c. Your bicycle may not be safe here.             |

The correct answer is **A.** (touching the window = against glass.)

### Reading part 2. ( matching )

In this part , you are given 5 items describing people and you have to match these to 8 short descriptions. This means that you will have 3 extra short descriptions that you won't need. When choosing your answer, check that the texts match on all points

Here is a typical question and 2 possible answers. You need to match the person to the description of the website that they will need.

***Rosie is 20 and studies Spanish and German. She is planning to spend 6 months at a German university. Before going, she wants to find out what life is like there for people of her age.***

#### **H. OSKAR'S MAGAZINE**

*This amusing and colourful magazine is designed for university students of German. There are interesting articles by young German writers on a range of subjects, from where to find cheap accommodation in Berlin to reviews of music concerts and student exchange experiences.*

#### **D. SPEAK UP**

*This small but complete site aims to help language learners with the pronunciation of all the main sounds in German, with additional advice on spelling. This will be of use to students trying to teach themselves the language, teachers preparing for classes or for parents looking for ways to encourage their children to develop basic language skills.*

Both options mention German. However, Rosie says she wants to find out about life there. Text D only speaks about the German language. Whereas text H talks about what life is like in Berlin and what you can do there. Therefore text H is the correct answer.

### Part 3 ( true or false )

You will be given a long text with 10 true / false statements for you to decide on. The first thing to do here is to underline the key words from each sentence and find them in the text. When you find the information, make sure you number where you found it in the text.

Eg: 11. It is essential to book a place before you join a London walk .

### Part 4 ( 4 option multiple choice )

In part 4 you will be given a long text with multiple choice questions. Generally the text will be about someone's attitude or opinion, and what their purpose is. You may have to read for **specific information** or to get the **general idea** of what they are saying.

Here is a typical question from this part:

21. What is the writer doing in this text?
- A. giving information for visitors to the rainforest.
  - B. describing how animals in the rainforest communicate.
  - C. reporting an interview with a television presenter.
  - D. giving advice about travel health.

To answer this question we need to get the general idea from the text. A good tip is to use the process of elimination. This is where you mark off the answers that you are sure are not correct. It makes it easier to choose ( or even guess ) the correct answer.

### Part 5. ( 4 option multiple choice cloze )

In this part of the test you have to fill in gaps in a text. You are given four options for each gap. You are tested on both grammar and vocabulary. It is very important to read what comes before and after each gap.

Here is an example of part of task 5.

#### Postcards.

*Many people receive postcard of places their friends and family ( 0 ) ..... visited . They (26 ) ..... became popular in the 1890s.*

#### example:

0 A have B had C were D are

26 A once B first C just D already

0 A is correct.

26 B is correct.

## Preparing for the B1 Writing test.

### Writing part 1. ( sentence transformations )

It is extremely important that you revise the grammar from the B1 course to do part 1 well. Generally, the topics of the sentences will always be the same. You will have to transform the sentences so that each one has the same meaning as the original. Remember, you cannot use more than three words.

Here are two example sentences:

1. **They said their old house was quite near London**  
They said their house wasn't very ..... London.
2. **This house is larger than their old house.**  
Their old house wasn't as ..... this house.

Answers:

1. They said their old house wasn't very **far from** London. ( the second sentence is using a negative so we need to use the opposite of near = far.
2. Their old house wasn't as **large as** this house. ( both sentences are comparing the houses, but the second is negative so we need to use ...as adjective as.

### Writing part 2 ( a short message )

In this part of the test you will have to write a short message of about 35 – 45 words. For this you will be tested on your use of functional language. You will also nearly always have to use informal language.

### Writing part 3 ( a letter / story )

For the final part you will be asked to write either an informal letter or a story. Choose only one of these. You will have to write around 100 words.

Your letter will be more effective if you divide it into paragraphs.

For example:

Paragraph 1 – Starting your letter and commenting on something

Paragraph 2 – Moving the topic on

Paragraph 3 – Ending your letter

To write a story you will need to use a variety of time clauses to help take the story from start to finish. You will especially need to use tenses that express things that happened in the past.