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Changing lives through learning

Open Awards Level 1 Functional Skills in English

Reading Component

Sample Assessment 1 (Cat Cafes)

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About this Sample Assessment

This sample assessment is designed to help learners and providers become familiar with the format, question types and level of demand of Open Awards Functional Skills assessments.

Using the sample assessment

- The on-screen and paper-based versions contain the same questions. They are alternative formats of the same sample assessment, not separate assessments.
- Learners taking their live assessment on-screen should use the on-screen sample to familiarise themselves with the assessment platform and its functionality.
- Sample assessments support preparation but may not reflect the full range of content, contexts and question types that could appear in a live assessment. Performance in a sample assessment should not be used on its own to determine readiness for live assessment.

Indicative pass mark

Open Awards Level 1 Functional Skills English Reading assessments are designed to enable a minimally competent learner to achieve a pass mark of around **18 out of 30 marks**.

This is an indicative pass mark only.

Actual pass marks are determined through standardisation and awarding activities and may vary between assessment versions.

Achieving the indicative pass mark in a sample assessment does not guarantee a pass in the live assessment.

Online Sample Assessment 1 (Cat Cafes)

Access the Level 1 Functional Skills English Reading sample assessment on the XAMS platform by selecting the link below.

Access Online Sample Assessment 1 (Cat Cafes).

When prompted, enter your name to begin the assessment. Once completed, you can download a copy of your answers, which can be marked using the mark scheme provided in this booklet.

Paper-based Sample Assessment 1 (Cat Cafe)

LEVEL 1 FUNCTIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH: READING

READING RESOURCES

This source booklet contains three texts for the Level 1 Functional Skills Qualification in English Reading exam.

The exam questions are based on this material.

You must hand in this source booklet at the end of the exam, along with your question and answer paper.

The Level 1 Functional Skills Qualification in English: Reading exam will assess your ability to:

- identify and understand the main points, ideas and details in text
- Compare information, ideas and opinions in different texts
- identify meanings in texts and distinguish between fact and opinion
- recognise that language and other textual features can be varied to suit different audiences and purposes
- use reference materials and appropriate strategies for a range of purposes, including to find the meaning of words
- understand organisational and structural features and use them to locate relevant information
- infer from images meanings not explicit in the accompanying text
- recognise vocabulary typically associated with specific types.

Text 1

FLUFFY Cat Café



Welcome to FLUFFY, the best cat café in the UK!



FLUFFY offers you the 'purrfect' escape from the bustle of the city. This café serves food and drinks in the company of purring fluffballs waiting to be stroked and cuddled.

A crazy idea?

Not at all! It started in Taiwan in 1998, then spread to Japan and has now reached the UK. So why not give FLUFFY a try!

Our aim?

To make people feel better. Cats are very soothing for those who spend their days looking at a computer screen. It also gives cat lovers who can't have pets where they live a chance to spend time with cats.

Our rules?



- Don't pick up the cats.
- Don't pull their tails or whiskers.
- Don't disturb sleeping cats.
- Don't scare or chase the cats.



FLUFFY's opening times?

- Tuesday to Thursday: 11am – 8pm
- Friday and Saturday: 11am – 10pm
- Sunday: 11am – 6pm
- Monday: closed

Fluffy Cat Café
8 Winns Avenue
Lowbridge
LW8 2YZ

Tel: 01234 873224

E-mail: info@fluffy.coz

Text 2

THE VET WEEKLY GAZETTE

Are cat cafés suitable homes for cats?

By Catherine Smith



Around 3 million cats need re-homing every year. In cat cafés, cats find a permanent home and are able to interact, and show off their personalities.

However, despite their popularity, some animal welfare societies have criticised cat cafés. They say that cat cafés are unsuitable for cats because

- they have to live in confined spaces
- they find being stroked by lots of different people stressful
- they are solitary animals. Living in one room with a group of unrelated cats can lead to aggression and disease.

A number of cat cafés have been forced to close down due to poor hygiene standards or because they ill-treated their animals.

Since cat cafés are so popular, instead of criticising them we should aim to make them better.

The government should introduce legislation to regulate cat cafés. The government should also encourage all pet owners to neuter their cats to stop unwanted breeding and reduce the number of cats ending up in rescue centres and cat cafés.

Text 3

The Cat Café Forum

Home | Discussions | About | Contact



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The online discussion forum about cat cafés

Email your views to us: yourviews@thecatcafeforum.coz

Heavenly!

We had a really good time at the Fluffy Café. The cats were friendly and fun. The staff were really helpful. The food was tasty and fresh. A lovely place to go and relax and be with these cats!

Farhat

Delightful!

Whiskers Café is a must! The cats are cute, the interior is lovely and the staff friendly. The value for money is fantastic, £8 for one hour! I got to stroke and play with the cats. The coffee was delicious and the chocolate cake yummy!

Julian

Over-priced!

The Little Kitty Café is a quirky place with nice staff, but £20 just to walk through the door is ridiculous! The food is awful. The cats aren't even friendly, they're completely wild. One even scratched my little boy.

Martin

Go elsewhere!

The Mog Café is a waste of time and money! I love cats but I was disappointed, really, really disappointed. The cats were stressed because of undisciplined children chasing and grabbing them with no one stopping them. Staff looked miserable and were really unwelcoming. Food was good but very overpriced. Don't go there!

Helen

LEVEL 1 FUNCTIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH: READING

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT 1 – CAT CAFES

QUESTION AND ANSWER PAPER

Total marks available: **30**
Time limit: **1 HOUR**

You need:

- this question and answer paper
- the source booklet containing three texts
- a pen with black or blue ink

You can use a dictionary.

Do not open this paper until you are told to do so by the invigilator.
There are THREE texts in this assessment.

Instructions

1. Please sign and date below to confirm that your details are correct and that you have understood the instructions
2. Read each text and question carefully
3. The number of marks available for each question is shown in brackets. Use these marks to guide you on how long to spend on each question
4. Answer **all** questions using the space provided on this question paper
5. If you have time, check your work at the end
6. If you use extra paper, write on it your name, learner number and the question number you are answering, and securely attach it to this answer booklet
7. At the end of the test, hand this question paper and all notes to the invigilator

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Learner name:	Joe Bloggs
Learner number:	10000000
Centre number:	10000
Signature:	
Today's date:	

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These questions relate to Text 1 (12 marks)

Question 1 (2 marks)

Is the idea of a cat café new? How do you know?

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Question 2 (3 marks)

Identify **one** layout feature that makes the text easier for the reader to understand. Use this feature to find **two** pieces of information about cat cafés.

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Question 3 (2 marks)

Identify **two** phrases used in Text 1 to persuade people to come to the café.

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Question 4 (1 mark)

Why does the writer use the unusual spelling of ‘purrfect’ in the first paragraph?

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Question 5 (2 marks)

Identify **two** benefits of cat cafés for people who go there.

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Question 6

(2 marks)

What do the **two** images,  and , mean as used in Text 1?



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These questions relate to Text 2 (11 marks)

Question 7 (2 marks)

Identify one fact and one opinion from Text 2.

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Question 8 (2 marks)

Why are some animal welfare societies against cat cafés?

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Question 9 (2 marks)

Give **two** reasons why some cat cafés have been closed down.

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Question 10

(2 marks)

According to Text 2, what should the government do?

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Question 11

Explain the meaning of the following words, as used in Text 2

- ‘re-homing’ in paragraph 1 (1 mark)

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- ‘unrelated’ in paragraph 2 (1 mark)

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- ‘breeding’ in paragraph 5 (1 mark)

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These questions relate to Text 3 (7 marks)

Question 12 (2 marks)

Compare what Farhat and Martin thought of the food at the cat cafés they visited.

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Question 13 (1 mark)

What punctuation do the contributors to the forum use to emphasise how they feel about cat cafés?

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Question 14 (3 marks)

Identify **three** ways Helen uses language to show her dissatisfaction with the café she went to.

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Question 15 (1 mark)

What does Helen mean when she says that the children were ‘undisciplined’?

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[End of Assessment]

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LEVEL 1 FUNCTIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH: READING

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT 1 – CAT CAFES

MARK SCHEME

Question	Response	Marks	Scope of Study Reference
Text 1 1	Is the idea of a cat café new? How do you know? Candidate has • understood that the idea of a cat café is not new • indicated 'no' Candidate has given an explanation e.g. • they started in 1998 / a long time ago (in Taiwan) • they spread to Japan first then to the UK Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	 1 1 **(max 1)** 1 1 **(max 1)**	11a
2	Identify one layout feature that makes the text easier for the reader to understand. Use this feature to find two pieces of information about cat cafés. Candidate has identified a valid feature e.g. • bullet points/bullet-pointed list • bold type • images/photos • heading • sub-headings • under lining Candidate has used the feature they identified to find information about cat cafes e.g. • rules to follow (bullet points) • do not pick up the cats (bullet points) • do not pull on their tails or whiskers (bullet points) • do not disturb a sleeping cat (bullet points) • do not scare or chase the cats (bullet points) • rules to follow (images) • do not feed the cats (images) • do not take photographs (images)	 1 1 1 1 1 1 **(max 1)** 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	14

	• that it is advisable to book in advance (bold type) • rules to follow (bold type) • background to cat cafes (bold type) • that cats like the Cat Café (images) • that the advert is about Fluffy (heading) • that Fluffy is a cat café (heading) • that this is a really good café (heading) • what the mission of this cat café is (sub-headings) • what the opening times are (sub-headings) • what the rules are (sub-headings) • the background to cat cafés (sub-headings) • that the café emphasises that it is the best cat café in the UK (underlining) • that it is best to book in advance (underlining) Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 **(max 2)**	
3	Identify **two** phrases used in Text 1 to persuade people to come to the café. Candidate has identified phrases associated with persuasion e.g. • the best cat café in the UK • why not give Fluffy a try • to make people feel better • cats are very soothing Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	1 1 1 1 **(max 2)**	16
4	Why does the writer use the unusual spelling of ‘purrfect’ in the first paragraph? Candidate has used an appropriate strategy to explain the spelling of the word e.g. • It is the combination of the word purr, the noise made by a happy cat, and the word perfect • the writer wanted to make a pun on the sound cats make (purr) and the fact that the café is really good (perfect). Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	1 1 **(max 1)**	13
5	Identify **two** benefits of cat cafés for people who go there.		9

	Candidate has identified and understood details in the text e.g. • cat cafés make them feel better • they are very soothing for those who work in front of computer screens • they enable people who can't keep cats to spend time with them. NB Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	1 1 1 **(max 2)**	
6	What do the **two** images  and  mean, as used in Text 1? Candidate has inferred meaning from images correctly ie • Do not feed (the cats) • Do not use (flash) photography / do not take photographs.	1 1 **(max 2)**	15
Text 2 7	Identify **one** fact and **one** opinion from Text 2. Candidate has identified a fact eg • around three million cats need re-homing • a number of cat cafés have been closed down • in cat cafés, cats find a permanent home. Candidate has identified an opinion eg • cat cafés are unsuitable for cats • we should aim at making them [cat cafés] better • cats show off their personalities (in cat cafés). Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	1 1 1 **(max 1)** 1 1 1 **(max 1)**	11b
8	Why are some animal welfare societies against cat cafés? Candidate has identified why some animal welfare societies are against cat cafés eg • they think they are unsuitable for cats • cats are made to live in conditions which are not natural for them	1 1	11a

	• they are stressful for cats/they are stroked and handled by different people/they can become aggressive • they are dangerous for cats/can lead to disease • cats can be treated badly/not looked after. Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	1 1 1 **(max 2)**	
9	Give **two** reasons why some cat cafés have been closed down. Candidate has identified that cat cafés have been closed down because of • poor hygiene • ill-treatment	 1 1 **(max 2)**	9
10	According to Text 2, what should the government do? Candidate has identified and understood that the government should • introduce legislation • regulate the cat cafés • encourage pet owners to neuter their cats.	 1 1 1 **(max 2)**	9
11	Explain the meaning of the following words, as used in Text 2: • 're-homing' in paragraph 1 • 'unrelated' in paragraph 2 • 'breeding' in paragraph 5. The candidate has understood a range of specialist words in context ie that • re-homing means finding another/a new home • unrelated means not from the same family • breeding means having kittens/reproducing. Accept any other valid responses based on information from the text.	 1 1 1 **(max 3)**	17
Text 3 12	Compare what Farhat and Martin thought of the food at the cat cafés they visited.		10

	Candidate has briefly described what Farhat and / or Martin thought of the food but has not compared them. Candidate has described and compared what Farhat and Martin thought of the food. <u>Indicative content</u> Candidate has compared information and opinions. Candidate might include consideration of Farhat thought the food at Fluffy café was tasty and fresh whereas Martin thought the food at Little Kitty Café was awful.	1 2 **(max 2)**	
13	What punctuation do the contributors to the forum use to emphasise how they feel about cat cafés? Candidate has used knowledge of how punctuation is used to aid understanding by identifying that exclamation marks were used for emphasis.	1 **(max 1)**	18
14	Identify **three** ways Helen uses language to show her dissatisfaction with the café she went to. Candidate has identified ways Helen uses language to suit purpose of expressing dissatisfaction eg • negative statements/words (“is a waste of time and money”/ “miserable” / unwelcoming”…) • repetition (“was disappointed, really, really disappointed”…) • addresses reader directly / uses direct address / uses imperative (“Go elsewhere” / “Don’t go there”) • exaggeration / emphatic words (“terribly” / “really” / “considerably”...) Accept description of language used or examples of it. Accept any other valid ways identified.	1 1 1 1 **(max 3)**	12
15	What does Helen mean when she says that the children were ‘undisciplined’? Candidate has used an appropriate strategy to explain the meaning of the word i.e. they had no self-control / they did not obey the rules / they behaved badly / they were naughty / they were not disciplined / they were not well behaved.	1 **(max 1)**	13

	Accept any other valid meanings based on information from the text.		

LEVEL 1 FUNCTIONAL SKILLS QUALIFICATION IN ENGLISH: READING

SAMPLE ASSESSMENT 1 – CAT CAFES

SETTING MATRIX

Learning aims and outcomes	Ref	Scope of Study	Question numbers – marks available	Assessment weighting
Read a range of different text types confidently and fluently.	9	Identify and understand the main points, ideas and details in texts.	Q5 (2); Q9 (2); Q10(2)	2 marks
	10	Compare information, ideas and opinions in different texts.	Q12 (2)	4 marks
	11a	Identify meanings in texts.	Q1 (2) Q8 (2)	3 marks
	11b	Distinguish between fact and opinion.	Q7 (2)	2 marks
	12	Recognise how language and other textual features have been varied to suit audience and purpose.	Q14 (3)	3 marks
	13	(Use reference materials and) appropriate strategies for a range of purposes, including to find the meaning of words.	Q4 (1) Q16 (1)	4 marks
	14	Understand organisational and structural features and use them to locate relevant information (in a range of straightforward texts).	Q2 (3)	4 marks
	15	Infer meanings from images (not explicit in accompanying text).	Q6 (2)	4 marks
	16	Recognise vocabulary typically associated with specific types and purposes of texts.	Q3 (2)	
	17	Read and understand a range of specialist words in context.	Q11 (3)	4 marks
	18	Use knowledge of punctuation to aid understanding of straightforward texts.	Q13 (1)	
	TOTAL MARKS		30	30 marks