

Overview of the Cambridge Assessment English A2 Key for Schools Reading and Writing Paper – Teacher’s Notes

Description

To familiarise students with the content of the A2 Key for Schools Reading and Writing paper

Time required: 45 minutes

Materials required:

- Sample Reading and Writing paper (one per student)
- Student handout (one per student)
- Candidate answer sheets (one copy for each small group of students)

Aims:

- to familiarise students with A2 Key for Schools Reading and Writing Paper

Procedure

1. Before the class, prepare one copy of the sample paper from the handbook for each student. You can download this from the Cambridge English website.
<https://keyandpreliminary.cambridgeenglish.org/resources.htm#free-resources>

2. Write the following words on the board. Check students understand their meaning and ask which they think will be tested in A2 Key for Schools.

Reading skills Writing skills Spelling Grammar Functional English Vocabulary

3. Explain to your students that the A2 Key Reading and Writing paper tests all of these areas, and that they are now going to look at a sample paper to find out more about the test. Explain that they don’t need to do the tasks, they just need to look at them and answer the questions about them.

Timing: 5 mins

4. Give your students the **sample paper** and the **Student handout**. Ask your students to work in pairs and complete section 1 of the handout.

Timing: 7 mins

5. Go over the answers as a class. Then refer to the words on the board again. Ask them: **Which part tests reading skills?** Go through all the areas like this.

Answers

Reading skills – Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 and Part 4

Writing skills – Part 6 and Part 7

Spelling – Part 5, Part 6 and Part 7

Grammar – Part 5, Part 6 and Part 7

Functional Language – Part 1 and Part 5

Vocabulary – Part 4 and Part 5

(Students may have alternative answers to the above and these may be correct – for example knowledge of vocabulary and grammar is important for all parts even if it is not being directly tested.)

Timing: 5 mins

6. Ask students to work in pairs again and complete section 2 of the handout. Go over the answers with the whole class.

Timing: 7 mins

7. Divide the class into three groups: A, B and C. Students don't need to move, they just need to know which letter they are. Explain that they are going to look at the topics that they may find on the paper. Ask them to work individually to do section 3 of the handout. (Explain that they can choose more than one topic for each part.)

Timing: 5 mins

8. Ask students to stand up and to make new groups of three. Each group should include an A, a B and a C. They should share their answers from section 3 with one another.

Timing: 5 mins

9. Go over the answers. Explain that all the topics on the test will all be familiar to them and within their everyday experience.

Timing: 3 mins

10. Answer any questions students may have about the A2 Key for Schools Reading and Writing paper.

Timing: 5 mins

Answer key

Section 1

1. 7
2. 32
3. 1 hour
4.
 - a. Part 1
 - b. Part 1
 - c. Part 1, Part 5
 - d. Part 2, Part 3, Part 4
 - e. Part 1
 - f. Part 4
 - g. Part 4

Section 2

1.
 - a. Part 4
 - b. Part 7
 - c. Part 2
 - d. Part 5
 - e. Part 6
 - f. Part 1
 - g. Part 3

Section 3

Student A

Part 1: Shopping; School and study; Entertainment and media; Hobbies and leisure; Sport

Part 2: School and study; Entertainment and media; The natural world; Personal feelings, opinions and experiences.

Student B

Part 3: School and study; Personal feelings, opinions and experiences.

Part 4: Services; Personal feelings, opinions and experiences.

Student C

Part 5: School and Study; Entertainment and media; Weather; Languages

Part 6: Hobbies and leisure; Clothes

Part 7: Sport; Food and drink; The natural world

Student handout

Section 1

1. How many parts are there in the A2 Key for Schools Paper 1 Reading and Writing paper?
2. How many questions are there?
3. How much time do you have to do the paper?
4. In which part (or parts) do you read:
 - a. some signs and notices?
 - b. packaging information?
 - c. an email?
 - d. an article from a newspaper, magazine or website?
 - e. text message?
 - f. simplified encyclopedias?
 - g. leaflets and brochures?

Section 2

1. In which part do you have to:
 - a. choose the best item of vocabulary to complete a sentence?
 - b. write a story?
 - c. match a question to one of the texts?
 - d. write the best grammar word to complete a text?
 - e. write an email?
 - f. choose the sentence that matches the meaning of the text?
 - g. choose a sentence that answers the question?

Section 3

Topics you can find in A2 Key for Schools Paper 1 Reading and Writing

Clothes	Sport
Daily life	The natural world
Entertainment and media	Transport
Food and drink	Travel and holidays
Health, medicine and exercise	Weather
House and home	
Languages	
People	
Personal identification	
Personal feelings, opinions and experiences	
Places and buildings	
School and study	
Shopping	
Services	
Social interaction	

Student A

Look at Parts 1 and 2 of the sample paper. Match them to the topics from the list.

Student B

Look at Parts 3 and 4 of the sample paper. Match them to the topics from the list.

Student C

Look at Parts 5, 6 and 7 of the sample paper. Match them to the topics from the list.