

A2 Key for Schools Paper 1 Reading and Writing Part 7 – Teacher's Notes

Description

This is a guided discovery activity to find out what candidates need to do in A2 Key for Schools Paper 1 Reading and Writing Part 7. Students look at two sample answers and discuss what makes a good answer at this level. Finally, there is an opportunity for students to write their own story within a set time.

Time required: 35 minutes

Materials required:

- Student handouts 1, 2 and 3
- Sample task
- Follow-up activity: handout 4 (optional)

Aims:

- to familiarise students with A2 Key for Schools Paper 1 Reading and Writing Part 7
- to raise awareness of the importance of identifying and addressing all elements of a writing task
- to raise awareness of the factors which make a good answer at A2 Key level

Procedure

1. Explain to your students that they are going to do a short piece of writing. Point out that this is Part 7 in the A2 Key for Schools Paper 1 Reading and Writing exam. Give each student a copy of **Handout 1**. Write the following questions on the board and ask students to answer them:
 - **What are they writing?** (a story)
 - **How many parts are there in the story?** (3)
 - **How many words should they write?** (35 or more)
 - **What tense should the words be in?** (past simple and past continuous)
2. Tell your students that they are going to focus on practising the past simple before they write their stories. Students will play a game of Pelmanism in groups of 2 or 3. Copy and cut up **Handout 2** for each pair or group. The students should divide the words into the base form and the past simple. They turn the cards face down and move them around so they do not know which card is which. Student A turns over a card from the base form group and asks Student B 'Can you find the past simple of ... (the base form)?', Student B has to turn a card over from the past simple group. If it is the correct word, they keep the card, if it is wrong, they turn both cards back over. Student B now turns over a base form card for Student C and asks

them to find the past simple of the new base form card. The winner is the student who finds the most pairs of cards.

3. After students have finished the game, ask them to sort out the verbs into regular and irregular verbs. Elicit from students the spelling rule of 'ed' endings on the regular verbs.
4. Give students **Handout 3** with two sample answers. Point out that these were written by candidates and therefore are an indication of the level of grammatical accuracy required in the exam.
5. Tell students to decide which the better answer is. Write on the board the following questions which will help them decide:
 - **Are all three pictures mentioned in their story?**
 - **Is it easy to understand what the writer means?**
 - **Is it written in the past simple/continuous tense?**
 - **Are there any good words or phrases?**
 - **Are any linking words used?**
6. Put students into pairs and ask them to compare their answers. Using the **answer key** below, go through the reasons why B is a better answer than A. Refer to the General Mark Scheme in the A2 Key for Schools Handbook for Teachers for further information.
7. Draw students' attention to the length of the answers. In Part 7, candidates are advised to write between 35 and 45 words. They should write at least 35 words or they could lose marks as they may have not included all the relevant information. They will not lose marks if they write over 35 words, but they should be encouraged not to write many more as this will increase the risk of making errors and including irrelevant information.
8. Give out the **sample task** and tell students that they are going to complete an example writing test. Set a time limit of 10 minutes, breaking it down into 3 minutes for the draft and then 7 minutes to write the full story. Tell them when writing the draft, they do not write in full sentences, they can write just key words related to the three pictures. The draft is to make sure that they cover all the three pictures in their email. Tell students when the 3 minutes is up so that they all have 7 minutes to write the story.
9. Elicit from students how many words they must write and remind them that their handwriting must be clear. It does not matter if their writing is joined up or not.

Suggested follow-up activity

Ask students to draw three pictures and give them to their partner to write a story about them.

Answer key**Procedure step 3**

Regular verbs: play, look

Irregular verbs: go, swim, see, wake, eat

Procedure step 4

Sample Answer A – 9 marks (Content 3, Organisation 3, Language 3)

Sample Answer B – 15 marks (Content 5, Organisation 5, Language 5)

- **Are all three pictures mentioned in their story?**
Sample answer A: no, the first picture is not mentioned in the story
Sample answer B: yes, all the pictures were included
- **Is it easy to understand what the writer means?**
Sample answer A: the story is easy to follow, except for 'parents was sawing their kids'
Sample answer B: yes, the reader can easily understand the whole story
- **Is it written in the past simple and past continuous tense?**
Sample answer A: yes, some verbs are in the past simple, an attempt has been made at the past continuous
Sample answer B: yes, all the verbs are in the past simple
- **Are there any good words or phrases?**
Sample answer A: yes, some good lexis: picnic, lake, swim, ate food, drank drinks
Sample answer B: yes, some good food lexis: bag, fruit, orange juice, lake, floor. Vocabulary is generally used appropriately and the small grammar mistakes create no difficulty for the reader.
- **Are any linking words used?**
Sample answer A: yes, basic linkers 'and' and 'then'
Sample answer B: yes, simple linkers which connect the pictures well: 'First', 'then', 'when', 'and'

Handout 1

Question 32

Look at the three pictures.
Write the story shown in the pictures.
Write **35 words or more**.



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Handout 2

Copy and cut up one sheet of verbs per pair or group.

go	went
get	got
have	had
see	saw
wake	woke
eat	ate
look	looked

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Handout 3

Compare the two answers below. One is a better answer than the other. Which is better? Why?

A

Four people went to a picnic and they sit by a lake. They ate food and drank drinks. Two of people are kids. Kids going to swim so Parents was sawing their kids. Then they went to home.

B

Last Saturday I went to a picnic with my friends. First, we put the fruits, sandwich and orange juice in my bag, then we went. When we arrived at the camping, we ate on the floor. then Tom and Lucy went to the lake and Michel and me saw them

Sample task

Question 32

Look at the three pictures.
Write the story shown in the pictures.
Write **35 words** or more.



First you should **plan your story**, writing only **3–5 words** for each picture. Then use your ideas to write the **full story**.

Plan

Write your full story here. Remember to write 35 words.

Handout 4

1. Draw three pictures to create a story

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2. Pass your worksheet to your partner so they can now write your story.
3. First you should write a plan, **writing only 3–5 words** for each picture. Then use your ideas to write the **full story**.

Plan

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Write your full story here. Remember to write 35 words.
