

Lower Secondary
World English

**REVISION
GUIDE**

FOR THE SECONDARY 1 TEST

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Chapter 1

Reading for global meaning

Reading for the main points

Notes, notices and messages often have headings to help you understand the main points of the text quickly. Use the points below to work out what a note, notice or message is telling you.

- Read the headings first. What is the text about?
- Then look for names. Who is the message or notice for?
- Then look for key words that name events, actions, places and times.

Try this

Notice

Tennis court rules

Trainers to be worn at all times on the tennis court.

Read each notice and answer the questions.

1 a Who should read this notice?

.....

b To which sport does this notice apply?

.....

c Explain the notice in your own words. Start like this:
Players must...

.....

.....

Car park notice

Do not leave valuables in your car.

2 a Who should read this notice?

.....

b What does 'valuables' mean on this notice? Give an example:

.....

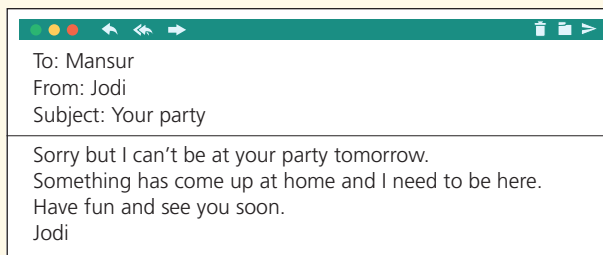
.....

c Explain the notice in your own words. Start like this:
People must not...

.....

.....





3 a Who wrote this email?

.....

b What is the main idea in the email?

.....

c What reason does the writer give for the decision?

.....

.....

Practise

Look at the messages and notices. What is the main idea in each? Choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

Notice

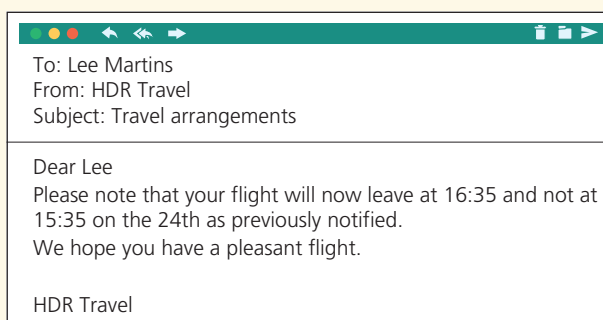
Cross-country entries

Entries for the cross-country race need to be submitted by Monday no later than 14.00. Complete online or download a form from the school website and hand in to the sports coach.

- 1 A The Sports coach will provide entry forms for the cross-country race by Monday.
B The cross-country race on Monday will begin at 14:00.
C Students who want to enter the cross-country race must complete their entries by Monday.

Lift out of order
Please use the stairs.

- 2 A People should use the lift and not the stairs.
B The lift is not working so people should use the stairs instead.
C People should leave the stairs next to the lift in good order.



- 3 A The date and time of Lee's flight has changed.
B The time of Lee's flight has changed but the date remains the same.
C Lee should be at the airport by 15:35.

Practise

Match the advertisements with the businesses.

- A Electronics shop
- B Supermarket
- C Stationery shop

- D Shoe shop
- E Guest house/hotel
- F Restaurant

1

Discounts of up to **70%**
on selected ladies and men's
winter boots. Many styles
to choose from.
Pop into Heidi's today.

2

Get out of the city for a
weekend. Nestled in the
mountains, this peaceful
spot has hiking and bike
trails. Special rates for this
weekend only. **Don't miss out!**

4

We are hiring. We need two
part-time helpers for our popular
family eatery on Saturdays and
Sundays. Phone Moira on
062 678904 as soon as possible
if you are interested.

5

*All Christmas stock less than **50%**.
Stock up now for next year.
You won't be sorry.
Decorations, gift wrap, gift bags,
pens, cards and more.*

3

This week only. **Free
headphones with
each new phone
purchased.**
Hurry. Stocks are
limited, so first come
first served. Online only.

6

**Weekly special. Buy 2 litres
of fresh milk and get a
third absolutely
free.** First come
first served.

Reading for meaning

When reading a longer text, you need to approach this differently to reading a short note, notice or message. Begin by skim reading the text to prepare yourself for reading. Once you have done so, ask yourself the following questions:

- What is this text about?
- Where does it happen?
- Who is it about?
- What type of book is this? Will it be serious, scary or funny?

The title of a book, a chapter or an extract from a book gives you the best clue to this last point. Look at the cover, read the blurb (text) on the back cover of the book and look at any illustrations. Then read the first paragraph of the extract or story.

Try this

- 1 Skim the extract below quickly and then answer these questions with short answers.

- a What is it about?

.....

.....

- b Where does it happen?

.....

.....

- c Who or what is it about?

.....

.....

- d Will the story be serious, funny or scary?

.....

.....

HINT

Larry, Leslie and Margo are the author's brothers and sister. Lugaretza works in their home. Roger is the name of the dog.

A matchbox full of scorpions

I really wanted to study scorpions more closely, but my family had told me that I couldn't bring any of them inside the house. Then one day I found a fat female scorpion in the wall. At first I thought she was wearing a kind of pale brown coat, but when I looked closer I saw that she had lots of babies riding on her back. I fell in love with this scorpion family at once and decided to take them back home and up to my bedroom where I could keep them and watch them grow bigger.

With great care I put mother and babies into a matchbox and then hurried into the villa. When I entered the house, lunch was ready, so I left my matchbox on the table in the front room and ate with the rest of the family.



GLOSSARY

Scorpion: a small animal with 8 legs. The front legs are large pincers and it has a tail that stings its prey. The sting is poisonous.



After the meal I stayed in my chair. I gave Roger something to eat under the table, and listened to the family arguing. I forgot all about my exciting new discovery. Larry finished his meal and went to the front room to get his cigarettes. He came back, sat down in his chair, put a cigarette in his mouth and then opened the matchbox that he had brought with him.

Now I am sure that the female scorpion didn't want to hurt anyone. She was worried and angry at being shut up in a matchbox, and she jumped at the first chance of escape. She ran out of the box and up Larry's hand with her babies on her back and then stopped, her tail dangerously high in the air, unsure of what to do next. Larry felt her running over his skin and looked down, and from that moment everything went crazy.

He gave a cry of fear, Lugaretza dropped a plate on the floor, and Roger came out from under the table barking wildly. Then Larry threw the scorpion on the table. She landed between Margo and Leslie, and her babies fell off all over the place. Then she ran towards Leslie. Leslie jumped up from his chair and knocked her away with a napkin. Now she ran towards Margo who screamed like a railway engine. Mother, who couldn't understand why everyone was shouting and jumping up and down, put on her glasses and looked at the table to see what was making them act so strangely.

At that moment Margo decided to throw a glass of water at the scorpion but missed the animals and threw water over Mother by mistake. Mother sat down in surprise and couldn't say anything for some time, and the scorpion hid under Leslie's plate while her babies ran all over the table.

Source: *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell, adapted by Bill Bowler

- 2 Read the extract carefully. As you read, try to imagine the scene. Then answer the questions below to confirm your understanding of the main ideas.
 - a What was in the matchbox that the author brought into the house?
.....
 - b What happened when Larry wanted to light a cigarette?
.....
 - c How did Lugaretza react? (What did she do?)
.....
 - d Who screamed very loudly?
.....
 - e Why did Mother sit down in surprise?
.....
- 3 Imagine that you are one of the characters in the scene. Act the way the character reacted. You can also act the scene with a group of friends.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

We read all sorts of things for enjoyment – some people prefer fiction, such as cartoons, stories and comics, some enjoy poetry, while others choose to read non-fiction.

Chapter 2

Reading with confidence and enjoyment

Reading for enjoyment

In the Checkpoint test you will be given texts (fiction and non-fiction) to read and answer questions on. Reading and analysing a wide range of material will help you to improve your skills and prepare you for the test.

LET'S TALK

What do you read for enjoyment? Read the speech bubbles below. Then discuss with a partner what you like to read for enjoyment.

I love science fiction.

Detective and romantic stories are always interesting.

I prefer stories about real people – biographies and autobiographies.

Non-fiction is the best! It's real.

I enjoy cartoons, comic books and graphic novels.

HINT

You need to know the main characters: the athlete Usain Bolt and the comic characters Superman and The Flash. Look up the names on the internet if you are not sure.

Try this

Look at the cartoon and answer the questions.



1 Answer Yes or No.

a Did the cartoon make you laugh?

.....

b Did you understand it?

.....

c Did it make you think?

.....

d Did it make you puzzled?

.....

2 Can you explain the main idea of the cartoon? You can discuss this with a friend too.

.....

.....

Try this

Read the poem and answer the questions. You can discuss this with a friend too.

Prayer to laughter

By John Agard

O Laughter
giver of relaxed mouths

you who rule our belly with tickles
you who come when not called
you who can embarrass us at times

send us stitches in our sides
shake us till the water reaches our eyes
buckle our knees till we cannot stand

we whose faces are grim and shattered
we whose hearts are no longer hearty
O Laughter we beg you

crack us up
crack us up

Source: *Laughter is an Egg* by John Agard

GLOSSARY

Stitches in our sides:
cramps in your side
(when you laugh a lot)

Hearty: happy and
healthy

Crack us up: make us
laugh

1 a Did you enjoy the poem?

.....

b What does the poet say? Circle the correct answer.

A Laughter is good for us.

B We laugh too much.

C Laughing makes us less hearty.

c Do you agree or disagree with the poet?

.....

d Read lines 3–8 again in which the poet describes how we act when we laugh. Then act these lines or describe them to a friend in your own words.

2 Do you have a favourite poem? Copy it (or part of it) here and read it to your friends or family.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Practise

- 1 Look at the photograph of the baobab tree. Write a sentence to describe what it looks like.



- 2 Read the text and circle the correct words to complete the text. Then read it aloud to a family member or partner.

HINT

Reading the text aloud will help you to check if you have chosen the correct words and understand the general meaning of the text. If sentences sound wrong or don't make sense, try another word.

Baobab trees

Some people say that when the world began, each of the animals (on / in / by / out) Earth was asked to plant a tree. All the animals (planting / planted / plants / have planted) their trees properly, but the hyena planted (his / their / him / they) tree upside down. Others say that the tree was pulled up out of the ground and thrown into a hot, dry part of the world. The tree landed upside down and (grow / growing / grows / grew) like that afterwards. This is the tree we call the baobab tree, so you can understand (where / why / who / what) some people call it 'the upside-down tree'.

The baobab grows in Madagascar, Africa and Australia and was introduced into Asia as well. The tree has (the / a / some / any) very thick trunk (and / but / so / because) the branches of this tree look like roots. The tree produces large flowers which open at night. The flowers turn into large fruits (by / with / in / from) big seeds. Baobabs are deciduous, which means that they shed their leaves during the dry season.

The fruit and bark of the tree are used in beauty products and medicines. The fruit is rich in vitamins and minerals. The baobab is sometimes called 'the tree of life' because it is so useful.

Chapter 3

Reading for detail

Reading for specific information and detail

When you understand the main ideas of a text, you can begin to scan the text to look for details.

- Look out for key words (facts, numbers, names) in questions and in the text you are reading.
- Use a dictionary to look up words that you do not understand.
- Read and reread sentences to make sure you understand them.

Practise

- 1 Prepare to read the text below. Skim the title and headings to get a general idea of what it is about. Then read the text carefully and circle the key words. Key words have been circled in the first paragraph as an example.

Emperor penguins

The Antarctic is the southern polar area on Earth. In winter it is a very cold place. The temperature can drop to below -50°C and the winds can blow up to 300 kilometres per hour. Amazingly, there are animals that live in these harsh conditions. The Emperor penguin is one such animal.

Adapted to their environment

Like other birds, Emperor penguins have feathers to protect them from the weather. Emperors have several layers of feathers, like scales, that are not easily lifted in the wind. They have claws on their feet to grip the ice and there are special fats in their feet which stop their feet from freezing. They have layers of fat on their bodies and short bills and wings (called flippers) which help to conserve their body heat. These adaptations help Emperor penguins to survive the extreme temperatures.

Penguins also help each other to keep warm in winter by huddling together in groups. The penguins on the outside of the group shield the penguins in the middle of the group. When the penguins on the outside get too cold, they move to the inside of the group and other penguins move to the outside of the group.

Penguin chicks

Each pair of penguins produces one egg only each year. The egg is kept warm under the abdomen of one of the penguins until the chick hatches. When the chick hatches it has to be kept warm until it is stronger and the temperature is warmer. The parents take turns to keep the chick warm under their abdomens. As soon as the chick is old enough, they will teach it to swim, dive and find its own food.



2 Circle the key words and answer the questions.

a What is the weather in the Antarctic like?

.....

b Name two ways in which the bodies of penguins are adapted to live in the Antarctic.

.....

c Explain why Emperor penguins huddle together in groups.

.....

d How do parent Emperor penguins protect their chicks from the cold?

.....

e Do you think Emperor penguins can fly? Give a reason for your answer.

.....



Penguin chicks keep warm under their parent's abdomen

HINT

- Scan the text and circle key words that you think will give you the answer.
- Read the sentences in which you circled key words.
- Write your answer.

Try this

1 Prepare to read the text below. Skim the title and headings to get a general idea of what it is about. Write notes or a sentence about it.

.....

.....

.....

Tamara Talks

Like many of you, I dream of visiting certain places, so I have a bucket list of places I want to visit at some stage in my life. I have never been to Africa or to Central America but there are two countries so far on my list – Costa Rica in Central America and Namibia in Africa. Let me tell you why.

Namibia

I love wild animals and there are plenty of those in Namibia. Namibia is on the west coast of Africa between Angola and South Africa. Up in the north of the country there is an area called the Etosha National Park. Animals like zebras, elephants, antelopes and giraffes gather there in huge numbers.

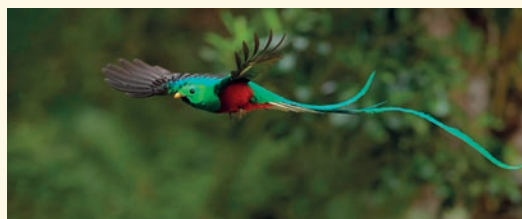


A large part of Namibia is desert and it's those stark beautiful sand dunes in the Sossusvlei area down in the south of the country that attract me. The orange desert landscapes dotted with ancient dead trees are stunning. It looks so quiet and peaceful too. I want to find out how people and animals live and survive in places like this. I understand that sustainable eco-tourism is a key focus in Namibia and that's important to me.

Costa Rica

Have you ever seen a quetzal bird? There are lots of them in Costa Rica. This Central American country is well-known for its beaches, volcanoes and biodiversity. There are large, protected rainforest areas which are teeming with wildlife, including spider monkeys and quetzal birds.

If you visit Costa Rica, you will not only be able to enjoy the wildlife but you can also get actively involved in wildlife conservation. The entrance fees that you pay to visit parks and reserves are all used to fund conservation projects. You can also have a 'working holiday' and volunteer to help with certain projects. You can volunteer to help feed and look after rescued animals in animal sanctuaries or help look after endangered sea turtles, for example. What a wonderful way to spend a holiday!



Quetzal bird

- 2 Read the questions below and circle key words in the questions. Then read the text carefully and circle key words in the text that will help you to answer the questions.

a On which continent is Namibia?

.....

b What would Tamara like to see in the Sossusvlei area of Namibia?

.....

c In which country would you be able to see a quetzal bird?

.....

d Name two other attractions in this country.

.....

.....

e Explain in your own words what type of tourism Tamara enjoys, based on what you have read in this blog.

.....

.....

Practise

- 1 The people below all enjoy reading. Read about each person (A–F). Then read the book reviews that follow and decide which book (1–6) each person may enjoy the most.

A

Like most people in Norway, I love cross-country skiing. Some people say that Norwegians are born on skis. Skiing is part of life here. But so is football. Everyone I know, including my family and friends, play football. My aunt was quite a star when she was younger, and she still plays. We don't all play very well, but we love playing and watching football on TV.

Jenna, Norway

Name of book:

B

I'm not really interested in sport and I am not much of a reader either. I prefer gaming to be honest. But I do enjoy short stories sometimes. Short stories usually only have a few characters and an interesting plot too. Reading them is like working out how to play a game, and I enjoy that challenge.

Bilal, Mumbai

Name of book:

C

Although I enjoy science fiction books as much as anyone else, my real interest is in the lives of animals and plants on Earth and how we can live in harmony with them. Human activities are causing climate change, and this has serious consequences for all living creatures.

Pedro, Brazil

Name of book:

D

I like to lose myself in an imaginary world when I read and sometimes that means a dystopian world. I know these stories aren't real, but I enjoy reading how the characters cope with the problems that they face. They are so brave!

Mei, Shanghai

Name of book:



**Lower Secondary
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**REVISION
GUIDE**

Achieve maximum potential using step-by-step guidance that helps to practise skills learned and improve exam technique.

- Build confidence with practical study tips and effective revision strategies.
- Reinforce understanding with clear explanations of every topic covered in the Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoint curriculum framework with a focus on Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening and Use of English.
- Strengthen and test language and vocabulary skills with a range of questions and examples.

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