

# Interpreting information and ideas

Read this short extract from ‘Occupations Accessible to Women’, then answer Questions 1 and 2.

Some hard study would, in some cases, be needed to supply the inaccuracy of the general style of a woman’s knowledge as a very thorough grounding in elementary subjects is needful. Very few, even the most highly-educated of women, can work a sum in fractions or proportion with rapidity, much less explain every step of the process so clearly as to bring it within the comprehension of a class; and how few who write good English from habit can teach the rules of grammar correctly.

The school selected should be taught by a very good certificated master or mistress, where an assistant should be likely to learn the system of school drill and discipline, and also how practically to manage children en masse, according to the latest approved Government rules.

**Guided**

1 Look at the words and phrases that have been underlined in the extract above and explain their meaning in your own words. The first two have been done for you.

- (a) ‘thorough grounding’ *Good experience of, or background in*
- (b) ‘with rapidity’ *With speed, or quickly*
- (c) ‘comprehension of a class’ .....
- (d) ‘certificated’ .....
- (e) ‘school drill’ .....

Try reading the text before and after the word or phrase you need to explain. This may help you to infer the meaning.

2 Answer this exam-style question:

**Component**  
**2**

A3. (a) What does the writer mean by ‘manage children en masse’? **(1 mark)**

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3 Now read this short extract, also from ‘Occupations Accessible to Women’, then answer the exam-style question that follows.

THE great difficulty of the educational question in the present day, and the obstacle to complete success in the earnest efforts made, is the difficulty, almost impossibility, of finding sufficiently-qualified teachers. The demand created by the Education Acts is estimated at over 25,000 of both sexes – the women, however, being in the majority.

**Component**  
**2**

A3. (a) What does the writer mean by ‘earnest efforts made’? **(1 mark)**

(b) What does the writer feel is the main educational problem of the time? **(2 marks)**

(a) .....

(b) .....

.....

Always look at how many marks are available for a question or question part. The question parts above are each worth only 1 or 2 marks, so keep your answers very brief.

# Openings: transactional/ persuasive

Read the exam-style question below. **You don't need to answer this question now.** Instead, think about what it is asking you to do, then answer Questions 1 and 2.

Component

2

**B2.** A national newspaper has published an article suggesting that sending people to prison does not prevent serious crime.

You have decided to write an article for the same newspaper to share your views on the subject. You could write in favour of or against the views given in the original article.

**Write an article for the newspaper giving your views.**

**(20 marks)**

Guided

**1** The first sentences of your writing must grab the reader's attention and make them want to read on. Try writing the opening sentence of your response to Question B2 in lots of different ways.

Using a rhetorical question: .....

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Making a bold or controversial statement: .....

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With a relevant quotation: .....

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With a shocking or surprising fact or statistic: .....

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With a short, relevant, **interesting** anecdote: My frail, elderly grandmother never recovered from a mugging. It happened in her own road, in broad daylight, in front of several dozen witnesses.

**2** Choose one or two of your ideas from Question 1 and write the rest of your introduction to Question B2 above. Remember your introduction needs to introduce:

- the topic you are writing about
- your argument.

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Don't tell the reader what you are going to be writing in your article:

In this article I am going to argue that ...



Just write it!

# Putting it into practice

Read the exam-style question below. **You don't need to answer this question.** Instead, think about what you are being asked to do, then answer Question 1.

Component

2

**B1.** Your local community magazine has introduced a 'What's On' section and has invited readers to contribute.

**Write a review for the magazine about an event you have attended in your local area.**

You could write about:

- a film, concert or activity day
- what made the event particularly memorable and why other people might enjoy it. **(20 marks)**

When you plan for this type of question in the exam, remember to:

- read the question carefully and identify the topic
- identify the form, audience and purpose before you start
- spend 5 minutes planning your answer
- note down the features and techniques you will use to support the form, audience and purpose
- organise and sequence your ideas
- plan your introduction and conclusion.

**1** Use the space below to plan your answer to Question B1 above.

# Putting it into practice

Read the full extract from ‘OK, you try teaching 13-year-olds’ on page 103.

1 Write three P-E-E paragraphs of an answer to the exam-style question below.

When you tackle this kind of question in the exam, remember to:

- spend about 12 minutes on your answer
- identify the main focus of the question
- read the text carefully and annotate it with your ideas
- only use the lines of the extract referred to in the question
- comment on how the writer uses language and structure and what the effects are on the reader.

**Component**

**2**

**A2.** Michele Hanson is trying to show us how difficult it is to be a teacher.

How does she try to do this?

**(10 marks)**

You should write about:

- what she says to influence readers
- her use of language and tone
- the way she presents her argument.

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**Remember:** You are only being asked to write part of an answer on this page. In the exam, where you will write a full answer, you will have more space for your answer.