# A2 Key · Reading Parts 1–3: messages and short texts

A2 Key strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

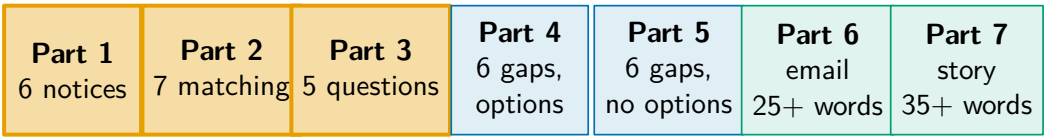
# The street, not the library

Parts 1–3 are the **street**, not the library: signs, notes and messages — read them like a shop window.

- Part 1: six notices. Part 2: three short texts, seven questions — which text says it? Part 3: one longer text, five questions.
- The **official handbook** owns the format; these notes teach the **strategy**.

# The A2 Key Reading and Writing paper

Reading and Writing: one paper, 60 minutes




Parts 6 and 7: writing

# The trap shape

## The word-match trap

"Mum: Sam found your football in our garden. He's keeping it at his house for you."

A) Sam has lost your football. B) Sam is looking after your football. C) Your football is in our garden.

# Your turn: spot the trap

## Your turn

"Library closes at 5 today, not 6." — The library today…

A. opens at 5

B. closes earlier than usual

C. is closed all day

# Which text says it?

1. **Skim the three texts first** One line each: who is A, who is B, who is C — and what does each one say?
2. **The question is the target, not the topic** Who says the class was too expensive? — all three may mention the class; only one mentions the price.
3. **Match the detail, not the topic** Trap texts share the question's words. Read to the end of the sentence.

## Decision

Each question is a **photograph**; only one text is the place it was taken.

# Your turn: the shared word

## Your turn

Mia: "I watched a film at home — match tickets were too expensive." Leo: "We went to the football match." Zoe: "I watched the match on TV." — Who went to the match?

A. Mia
B. Leo
C. Zoe
D. All three

# The order is a map

## Five questions, in order

Question 2's answer comes after question 1's answer in the text.

Find the part, read two lines before and after, then choose.

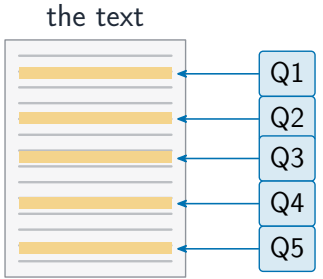
# Your turn: the feeling words

## Your turn

"I couldn't believe my eyes when the letter arrived." — the writer felt...

A. bored
B. amazed
C. disappointed
D. sleepy

# Questions follow the text




answers come in order: the answer to Q3 lies between Q2's and Q4's

> Read and answer as you go

# The answer sheet is the exam

## Three habits that save marks

Read for meaning in chunks, not word by word — 60 minutes is tight.

Answer on the answer sheet as you go; there is no transfer time.

Never leave blanks: a guess beats a gap.

# Try it

1. **The note** "Tom — the library closes at 5 today, not 6. Bring my book back before then, or I can't renew it. — Ana"
2. **Question 1** Ana wants Tom to return the book before 5. — B. Before then means before five.
3. **Question 2** The library today closes earlier than usual. — B. At 5, not 6.

## Decision

A in question 1 is the word-match trap: it repeats 5 but reverses the meaning.

# Check yourself

- An option copies the text's exact words — be **suspicious**.
- Part 2: two texts share the question's words — match the detail, not the topic.
- Part 3 answers follow the text order — the order is a **map**.
- No negative marking — a guess beats a gap.