Exercise walk-through

14.1
Reading: essays, reports and criticism

English B2

ENGLISH B2 • EXERCISE SHEET

14.1 Reading: essays, reports and reviews

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 25 marks**

KEY WORDS genre • stance • finding • recommendation • dismissive

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Objective

Read **reports** , opinion **essays** and **reviews** critically: recognise the genre and its purpose, follow the argument through its **topic sentences** , and evaluate how well the writer supports each claim.

You must be able to:

- recognise the purpose and features of different genres
- follow an argument through topic sentences
- identify the writer's stance from word choice
- evaluate the support for a claim

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- compare two texts on the same topic

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Key knowledge

genre	purpose	features
report	to inform and recommend	headings, neutral tone, data, findings, recommendations
opinion essay	to argue a view	thesis, topic sentences, reasons, counter-argument, conclusion
review	to evaluate	description, strengths, weaknesses, a judgement

stance markers	example
strong positive	remarkable, undoubtedly, a clear success
strong negative	alarming, a serious failure, deeply flawed
cautious	appears to, may, to some extent, arguably

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Source A: an extract from a report

Findings. In the survey of 640 students, 58% said they used the new study centre at least once a week. The most common reasons were quiet space (71% of users) and access to computers (45%). Students who did not use the centre mainly said that its opening hours (until 6 p.m.) were too short.

Recommendation. The college should consider extending opening hours to 9 p.m. on weekdays for a trial period of one term.

Source B: an extract from an opinion essay

The new study centre is undoubtedly the best investment the college has made in years. Walk past it at any time and you will see it full of hard-working students. Anyone who complains about the opening hours should simply plan their time better. Rather than spending more money, the college should be proud of what it has achieved.

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Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Identify the genre of (a) Source A; (b) Source B. [2]

2.2 Use Source A. (a) What percentage of students used the centre weekly? (b) About how many students is that? (c) What is the main complaint of non-users? [3]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Identify the genre of (a) Source A; (b) Source B. [2]

2.1

(a) a report; (b) an opinion essay / opinion piece

2.2 Use Source A. (a) What percentage of students used the centre weekly? (b) About how many students is that? (c) What is the main complaint of non-users? [3]

2.2

(a) 58%; (b) $0.58 \times 640 \approx 371$; (c) the opening hours are too short (until 6 p.m.)

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Use Sources A and B to complete the comparison table. [4]

	Source A	Source B
tone		
type of evidence		

2.4 Use Sources A and B. (a) Quote two words or phrases in Source B that show the writer's stance. (b) Evaluate the claim "Walk past it at any time and you will see it full of hard-working students". (c) Explain how Source A's data challenges the last two sentences of Source B. [6]

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Use Sources A and B to complete the comparison table. [4]

	Source A	Source B
tone		
type of evidence		

2.3

tone: A neutral, B strongly positive / dismissive; evidence: A survey data, B personal observation, no data

2.4 Use Sources A and B. (a) Quote two words or phrases in Source B that show the writer's stance. (b) Evaluate the claim "Walk past it at any time and you will see it full of hard-working students". (c) Explain how Source A's data challenges the last two sentences of Source B. [6]

2.4

(a) any two: "undoubtedly", "the best investment", "simply", "should be proud"; (b) personal observation, not data; it ignores the 42% who do not use it weekly / it cannot show "any time"; (c) A shows non-users mainly blame short hours, so the issue is a real barrier, not poor planning; A recommends a trial extension

Exercise 3.1 (a)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(a) “Appears to” signals a stance that is

- **A** certain
- **B** cautious
- **C** angry
- **D** humorous

Exercise 3.1 (a)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(a) “Appears to” signals a stance that is

- **A** certain
- **B** cautious
- **C** angry
- **D** humorous

(a) B

Exercise 3.1 (b)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(b) A report usually ends with

- **A** a joke
- **B** recommendations
- **C** a story
- **D** a list of opinions only

Exercise 3.1 (b)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(b) A report usually ends with

- **A** a joke
- **B** recommendations
- **C** a story
- **D** a list of opinions only

(b) B

Exercise 3.1 (c)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(c) “Anyone who complains ... should simply plan their time better” is

- **A** a finding
- **B** a dismissive opinion
- **C** a statistic
- **D** a recommendation based on data

Exercise 3.1 (c)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(c) “Anyone who complains ... should simply plan their time better” is

- **A** a finding
- **B** a dismissive opinion
- **C** a statistic
- **D** a recommendation based on data

(c) B

Exercise 3.1 (d)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(d) The best way to follow an essay's argument quickly is to read

- **A** the last word of each paragraph
- **B** the topic sentences
- **C** only the title
- **D** the references

[4]

Exercise 3.1 (d)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(d) The best way to follow an essay's argument quickly is to read

- **A** the last word of each paragraph
- **B** the topic sentences
- **C** only the title
- **D** the references

[4]

(d) B

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write a balanced response (120 to 150 words) to Source B for the college magazine. Acknowledge what is true in it, use the data in Source A to challenge its weaker claims, and support or reject the recommendation in Source A with a reason. [6]

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write a balanced response (120 to 150 words) to Source B for the college magazine. Acknowledge what is true in it, use the data in Source A to challenge its weaker claims, and support or reject the recommendation in Source A with a reason. [6]

3.2

One mark for each correct letter; a written answer earns marks for each clear, relevant point, as listed. acknowledges a valid point; uses Source A data accurately; challenges a weak claim; a clear position on the recommendation with a reason; balanced, formal tone