

Exercise walk-through

1.2

Understanding connections between ideas

IGCSE English

Close reading needs textual evidence



A photograph illustrates reading. It supplies no evidence about what the writer of our next text means.

Inference: beyond explicit words, within evidence

Inference is a supported conclusion beyond what is directly stated. A writer **implies** meaning through details and relationships.

Use the text to support a conclusion; do not invent an event or motive. The strongest possible claim is not always the best supported one.

Lin's report: original inference attempt

“Lin claimed she had finished the report. When her partner asked to see it, she closed her laptop and changed the subject.”

What does the passage suggest about the finished report? Identify the evidence.

Does it establish a broken laptop, a deliberate lie, or a desk covered in unfinished work?

Lin's report: cautious worked inference

The passage raises doubt about whether the report is finished. Her response to a request to see it supports that inference.

It does not prove a broken laptop, a deliberate lie or anything about her desk. Those details were not supplied.

“Claimed” alone is not a universal signal of dishonesty; interpret it with the following behaviour.

Attitude and word choice

The writer's **attitude** is their view or feeling. **Word choice** and the surrounding explanation provide evidence.

In a **multiple-choice** question, check all options. A distractor can repeat source words while changing the speaker, time, certainty or degree of approval.

Answer in the printed form: 2025 Exercise 4 asks for a tick in a box; matching tasks use letters.

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 What does “both changes” refer to?

[2]

2.2 Give the reason the council offers for the shops closing.

[1]

2.3 The writer uses the word “however” twice. Explain what each one is contrasting. [2]

Exercises 2.1·2.3

2.1 What does “both changes” refer to?

[2]

2.1

- “both changes” refers to two things named just before
- the **rents doubling** and **customer numbers falling**

2.2 Give the reason the council offers for the shops closing.

[1]

2.2

- the council’s reason, not the owners’
- shoppers chose the **new shopping centre** (shorter walk and free parking)

2.3 The writer uses the word “however” twice. Explain what each one is contrasting. [2]

2.3

- the first “however” contrasts the **council’s explanation** with the **shop owners’**
- the second contrasts empty units with the **Saturday market**

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 What does “It” refer to in the phrase “It has run for four months”?

[1]

3.1 Which word best describes the relationship between the two sentences below?

The market does not yet pay for itself. The shopkeepers want it to continue.

☐

A cause

B example

C contrast

D addition

Exercises 2.4·3.1

2.4 What does “It” refer to in the phrase “It has run for four months”?

[1]

2.4

- “It has run for four months” – what has run?
- the **Saturday market** – not the group of residents

3.1 Which word best describes the relationship between the two sentences below?

The market does not yet pay for itself. The shopkeepers want it to continue.

☐

A cause

B example

C contrast

D addition

3.1 C

- the two facts **pull in opposite directions**: it loses money, yet they want it to continue

Exercises 3.2-3.3

3.2 Explain how the writer's attitude to the Saturday market differs from the council's attitude to Meadow Street. Use evidence from the text. [3]

3.3 Rewrite this sentence so that the connection between the two ideas is stated with a linking word: "The rents doubled. The shops closed." [1]

Exercises 3.2-3.3

3.2 Explain how the writer's attitude to the Saturday market differs from the council's attitude to Meadow Street. Use evidence from the text. [3]

3.2

- the council is **defensive** and shifts responsibility
 - the writer treats the market as promising: "one sign of change" and the rise in Saturday takings
 - the contrast is between **explaining a decline** and **reporting a recovery**
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3.3 Rewrite this sentence so that the connection between the two ideas is stated with a linking word: "The rents doubled. The shops closed." [1]

3.3

- join the two ideas with a linking word
- e.g. "The rents doubled, **so** the shops closed" / "**Because** the rents doubled, the shops closed"