

1.1 Reading for specific information

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 9 marks**

KEY WORDS scan • reading for specific information

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **reading for specific information**
– finding the exact detail a question asks for, and writing it down in a form that earns the mark.

You must be able to:

- read the question first and decide exactly what kind of information is wanted
- scan a text for that information without reading every word
- copy or adapt the words from the text so that the answer is precise and complete

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

■ What “specific information” means

- The question names **one** thing: a time, a price, a name, a reason, a number.
- The answer is almost always **in the text**. You are not being asked for an opinion.
- **Answer the question that was asked**. If it asks *when*, give a time. If it asks *why*, your answer must contain a reason.

■ The method that works under time pressure

1. Read the question and **underline the key word** – *when, how much, which two, why*.
2. Decide what the answer will look like: a time? a place? a reason?
3. **Scan** the text for that shape of information. Do not read from the beginning.
4. Copy the words that answer it. Keep them short.

■ Common traps

- **Two marks means two pieces of information**. Check the mark in the bracket before moving on.
- A text often gives a *nearly* right answer earlier and the real one later. Read to the end of the relevant sentence.
- If the question says “**give two**”, write two separate points, not one long sentence.

2 Practice

Read the text, then answer the questions.

Riverside Community Pool

The pool is open every day from 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m., except on Mondays, when it closes at 2.00 p.m. for cleaning. Adult entry costs \$4.50, and children under sixteen pay \$2.00. Students with a valid student card pay the child price at any time.

Swimming lessons for beginners take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7.00 p.m. and must be booked at least three days in advance. There are no lessons during the school holidays, because the pool is used for the regional competition.

Lockers are free, but you must bring your own padlock. The café on the first floor serves hot food until 8.00 p.m.

2.1 On which day does the pool close early? [1]

2.2 How much does a sixteen-year-old student with a student card pay? [1]

2.3 Give **two** things you must do before attending a beginners’ swimming lesson. [2]

2.4 Why are there no lessons during the school holidays? [1]

2.5 What must you bring in order to use a locker? [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A question asks: “At what time does the café stop serving hot food?” Which answer would earn the mark?

☐

- A In the evening.
- B On the first floor.
- C At 8.00 p.m.
- D Before the pool closes.

3.2 A student answers question 2.2 with: "Children pay \$2.00." Explain why this answer would **not** earn the mark. [2]

3.3 Write a question about this text whose answer is "three days". [1]

Solutions

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

- scan for the day the pool closes early
- **Monday**

2.2

- a sixteen-year-old with a student card pays the **child price**
- **\$2.00** – accept "the child price"

2.3

- any **two** requirements
- **book at least three days in advance**
- **attend on Tuesday or Thursday at 7.00 p.m.**

2.4

- the question asks **why**, so the answer must give a reason
- because the pool is used for the **regional competition**

2.5

- lockers are free, but you must bring
- **your own padlock**

3.1 C

- the question asks for a **time**, so only a time can earn the mark
- A and D are true but not specific; B answers a different question

3.2

- the question asked about a **sixteen-year-old** student
- children **under sixteen** pay \$2.00; this student pays the child price because of the **student card**, not age

3.3

- any question whose answer is that number
- e.g. **"How far in advance must a beginners' lesson be booked?"**