Reading Skills

IGCSE English ▪ Topic 1

IGCSE English



Reading: locate, interpret and check



The mini texts here are **short rehearsals**, not full past-paper practice. This course is **English as a Second Language 0510**, not First Language 0500.

The current reading tasks

Exercise 1	Short answers: first five questions need one answer each; the last needs three details. 8 marks.
Exercise 2	Multiple matching across texts or sections: nine questions. 9 marks.
Exercise 3	Complete brief notes under headings. 7 marks.
Exercise 4	Six multiple-choice questions about meaning, details or attitudes. 6 marks.

These reading types appear in both the 2024–2026 and 2027–2029 syllabuses. Summary writing below is a study skill; the exam summary task was removed from 2024.

1 Reading for specific information

Choose the method for the purpose

Skim 略读 for the **gist** 大意

- Goal: the **main topic**
- Read the title, opening and topic sentences
- You do not need every word

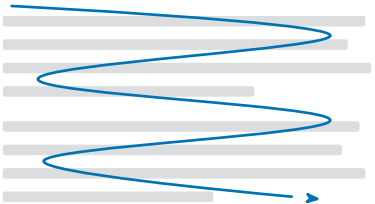
Scan 扫读 for a detail

- Goal: one **particular detail**
- Search for an identifier, or the same idea in other words
- Then read the whole sentence closely

A **paragraph** 段落 may hold several nearby facts: finding a possible answer **starts** the checking.

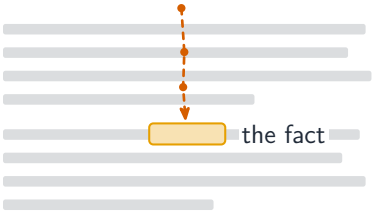
Overview and targeted search

Skim - read fast for the gist



overview, not every word:
"what is this text about?"

Scan - jump to one fact



eyes hop down the page and
check the surrounding sentence

These paths are schematic. After locating a possible answer, read its context; do not treat the drawing as a fixed eye movement rule.

Departure board: set a search purpose



A flight identifier helps distinguish similar destinations. The next fictional table provides all the data for our practice.

Fictional departures: original attempt

Flight	Destination	Time	Gate
AB201	Hanoi	09:15	6
AB218	Hanoi	10:05	9
AB305	Seoul	09:40	4

Which gate serves AB218? Which listed flight departs earliest?

Explain why finding “Hanoi” alone does not answer the first question.

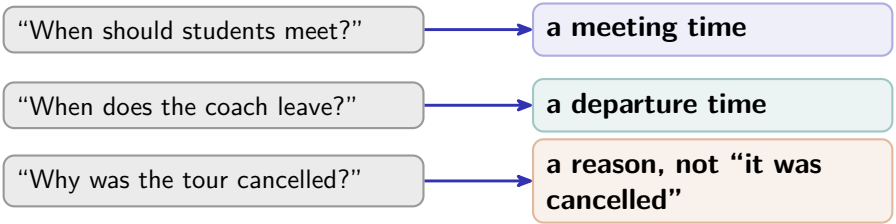
Departures: worked check

AB218 gate	9. Match the exact flight code, then follow the same row to the gate column.
Earliest listed flight	AB201 at 09:15. Compare times, not row position alone.
Why destination is insufficient	Two rows say Hanoi. Destination alone does not identify AB218.

These answers use only the fictional table; they are not readings from the photograph.

Predict the information type

Predict 预测 the **kind** of information the question needs, not an unsupported answer.



A meeting time and a departure time **may be different**.

Museum visit: original short-answer attempt

Notice

The science club will visit the Greenwater Museum on Friday 14 May. Meet at the school gate at 8:20; the coach leaves at 8:30. Admission costs £6, but members pay £4. Return is planned for 16:00. Bring a notebook, a pencil and a packed lunch. The outdoor boat tour has been cancelled because the river is flooded. The indoor workshop will still take place. Book with Ms Chen by Tuesday 11 May.

Your turn

1. What is the **meeting** time?
2. What does a **club member** pay?
3. **Why** is the boat tour cancelled?
4. Give the **three** things students should bring.

Museum visit: worked answers

Meeting time	8:20. 8:30 is departure, not meeting.
Member admission	£4. £6 is the standard price.
Cancellation reason	The river is flooded. “The boat tour is cancelled” does not give the reason.
Three items	A notebook; a pencil; a packed lunch. Three distinct items are needed.

Brief answers must retain meaning

- Exercise 1 asks for a word or short **phrase** 短语
- Copying a suitable phrase can help; changed wording is not automatically wrong
- No extra alternatives: check **who, what, when, how many**

✗ “far”

✓ “travels **furthest**”

✗ “everywhere”

✓ “on **flat roads**”

keep the qualifier that answers the question

2025 paper: verified answer decisions

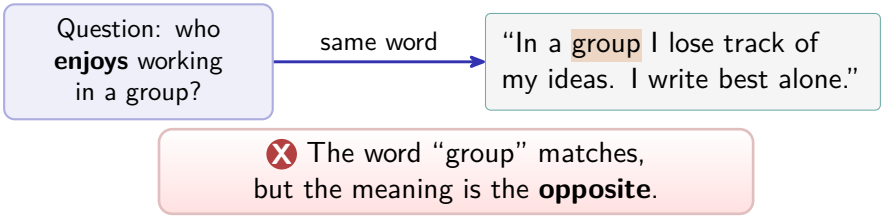
Q3: word meaning	The scheme rejects “adopt” for “adapt”: the meaning changes.
Q4: the record	The superlative idea “travels furthest” is needed; appropriate alternative verbs are accepted.
Q6: three protective features	Select three distinct supported details across the article. Repeating one feature does not make three.

These are specific findings from 0510/12 May/June 2025 and its scheme, not a universal rule requiring exact copying.

2 Connecting ideas across a text

Match meaning, including negation

Paraphrase 改写 different words for the same meaning: in **multiple matching 多项匹配**, compare the **whole idea** with each text.



The same letter **may be used again** unless the task says otherwise.

Songwriters: original matching attempt

A Mei

I write best alone. In a group I lose track of my ideas. A walk often gives me a melody; I add the words afterwards.

B Omar

Other people improve my ideas, so I prefer writing with friends. I start with words and create a tune later. Every Sunday I set aside an hour to write.

C Rosa

I begin with words, then add music on my own. Once a song is finished, I prefer to keep its original form rather than make new versions.

Which writer (A, B or C)...

(1) creates better work **with others**? (2) has a **regular routine**? (3) avoids **changing** completed songs? (4) develops **music before words**?

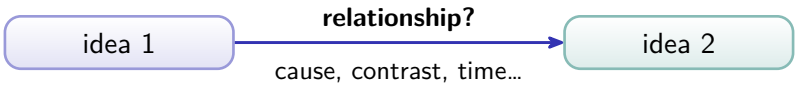
Matching: worked evidence

1: B	“Other people improve my ideas” matches better work with others.
2: B	Every Sunday gives a regular writing routine.
3: C	Keeping the original form matches avoiding new versions.
4: A	Mei begins with a melody and adds words afterwards.

Repeated B is intentional. Mei mentions a group but rejects it; the surrounding meaning decides. The actual 2025 Q7 also reuses answer letters.

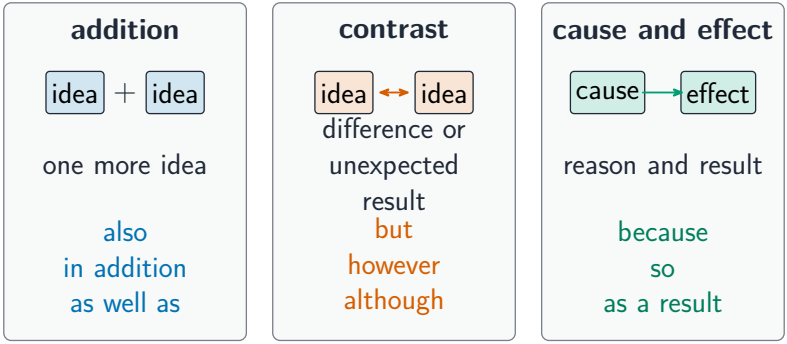
Connections are relationships, not passwords

- **Signal words** 信号词 can show **addition** 递进, **contrast** 对比, **cause and effect** 因果; time words show sequence
- Identify **both** linked ideas and the relationship between them



A reason need not sit beside “because”; a contrast does not automatically reveal anger or the writer’s final view.

Three common signal-word families



The diagram names common relationships. Use the whole sentence to decide what the writer actually connects.

Connections: original interpretation attempt

Club newsletter

The club bought more cameras **because** membership grew. **However**, beginners still had to share them. **After** the workshop, we reviewed the photos.

Your turn

1. What **reason** is stated for buying cameras?
2. What does “however” **contrast**?
3. Does “after” by itself prove that the workshop **caused** the review?
4. Does “however” prove that the writer is **angry**?

Connections: worked interpretation

Cause	Membership growth is the stated reason for buying cameras.
Contrast	More cameras were bought, yet beginners still had to share.
Time	The review follows the workshop. Sequence alone does not establish causation.
Attitude	The contrast does not by itself prove anger. More evidence is needed.

3 Making notes and summaries

Notes select for a heading

Note-making 做笔记 selecting brief details for a stated **heading** and purpose.

✗ True, but **irrelevant** to the heading

✗ The **same benefit** said twice: one point

✓ An **example** the task asks for: keep it

Repair club: original note-making attempt

School repair club

The school repair club meets on Wednesdays. Students learn practical repair skills and save money by fixing their own belongings. The club also helps keep usable items out of the rubbish. A blue toolbox is kept by the door. Places are limited because only two teachers can supervise. Students must bring damaged items from home; the school does not provide them.

Complete the notes

Benefits: 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
Limits: 1 _____ 2 _____

Do the **timetable** and the **toolbox** belong under either heading?

Repair club: worked notes

Benefits	Learn repair skills; save money; reduce waste.
Limits	Limited places; must bring own damaged items.
Exclude for these headings	Wednesday is a timetable detail. The blue toolbox is equipment information.
Avoid repetition	“Cheaper repairs” repeats saving money rather than adding a fourth benefit.

2025 notes: preserve the condition

- 2025 Exercise 3: four **advantages** and three **disadvantages** of recumbent bikes
- The scheme accepts **short relevant phrases**; the heading decides relevance

✗ "rapid travel"
the condition is lost

✓ "rapid travel **on flat roads**"

"hard to ride **uphill**" is a **separate** disadvantage

A general description of a bike is not automatically a benefit or a drawback.

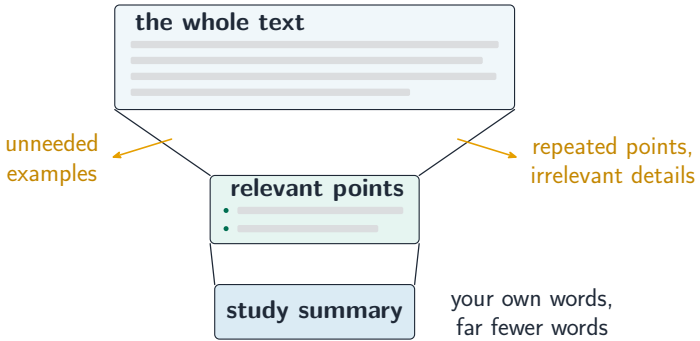
Study summaries: select for a purpose

Summary 概括 the main relevant ideas in fewer words.

- **Combine** related points; avoid unnecessary **repetition** 重复
- Use your own words where appropriate, keeping the meaning and its **qualifications**
- A repeated source idea is not automatically compulsory

This is a **study skill**: the current 0510 reading assessment has no summary-writing exercise.

A summary is a selection process



> Keep what the purpose needs. This diagram describes study summarising, not an additional current 0510 exam task.

Repair club: original study-summary attempt

School repair club

The school repair club meets on Wednesdays. Students learn practical repair skills and save money by fixing their own belongings. The club also helps keep usable items out of the rubbish. A blue toolbox is kept by the door. Places are limited because only two teachers can supervise. Students must bring damaged items from home; the school does not provide them.

Your turn

1. Write **one sentence** explaining the club's benefits.
2. The purpose changes to **advice about joining**: which detail would you now add?

Study summary: worked model and purpose change

Model benefits summary

"The repair club teaches useful skills, helps students save money and reduces waste."

Purpose	Keep	Leave out
Benefits	skills, money, waste	timetable, toolbox, limits
Advice on joining	Wednesdays, **limited places**, bring a damaged item	the blue toolbox

A different **purpose** changes what should be selected.

4 Reading between the lines

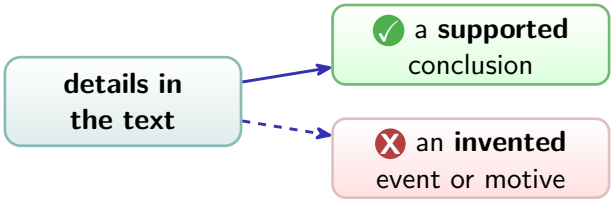
Close reading needs textual evidence



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

Inference: beyond explicit words, within evidence

Inference 推断 a supported conclusion beyond what is directly stated; a writer **implies** 暗示 meaning through details.



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."

Your turn

1. What does the passage **suggest** about the finished report? Identify the evidence.
2. Does it establish a broken laptop, a deliberate lie, or a desk covered in unfinished work?

Lin's report: cautious worked inference

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

✓ **Supported**: there is doubt that the report is finished.

✗ **Not established**: a broken laptop, a deliberate lie, her desk.

"Claimed" alone is not a universal signal of dishonesty: read it **with the behaviour that follows**.

Attitude and word choice

Attitude 态度 the writer's view or feeling; **word choice** 用词 and the explanation around it give the evidence.

In a **multiple-choice** 选择题 question, check all options. A distractor can repeat source words while changing the:

speaker | **time** | **certainty** | **degree of approval**

Answer in the printed form: 2025 Exercise 4 uses a **tick in a box**; matching uses **letters**.

Workshop attitude: original choice attempt

> "I enjoyed the first workshop. The second was useful too, although I wish we had had more time to practise."

Choose the best description

A. Completely dissatisfied.

B. Positive with one reservation.

C. Pleased with every aspect.

Attitude: worked choice

B is supported	"Enjoyed" and "useful" show approval, while the time complaint adds a reservation.
A is too negative	It ignores the two positive evaluations.
C is too absolute	It ignores the wish for more practice time.

Contrast does not erase the positive part. Match the strength of the option to the evidence.

Context: original vocabulary attempt

> "The room was **cramped**: twenty people had to squeeze around one small table."

Use the context 语境

1. Choose a likely meaning of "cramped": **crowded or too small** / **brightly decorated** / **completely empty**.
2. Which words support your choice?
3. What should you do if another unfamiliar word has too little context?

Context: worked check

> "The room was **cramped**: twenty people had to squeeze around one small table."

✓ **crowded or too small**: three details agree

✗ brightly decorated, empty: **unsupported**

Too little context? Keep the meaning **tentative** and continue with what you can establish: not every word must be solved.

5 Exam tips

Check the response against the task

Question type	Meeting time differs from departure; a reason differs from a repeated event.
Distinct points	Give the required number of different relevant details.
Evidence	Preserve negation, comparisons and conditions; use a letter or tick as instructed.
Search order	Some later questions draw on the whole text; matching may send you back to earlier sections.

Check yourself

Notice

"Doors open at 9:00. The talk starts at 9:30. Members enter free; visitors pay £3."

Transfer task

1. What time do doors open, and what does a **member** pay? Explain two tempting wrong answers.
2. A review adds: "The talk was fascinating, but the room was cramped." Give a supported **attitude** description. Does it establish that the reviewer disliked the speaker?