

Level 2 Essential Communication Skills

Sample confirmatory test 3

Maximum duration: 45 minutes

Important note

This is a sample confirmatory test, developed jointly by the four Essential Skills Wales awarding bodies (Agored Cymru, City & Guilds, Pearson and WJEC).

This sample test provides an indication of the likely format and structure of the live confirmatory tests.

A separate document, containing the answer keys (correct answers) and specification references is also available.

This confirmatory test consists of 20 multiple choice questions.

Text 1

Questions 1 to 10 are about Text 1 below.

Children in the digital age	Line 1
It's rare these days to find children without smartphones, tablets, or some other electronic device in their hands. This is the digital age and we're understandably curious about exploring ever expanding virtual worlds.	Line 2 Line 3 Line 4
Increasingly, we let these different worlds collide, as we slide backwards and forwards between the real world and the virtual world.	Line 5 Line 6
This is often a source of concern, particularly for older generations who didn't grow up with this type of technology and who worry about the effects of this unsupervised access to both real and imagined worlds.	Line 7 Line 8 Line 9
A recent study found that school age children in the United States of America spend on average seven and a half hours per day in front of a television, a computer, a smartphone, or another digital device. Incredibly, it found that even babies often spent up to two hours a day in front of these types of technology. The situation in the United Kingdom is very similar.	Line 10 Line 11 Line 12 Line 13 Line 14
The truth is that we don't know, or fully understand, the effects that this new way of life will have on our long-term behaviour. What we do know, however is that the sales figures and usage times for _____ devices show that they're a fact of life that we're unlikely to be able to avoid.	Line 15 Line 16 Line 17 Line 18
Whatever reservations we might have about computers and smartphones, they are now part of our daily life, whether we're accessing information from the internet, looking up facts and figures, keeping in contact with friends and family, working more flexibly, or becoming involved in creative pursuits, and online discussions. Technology helps us to broaden our horizons, keep up to date, and engage with new communities of like-minded people all around the globe.	Line 19 Line 20 Line 21 Line 22 Line 23 Line 24
So if we can't stop the onward march of technology, we should probably try to keep in mind a few words of caution:	Line 25 Line 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take advantage of the opportunities and creative outlets that technology offers, don't let it restrict you.	Line 27 Line 28
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain balance. A variety of activities, including social contact and exercise, are vital if you want to stay healthy.	Line 29 Line 30
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep an eye on the time _____ spending online, so that it doesn't just slip away.	Line 31 Line 32
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't forget the joys of the natural world, whether that is just being in the garden, walking the dog or hiking across hills. A few minutes of sunshine and fresh air can be enough to lift one's mood.	Line 33 Line 34 Line 35
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay safe online. Don't share personal information with strangers.	Line 36
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don't let yourself get too wrapped up in the virtual world. The real world is equally exciting.	Line 37 Line 38

- 1 The text implies that the increasing presence of technology is:
 - a unfortunate
 - b inevitable
 - c avoidable
 - d unlikely

- 2 According to the text, the older generation:
 - a worries about the effect technology will have on society
 - b is less likely than children to access the internet on a tablet
 - c is more experienced than children in the use of technology
 - d prefers to be outside rather than in a virtual world

- 3 In the text, the term 'reservations' on Line 19 means:
 - a doubts or concerns
 - b bookings or confirmations
 - c particular areas or territories
 - d groups or collections

- 4 According to the text:
 - a it is widely accepted that computers and smartphones are good for children
 - b people can choose whether computers and smartphones are part of their lives
 - c it is only children in America who spend significant hours using technology
 - d we do not know the full effects the use of technology is having on our lives

- 5 The style and tone of the bullet points are:
 - a descriptive
 - b instructional
 - c argumentative
 - d patronising

- 6 Which punctuation mark is missing on Line 16?
 - a question mark
 - b apostrophe
 - c comma
 - d full stop

- 7 The correct word to fill the space on Line 31 is:
 - a your
 - b you're
 - c yore
 - d you'r

- 8 The correct spelling for 'persuits' on Line 22 is:
- a persuites
 - b persutes
 - c pursuits
 - d pursuites
- 9 According to the article, 'the digital age':
- a is restricting children's development
 - b has affected our enjoyment of the real world
 - c is requiring far stricter supervision
 - d has affected global TV viewing figures
- 10 The correct word to fill the space on Line 17 is:
- a this
 - b theirs
 - c those
 - d these

Text 2

Questions 11 to 20 are about Text 2 below.



The Myths of Street Safety a personal view by journalist Bob Scaggs	Line 1
In this article I take issue with the most common reasons given by councils for not tackling clutter in our streets. One standard response from councils to complaints about street clutter is that signs, bollards and guardrails are required due to safety regulations. In fact, very little is required by law and, as I hope to demonstrate, much received wisdom about street design is not based on evidence; it is just a widely held popular belief and is often inaccurate.	Line 2 Line 3 Line 4 Line 5 Line 6 Line 7
Myth: Britain has the safest streets in Europe	Line 8
Fact: Britain is now in the top four in Europe. We have reduced the number of driver and car passenger casualties. However, this has been at a cost to other street users. The number of accidents involving cyclists in city centres is rising. In addition, pedestrians are increasingly nervous about using our streets.	Line 9 Line 10 Line 11 Line 12
Myth: Traffic lights reduce congestion and are essential for road safety	Line 13
Fact: Traffic lights are only necessary where streets are designed for speeds of 30 mph and above. They do not necessarily reduce accidents. Uncontrolled junctions encourage people to drive at lower speeds and with greater caution, and can reduce delays to _____ and pedestrians. Across Europe, many traffic lights are being removed at busy junctions with positive results.	Line 14 Line 15 Line 16 Line 17 Line 18
Myth: Unmarked objects in the middle of streets are a hazard to traffic	Line 19
Fact: Statues, fountains, trees and other landmarks can enhance road safety by drawing attention to the geography of the area. These can help forge mental links that increase a drivers awareness of their surroundings.	Line 20 Line 21 Line 22

Myth: Standardised road signs and markings are essential	Line 23
Fact: Standardised signs may be appropriate for motorways and other major roads. In built up areas, signs often have little effect on driver behaviour. Some	Line 24
European authorities are removing road markings altogether _____ means that	Line 25
road users have to take responsibility for their own safety on the roads.	Line 26
	Line 27
Myth: Road signs are the only way to tackle poor driving	Line 28
Fact: Research both here and abroad, suggests that when local authorities reduce	Line 29
the amount of signage, driver behaviour improves. They have to become more	Line 30
observant and, as a result, are more cautious and polite towards other drivers.	Line 31
Myth: Guardrails are essential to improve pedestrian safety	Line 32
Fact: Barriers between pedestrians and traffic can encourage people to drive	Line 33
faster and can lull pedestrians into a false sense of security. Barriers can reduce	Line 34
visibility for wheelchair users and children. There is also little evidence to suggest	Line 35
they improve long-term safety. They are inconvenient for everybody!	Line 36

- 11 The text uses an image to show:
- that streets are often full of unhelpful clutter
 - how rules and regulations help maintain order
 - that Britain's streets are dangerous places
 - how hard councils work to improve our streets
- 12 The writer uses subheadings to:
- highlight facts about street safety
 - demonstrate a writing style
 - support the writer's ideas
 - draw attention to popular views
- 13 According to the text, what is **not** regarded as 'street clutter'?
- Bollards and barriers
 - Statues and fountains
 - Traffic lights and guardrails
 - Road signs and road markings
- 14 Which of the following is the writer in favour of?
- Banning cyclists from roads in city centres
 - All road signs should be of a standard size
 - Poor drivers should be sent on a behavior course
 - Britain to adopt the same approach as Europe
- 15 The correct conjunction to use in the space on Line 26 is:
- so
 - since
 - which
 - though

- 16 According to the text:
- a traffic lights are essential for road safety and reducing congestion
 - b Britain has encouraged cyclists and pedestrians to use our streets
 - c polite drivers, as a rule, avoid observing other road users
 - d Britain has been quite successful at reducing driver casualties
- 17 The term 'received wisdom' is used on Line 6 to mean:
- a a high level of learning and intelligence
 - b legal advice about safe street design
 - c untested beliefs about what makes streets safer
 - d information presented by street signs and road markings
- 18 The phrase 'not based on evidence' on Line 6 means:
- a fact
 - b fiction
 - c proven
 - d real
- 19 The word best used to fill the space on line 17 is:
- a vericals
 - b vehicles
 - c vehicels
 - d veacles
- 20 The punctuation missing on Line 22 is:
- a apostrophe
 - b inverted commas
 - c exclamation mark
 - d comma

NOW GO BACK AND CHECK YOUR WORK

- **IMPORTANT -**
Are the details at the top of the answer sheet correct?
Have you filled in your answers in INK in the appropriate boxes on the answer sheet?