

# Functional Skills English (4748)

## Entry 3 Reading

### Sample assessment

## Candidate Paper

# Going into Space

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Marks: 16

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Guilds enrolment number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

### You will need

- a pen with black or blue ink
- a dictionary.

### Instructions

- Read each question carefully.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- You do not need to write full sentences.
- There are no marks for spelling, punctuation or grammar.

### Candidate's declaration:

I confirm that this assessment is my own work.

Candidate's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

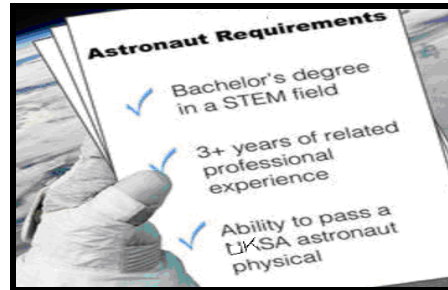
## Activity 1

Read the text.

# Becoming an Astronaut

## Contents

- International Space Station
- Astronaut Duties
- Astronaut Details
- Selection



The UK Space Agency (UKSA) accepts applications for the position of Trainee Astronaut when there is a need.

## International Space Station (ISS)

The ISS is the largest international space project ever. It is 109 metres wide, 73 metres long.

A team of six astronauts live on the space station. They carry out experiments in space while scientists back on Earth apply the results of this research to medicine and daily life.

The astronauts must know how the ISS works, plus the reason for their experiments and the equipment they will need for these.

## Astronaut Duties

All ISS astronauts fly on board a space vehicle and go on walks in space. Every person on the ISS will carry out all the duties, including experiments and repairs.

## Astronaut Details

Applicants must **meet** certain requirements **before** they apply:

1. have a degree in engineering, physics, mathematics, IT or biology. Any other subject or qualification is not acceptable.
2. have at least 3 years of related work experience after finishing their degree or at least 1,000 hours as a pilot.
3. be physically fit, including 20/20 vision. Wearing glasses is acceptable.
4. meet height and weight requirements for the vehicle and the space suit. We measure all applicants who come to an interview.

There is a separate application process to work on possible **voyages** to Mars.

**Answer the questions about the text.**

1. What is the **main** purpose of the text?  
(Tick **one**).

- To explain the purpose of the space station.
- To tell the history of the space agency.
- To give instructions to new astronauts.
- To describe the role of an astronaut.

2. Which item from the Contents list is **not** included in the main text?

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3. Name **three** tasks that astronauts have to do.

- ---
- ---
- ---

4. Name **one** thing ISS astronauts have to know about the experiments they will do.

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5. How long after getting a degree must people work before they can apply to be an astronaut?

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6. Use your dictionary.  
Which word could replace **voyages** in the text?  
(Tick **one**)

drives

journeys

holidays

commutes

**8 marks**

## Activity 2

Read the text.

Published by Norton Community College

# Norton NEWS

Autumn edition

## Careers Interview

### Blast off into history!

In 1991, Dr Helen Sharman became the first Briton in space, one of only 65 women ever to go there. Here she shares her space adventure.

It all started in 1989 with a radio advert that said Astronaut wanted, no experience needed. I was working as a chemist but liked the idea of moving to Russia and learning the language. Space travel was not my main interest. Out of curiosity I decided to apply. So did 13,000 others.

To qualify we had lots of exams and tests. Finally, they chose two of us to train at Star City in Moscow. At the end of the eighteen month course, they picked me for the mission to space. This was possibly because I was physically fit, good in teams and stayed calm.



Helen Sharman  
Back from space and now



We travelled to the space station in a space craft from the 1960s. After we arrived, our contact with Earth was only for a few hours a day.

The morning alarm sounded just like the emergency bell. Every time it went off, we never knew whether it was time to get up or if we were losing air, so we climbed out of our sleeping bags very quickly.

**Turn to page 2 for advice about careers or going to university.**

**You can also contact our Careers Team.**

Most of the time I was doing experiments, but because the solar panels didn't work well, there were regular power cuts. When these happened, I couldn't see my hand in front of my face.

After my eight days there, I really wanted to stay longer. I'd love to return to space, especially on the first flight to Mars.

page 1

**Answer the questions about the text.**

1. Which organisation produces the Norton News?

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2. What is the purpose of the text?  
(Tick **one**)

- To give advice about careers in space.
- To tell the story of the life of an astronaut.
- To explain why astronauts do experiments.
- To give instructions about becoming an astronaut.

3. Name the **two** facts that make Helen different from most other astronauts.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long did Helen's training at Star City last?

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5. Give **two** ways that readers can get help for future study or work.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

6. Use your dictionary.  
What does the word **experience** mean in the text?  
(Tick **one**)

- a special event
- a time in history
- knowledge or skill
- something you feel

**8 marks**

Check your work.

**End of assessment**

**Document 1**

Astronaut Candidate Program – published anonymously  
Astronaut Requirements – Flint Wild  
Image of Astronaut Requirements – published anonymously

**Document 2**

Blast off! – Colin Drury  
Image of Helen Sharman in lab – © Imperial College London  
Image of Helen Sharman back from space – published anonymously