

## Task 1 – Long reading: Skimming travel information

**Level:** ISE I

**Focus:** Task 1 – Long reading

**Aim:** Reading comprehension practice

**Objectives:** Familiarity with reading comprehension

**Skill:** Skimming

**Subject area:** Travel

**Language functions:** Giving opinions, preferences and reasons, and expressing obligation

**Lexis:** Travel

**Materials needed:** One worksheet per student

**Timing:** 1 hour

### Preparation

Print or copy the worksheet (one per student). Be ready to write the questions below (see point 4 below) on the board.

### In class

1. Explain to the students that they are going to practise some techniques to help them with the Reading & Writing exam, task 1, reading comprehension of the ISE I exam.
2. Write 'READING' in large letters on the board and ask the students to tell you what words they think of when they see the word 'reading'. Write some good examples on the board (eg 'books', 'English', 'newspapers', 'computers', 'magazines', 'TV', etc).
3. Explain to the students that there are so many things around us that we read, reading is very important.
4. Write the following questions on the board:
  - ▶ What do you read in (your language)?
  - ▶ How fast do you read?
  - ▶ What do you usually do while reading?
  - ▶ What do you read in English?
  - ▶ How fast do you read in English?
  - ▶ What would you like to read in English?
  - ▶ Why is reading important?
5. Put the students into pairs or small groups and ask them to discuss these questions for about 10 minutes.
6. Ask the students for answers and comments on the questions. Write some good answers on the board.
7. Now explain to the students that today they are going to work on their reading speed. Tell the students that this is important as in the exam they need to read quickly.
8. Explain to the students that in task 1 of the reading exam, students have to answer five questions and label the paragraphs with appropriate headings. Tell the students that this uses skimming, which is a speed-reading technique. So you read something quickly and find out information.
9. Give each student one worksheet. Tell the students that they are going to focus today on skimming. Explain to the students what skimming is. This is when you read a text quickly to get the general idea of it and the main points.
10. Ask the students to skim paragraphs A-E on the worksheet and to give each paragraph an appropriate heading. Give the students approximately 15 minutes. Go through the answers in open-class. Write up the correct answers on the board.
11. Now ask the students to skim paragraphs A-F on the worksheet and to answer the questions. Give the students approximately 15 minutes. Go through the answers in open-class. Write up the correct answers on the board.

## Preparation activities for ISE I Reading & Writing

### **Extension activity**

For students who finish the task early, tell them to ask and answer questions about paragraph F (the temperature chart), for example:

- ▶ What is the temperature in December in C?
- ▶ What is the average rainfall in January in inches?
- ▶ In their English books, the students can find a text to skim and explain the main points of to their partner.

### **Further support activity**

Students finding the task difficult can be given extra time to complete the worksheet or they can be asked to read and complete only one or two of the exercises.

### **Homework**

Ask students to practise their skimming techniques in their daily lives. Ask them to find a newspaper and practise finding the main events as quickly as they can.



## Student worksheet: Skimming travel information

Below are six texts which you are going to skim read. Once you have read the texts, give each one an appropriate heading, then answer the questions.

### Paragraph A

Read the text and add an appropriate heading.

Heading: .....

Today, many people prefer to travel independently. Firstly, they decide where they want to go and then think about the details, such as how long they want to stay, where they want to stay, how they will get there, how much it will cost, when they will go and what they need to take.

#### Answer the following questions

1. How do people like to travel these days? .....
2. What do they decide on first? .....
3. How many other details are mentioned in the text? .....

### Paragraph B

Read the text and add an appropriate heading.

Heading: .....

The time you go depends on what you want to do. For example, if you want to do outdoor activities such as walking, cycling or canoeing then you need to choose a time when the weather is dry. If you prefer a more relaxed holiday spent sunbathing and swimming then the weather should not be too hot.

#### Answer the following questions

1. What does the time you go depend on? .....
2. What are some examples of outdoor activities? .....
3. What do you do on a relaxing holiday? .....

### Paragraph C

Read the text and add an appropriate heading.

Heading: .....

Most people take too much when they travel – travelling light is the key! Remember you will have to carry it and heavy luggage soon becomes a nightmare. Take enough clothes (but not too many), a towel, soap, shampoo and your travel documents and money.

#### Answer the following questions

1. What do most people take when they travel? .....
2. What is the best solution? .....
3. Which six items should you take with you? .....

## Preparation activities for ISE I Reading & Writing

### Paragraph D

Read the text and add an appropriate heading.

Heading: .....

Monalos is a lively, noisy place, suitable for young people and those who do not like peace and quiet. The information centre is in the main street (number 50, High Street), and their phone number is 324-5698. They are open every day from 10am to 8pm except Sundays when they are open from 1pm to 4pm.

Answer the following questions

1. What is the address of the information centre? .....
2. What is their phone number? .....
3. What time are they open on Fridays? .....
4. What time do they close on Sundays? .....

### Paragraph E

Read the text and add an appropriate heading.

Heading: Some interesting .....

The area covers over 2,000 miles and has around 100,000 inhabitants. The coastline is over 500 miles long and there are 54 islands, 22 of which are inhabited. The highest mountain is 3,007ft, and the deepest lake is 700ft below sea level.

Answer the following questions

1. How large is the area? .....
2. How many people live there? .....
3. How long is the coastline? .....
4. How many islands do people live on? .....
5. What is the highest point? .....
6. What is the lowest point? .....

### Paragraph F

Look at the following temperature chart and find the answers.

Average temperatures and rainfall

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monalos												
Centigrade/ Fahrenheit	6/43	7/45	9/48	11/52	14/57	16/61	17/63	17/63	15/59	12/5	9/48	7/45
Millimetres	146	109	83	90	72	63	55	22	36	47	120	132
Inches	5.8	4.3	3.3	3.5	2.8	2.1	1.8	0.9	1.2	1.6	4.0	5.2

1. What is the average temperature in September in Centigrade? .....
2. How much rain falls in February in millimetres? .....
3. How many inches of rain fall in May? .....
4. What is the average temperature in August in Fahrenheit? .....

## Answers: Skimming travel information

### Suggested headings

Paragraph A – Planning a trip

Paragraph B – When to go

Paragraph C – What to take

Paragraph D – Information on Monalos

Paragraph E – Possible answers – facts, information, details...

### Paragraph A

1. Independently
2. Where they want to go
3. Six other details are mentioned in the text (how long they want to stay, where they want to stay, how they will get there, how much it will cost, when they will go, and what they need to take).

### Paragraph B

1. What you want to do
2. Walking, cycling, canoeing
3. Sunbathing and swimming

### Paragraph C

1. Too much
2. Travel light
3. Clothes, a towel, soap, shampoo, travel documents, money

### Paragraph D

1. Number 50, High Street
2. 324-5698
3. From 10am to 8pm
4. 4pm

### Paragraph E

1. 2,000 miles
2. 100,000 people
3. over 500 miles long
4. 22
5. 3,007ft
6. 700ft below sea level

### Paragraph F

1. 15
2. 109
3. 2.8
4. 63