

# Level 2 Functional Skills English Reading

## Sample Assessment 1

### Plastics



A City & Guilds Group Business  
[www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com)  
July 2019 Version 0-3

Candidate Name (First, Middle, Last)

Candidate enrolment number

DOB (DDMMYYYY)

Candidate signature

Assessment date  
(DDMMYYYY)

Centre number

#### General information

- The duration of this paper is **1 hour**.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- The maximum marks for each question are shown.
- The maximum number of marks is **30**.

#### General instructions

- Read each question carefully.
- You do not need to write in complete sentences.
- You will not be assessed on spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Dictionaries **are** allowed.

**Read the source documents and then answer the following questions.**

Questions 1 to 8 are about **Document 1**. Make sure you refer to **Document 1** when answering these questions.

- 1 Which of the following would be the **most** suitable headline for this article? (Tick **one**) **1 mark**
- A. The dangers and struggles of wildlife in the ocean.
- B. If Costa Rica can ban single-use plastics, why can't we?
- C. Single-use plastics should be banned in UK says BBC presenter.
- D. Plastic bag sales fall by 86% since levy introduced.
- 2 What is the **main** reason Liz Bonnin was being interviewed? (Tick **one**) **1 mark**
- A. To explain a range of environmental issues.
- B. To call for an increase in the cost of plastic bags.
- C. To support Costa Rica's policies on wildlife.
- D. To promote a TV documentary.
- 3 This document was first published on the internet. A reader wants to find out more about differences between the UK and Costa Rica. What feature has been included on the webpage to help with this? **1 mark**
- 
- 4 What tone is used by the writer of the article? (Tick **one**) **1 mark**
- A. Informal.
- B. Neutral.
- C. Biased.
- D. Conversational.

5 In her interview Liz asks lots of questions. **2 marks**  
What effects does Liz want this to have on readers? Give **two** effects.

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6 In the interview, Liz Bonnin argues that we can live without plastic. **2 marks**

Which **two** of the following are reasons she might she be biased in this view?

(Tick **two**)

- a) She is a wildlife biologist and believes plastic threatens marine life.
- b) She lives in Costa Rica where all plastic has been banned.
- c) She recommends watching Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet II.
- d) She works for an industry that makes less-toxic alternatives to plastic.
- e) She is promoting her documentary about the harmful effects of plastic.
- f) She is helping to advertise new plastic factories in America.

7 Liz feels that **urgent** change is required. Give **two** phrases she uses to suggest this. **2 marks**

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- 8 Give **two** facts and **two** opinions from the article. **4 marks**

Fact 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Fact 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Opinion 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Opinion 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Questions 9 to 14 are about **Document 2**. Make sure you refer to **Document 2** when answering these questions.

- 9 Which of the following statements **best** summarises Plastic-free's belief about how change can be achieved? (Tick **one**) **1 mark**

A. We need to stop making things out of plastic.

B. You can't blame businesses for selling plastic products – people buy them.

C. Collective action is needed to bring about change.

D. Individual consumers can make a difference.

- 10 In which section of the document would you find information on the effects of plastic on the foods humans eat? (Tick **one**) **1 mark**

A. Supporting our work.

B. Plastic Production.

C. Oceans and Marine Life.

D. Time for Change.

11 Identify **two main** purposes of Document 2.  
(Tick **two**)

**2 marks**

- A. To enquire
- B. To entertain
- C. To amuse
- D. To inspire
- E. To narrate
- F. To persuade

12 Give **two** examples of where the writer has used emotive language.  
Give a **different** effect each one has on the reader.

**4 marks**

Example

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Effect

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Example

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Effect

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13 Give **two** examples of single use plastic products.

**2 marks**

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14 Give **two** examples of factual evidence the writer uses to back up opinions.

**2 marks**

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Question 15 is about both **Document 1** and **Document 2**. Make sure you refer to **both** documents when answering this question.

- 15 Liz Bonnin and Plastic-free offer different views on how the problem of plastic waste can be solved. **4 marks**

Use one piece of supporting evidence from **each** document to compare how these views differ.

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Give one similarity or difference in the way language is used to convey the views in Documents 1 and 2. Support your answer with evidence from **each** document.

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**End of Assessment** **Total 30 marks**

# Functional Skills English

## Reading Level 2

### Sample paper 1

# Plastics

## Source Documents

Do not write your answers in this booklet as this will not be marked.  
All answers should be written in the space provided on the question paper.



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Read both documents.

Use **Document 1** to answer questions 1 to 8.

Use **Document 2** to answer questions 9 to 14.

Use **both** documents to answer question 15.

## Document 1

The Telegraph

HOME | TV GUIDE | NOW AND NEXT | FILMS | ALL SECTIONS

Television | Documentaries

By Sarah Knapton

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SEARCH



In her new documentary, *Drowning in Plastic*, wildlife biologist Liz Bonnin has called for an immediate ban of single-use plastics in Britain and accused industries and politicians of not doing enough to tackle [pollution](#).

Speaking ahead of the documentary, Bonnin said that the problem of plastic in the world's oceans would not be fixed by consumers simply saying no to straws.

*Drowning in Plastic* comes a year after [Sir David Attenborough's Blue Planet II](#), and investigates the effect [plastic](#) material is having on marine animals.

"When it comes to all single-use products, I just think if we can live without them, we should live without them," said Bonnin in an interview with the [Radio Times](#).

"There is no kind of middle ground any more. So can we live without plastic bottles? Yes, we can."

The documentary will look at the [dangers and struggles of wildlife in the ocean](#) and the extent of the problem of our polluted seas.

Citing Costa Rica's ban on all single-use plastic by 2021, Bonnin said the UK's slower action on plastic pollution was not good enough.

"I have to ask, why isn't the UK doing that?" she said.

"Some of our plastic is absolutely a valuable part of our society. The question there is, do we make up that plastic with less toxic chemicals? Also, can we make that plastic realistically recyclable?"

"40% of the plastic that's prevalent in our society is single-use stuff that we can absolutely live without. If [Costa Rica](#) can do it, why can't we do it immediately?"

"This phasing-out conversation makes me angry after everything I've seen. There is no more time to phase anything out."

The presenter said attempts by the general public to limit their use of single-use plastics such as straws and coffee cups "hugely laudable", but the obligation to change needs to be with governments.

"I do feel that the onus has been placed a lot on the consumer and that's only part of the problem," she said.

"So, for example, if you're going to increase the plastic bag charge to 10p from 5p, again, the onus is on the consumer. Why is the industry still making plastic bags? Why is America investing 180 billion dollars in new plastic factories?"

"I don't think it's going to be fixed just from consumers saying no to straws."

Figures released in July revealed that plastic bag sales have fallen by 86% since the introduction of the 5p levy in 2015.

*Drowning in Plastic* airs next Tuesday on BBC One.

Related topics:

[Pollution](#)

[David Attenborough](#)

[Plastic](#)

[Wildlife](#)

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## Document 2

# Plastic-free

Help us save the sea,  
go plastic-free!

### Supporting our work

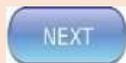
We're a small charity with a huge task ahead of us. We really want to make single-use plastic a thing of the past, but we need your help.

We would kindly ask that you support our work by offering a small monthly donation.

Choose amount

- £2 monthly contribution
- £5 monthly contribution
- £10 monthly contribution

You can log in to edit your recurring donation any time.



Thank you!

Plastic is all around us. The statistics say it all:

- Over 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally each year.
- Half a million plastic straws are used every day.
- 4 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually.

### Plastic Production

Roughly half of the plastic produced annually is destined for single-use products. It is truly shocking. It is estimated that around 8.5 billion plastic straws are thrown away every year in the UK alone, not to mention the millions of bottles, coffee cups, crisp packets, plastic bags and take-away dishes. You have probably thrown away several single-use items today without even realising it.

As individuals it is extremely important that we recognize that it is OUR responsibility to make changes which will help our oceans for years to come.

***Every piece of plastic ever produced still exists somewhere today.***



### Oceans and Marine Life

Single-use plastics are small but have a large impact, with more than 8 million tonnes of plastic waste ending up in our oceans each year. This is not only harmful to marine birds and animals, which can end up being choked, poisoned and entangled by the plastic, but it can also have an impact on human health, as a study in 2017 found that plastic micro-particles can get into the flesh of fish eaten by humans.

### Time for Change

Manufacturers and businesses should take some responsibility for the plastic waste they generate and offer consumers more sustainable products and packaging. However, as individuals we are the ones who hold the power to make the biggest change - if we all keep on buying single-use plastic products businesses will only keep on selling them. Every one of us needs to say NO to single-use plastic.

Unless we all take action then the crisis we are facing is only going to get worse.

# Functional Skills English Reading Level 2 Sample Paper 1



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**Plastics**  
**Provisional Mark Scheme**

Marking scheme Reading	Maximum marks	Subject content statement reference
<b>Document 1</b>		
<p>1. Which of the following would be the <b>most</b> suitable headline for this article? (Tick <b>one</b>)</p> <p>a) The dangers and struggles of wildlife in the ocean. b) If Costa Rica can ban single-use plastics, why can't we? c) Single-use plastics should be banned in UK says BBC presenter. d) Plastic bag sales fall by 86% since levy introduced.</p> <p>Answer key: c</p>	1 mark	SCS11
<p>2. What is the <b>main</b> reason Liz Bonnin was being interviewed? (Tick <b>one</b>)</p> <p>A. To explain a range of environmental issues. B. To call for an increase in the cost of plastic bags. C. To support Costa Rica's policies on wildlife. D. To promote a TV documentary.</p> <p>Answer key: d</p>	1 mark	SCS13
<p>3. This document was first published on the internet. A reader wants to find out more about differences between the UK and Costa Rica. What feature has been included on the webpage to help with this?</p> <p>Answer makes reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Click on the Costa Rica) hyperlink/link</li> </ul> <p>Accept reference to Costa Rica being underlined.</p> <p>Do not penalise spelling</p>	1 mark	SCS15
<p>4. What tone is used by the writer of the article? (Tick <b>one</b>)</p> <p>a) Informal. b) Neutral. c) Biased. d) Conversational.</p> <p>Answer key: b</p>	1 mark	SCS19

<p>5. In her interview Liz asks lots of questions. What effects does Liz want this to have on readers? Give <b>two</b> effects.</p> <p>Answer makes reference to two of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To get their interest/make them curious</li> <li>• To encourage them to watch the documentary/to find out the answers</li> <li>• To get them to think/question/find out/reflect</li> </ul> <p>One mark for each (up to 2 possible marks). Do not penalise spelling</p>	2 marks	SCS14
<p>6. In the interview, Liz Bonnin argues that we can live without plastic. Which <b>two</b> of the following are reasons she might she be biased in this view? Tick <b>two</b>.</p> <p>Keys = a) and e)</p>	2 marks	SCS17
<p>7. Liz feels that <b>urgent</b> change is required. Give <b>two</b> phrases she uses to suggest this.</p> <p>Answers (two of):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slower action (on plastic pollution) was not good enough</li> <li>• (If Costa Rica can do it) why can't we do it immediately?</li> <li>• (There is) no more time to phase anything out</li> </ul> <p>One mark for each (up to possible 2 marks) Do not penalise spelling</p>	2 marks	SCS13

<p>8. Give <b>two</b> facts and <b>two</b> opinions from the article.</p> <p>Fact 1 Fact 2 Opinion 1 Opinion 2</p> <p>Answers:</p> <p>Reference to <b>two</b> of the following facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Bonnin is a BBC television presenter / wildlife biologist</li> <li>• Liz Bonnin has called for an immediate ban of single use plastics in Britain</li> <li>• Sarah Knapton is the writer of the article</li> <li>• New documentary is called Drowning in Plastic/airs next Tuesday</li> <li>• New documentary comes a year after Blue Planet 2 / investigates effect plastic waste has on marine wildlife</li> <li>• Plastic bag sales have fallen by 86% since the 5p levy in 2015</li> <li>• Costa Rica will ban single-use plastics by 2021</li> <li>• America is investing 180 billion dollars in new plastic factories</li> <li>• 40% of plastic is single-use that we can live without</li> </ul> <p>One mark for each (up to a possible 2 marks)</p> <p>Reference to <b>two</b> of the following opinions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't think it is going to be fixed just from consumers saying no to straws</li> <li>• When it comes to single use plastics I just think if we can live without them, we should live without them</li> <li>• I do feel the onus has been placed on the consumer</li> </ul> <p>One mark for each (up to a possible 2 marks)</p> <p>Accept any other valid fact or opinion</p> <p>Do not penalise spelling</p>	<p>4 marks</p>	<p>SCS 18</p>
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Document 2		
<p>9. Which of the following statements <b>best</b> summarises Plastic-free's belief about how change can be achieved? (Tick <b>one</b>)</p> <p>a) We need to stop making things out of plastic. b) You can't blame businesses for selling plastic products – people buy them. c) Collective action is needed to bring about change. d) Individual consumers can make a difference.</p> <p>Answer key: D</p>	1 mark	SCS11
<p>10. In which section of the document would you find information on the effects of plastic on the foods humans eat? (Tick <b>one</b>)</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>a) Supporting our work. b) Plastic production. c) Oceans and marine life. d) Time for change.</p> <p>Answer key: C</p>	1 mark	SCS16
<p>11. Identify <b>two main</b> purposes of Document 2. (Tick <b>two</b>)</p> <p>a)To enquire                      d)To inspire b)To entertain                    e)To narrate c)To amuse                        f)To persuade</p> <p>Answer keys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• d)To inspire</li> <li>• f)To persuade</li> </ul> <p>One mark for each</p>	2 marks	SCS 14

12.

Give **two** examples of where the writer has used emotive language.  
Give a **different** effect each one has on the reader.

Example:

Effect:

Example:

Effect:

Reference to **two** of the following examples. Answers should make reference to the following **bolded** words or phrases but the exact quote is not required:

- **Help us save the sea, go plastic-free!**
- We're a **small charity with a huge task** ahead of us. We **really want to** make single-use plastic a thing of the past, **but we need your help.**
- We **would kindly ask that you support our work** by offering a small monthly donation.
- Plastic is **all around us.**
- The statistics **say it all**
- It is **truly shocking.**
- As individuals it is **extremely important** that **we recognize** that it is **OUR responsibility** to make changes
- will help **our** oceans for years to come
- harmful to marine birds and animals, which can end up **being choked, poisoned and entangled**
- as individuals **we are the ones who hold the power** to make the biggest change
- if **we all keep on buying single use plastic products businesses will only keep on selling them.**
- **Every one of us needs to say NO to single-use plastic.**
- **Unless we all take action** then the **crisis we are facing** is only going to get worse.

One mark for each (up to a possible 2 marks)

Reference to **two** of the following effects given:

- to shock the reader
- to engage the reader
- to make the reader take the issue seriously
- to highlight frustration/anger at the issue
- to urge/encourage the reader to take action

One mark for each (up to a possible 2 marks)

Do not award the second mark if for the same effect is given for each example.

Do not penalise spelling

4 marks

SCS19

<p>13. Give <b>two</b> examples of single use plastic products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straw</li> <li>• Coffee cup</li> <li>• Bottles</li> <li>• Crisp packet</li> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Takes away dishes</li> </ul> <p>Accept plastic packaging</p> <p>One mark for each (up to a possible 2 marks)</p>	2 marks	SCS13
<p>14. Give <b>two</b> examples of factual evidence the writer uses to back up opinions.</p> <p>Answers: Reference to <b>two</b> pieces of factual evidence (eg research or statistics) for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 million tonnes of plastic produced globally each year</li> <li>• ½ million plastic straws are used every day</li> <li>• 4 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide annually</li> <li>• Half the plastic produced is for single-use products</li> <li>• 8.5 billion plastic straws are thrown away each year in UK alone</li> <li>• 8 million tonnes end up in the ocean</li> <li>• Research in 2017 found that plastic micro-particles get into flesh of fish consumed by humans.</li> </ul> <p>Accept quotes from the document</p> <p>One mark for each (up to a possible 2 marks) Do not penalise spelling</p>	2 marks	SCS 18
<b>Both documents</b>		
<p>15. Liz Bonnin and Plastic-free offer different views on how the problem of plastic waste can be solved.</p> <p>Use one piece of supporting evidence from <b>each</b> document to compare how these views differ.</p> <p>2 marks Valid comparison supported by one piece of supporting evidence from Document 1 <b>and</b> one piece of supporting evidence from Document 2.</p> <p>1 mark Valid comparison made but only one piece of supporting evidence from either Document 1 <b>or</b> Document 2.</p> <p>Evidence from Document 1 may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government should ban single-use plastics</li> <li>• Politicians are not doing enough to tackle pollution</li> </ul>	4 marks	SCS 12

- The obligation to change needs to be with governments
- Make up that plastic with less toxic chemicals
- Industry should stop making plastic bags
- America should stop investing 180 billion dollars in new plastic factories

Evidence from Document 2 may include:

- It is OUR responsibility to make changes
- If we all keep on buying single-use plastic products businesses will only keep on selling them
- Every one of us needs to say NO to single-use plastic

Do not accept 'stop using single-use plastics' without reference to government or individual responsibility for this.

Give one similarity or difference in the way language is used to convey the views in Documents 1 and 2. Support your answer with evidence from **each** document.

2 marks

Valid comparison of how language is used to convey views, supported by one piece of evidence from Document 1 **and** one piece of evidence from Document 2.

1 mark

Valid comparison made but only one piece of supporting evidence from either Document 1 **or** Document 2.

**Differences may include:**

Evidence from Document 1 only

- Quotations  
E.g. "I have to ask, why isn't the UK doing that?" she said.
- Rhetorical questions  
E.g. Why is America investing 180 billion dollars in new plastic factories?
- Question and answer  
E.g. So can we live without plastic bottles? Yes, we can.

Evidence from Document 2 only

- Command / imperative  
E.g. Go plastic-free!
- Rhyme  
E.g. Help us save the sea, go plastic-free!
- Slogan  
E.g. Help us save the sea, go plastic-free!
- Directly addressing the reader  
E.g. You have probably thrown away
- Capital letters for emphasis  
E.g. Every one of us needs to say NO

<p><b>Similarities may include:</b></p> <p>Evidence from both</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biased statements E.g. There is no kind of middle ground any more (Doc 1) E.g. It is OUR responsibility to make changes (Doc 2)</li> <li>• Using facts / statistics E.g. 40% of the plastic that's prevalent in our society is single-use (Doc 1) E.g. Over 300 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally each year (Doc 2)</li> <li>• Persuasive language E.g. So can we live without plastic bottles? Yes, we can (Doc 1) E.g. Unless we all take action then the crisis we are facing is only going to get worse (Doc 2)</li> <li>• Emotive language E.g. Struggles of wildlife (Doc 1) E.g. It is truly shocking (Doc 2)</li> <li>• Inclusive language E.g. Why can't we do it (Doc 1) E.g. It is extremely important that we recognize that it is OUR responsibility (Doc 2)</li> </ul> <p>Accept any other justifiable similarity or difference in the use of language to convey views. Accept any other justifiable supporting evidence from the text.</p> <p>Do not penalise spelling.</p>		
<b>Total available marks for Reading assessment</b>	<b>30</b>	