

Level 2 Essential Communication Skills

Sample confirmatory test 2

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).

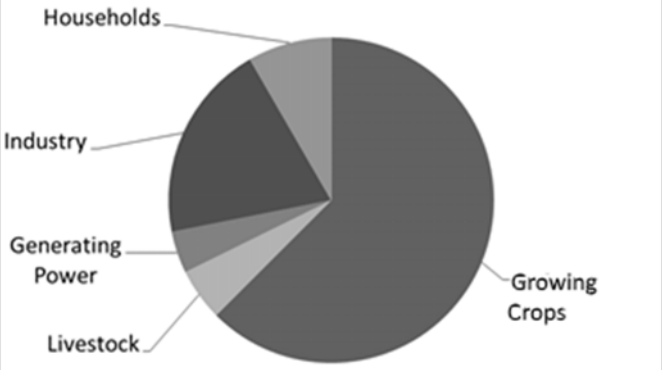
This sample test provides an indication of the likely format and structure of the live confirmatory tests that will become available from **September 2017**.

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.

A Natural Resource	Line 1
Water is an essential resource. We cannot live without it. A person can survive for	Line 2
around a month without food but only up to a week without water.	Line 3
Luckily, 70% of the Earth is covered with water, which helps to regulate the planets	Line 4
temperature. However, only about 1% of the world's water is readily available for	Line 5
human use. Nearly 97% is too salty or otherwise undrinkable, 2% is contained in ice	Line 6
caps and glaciers, _____ just leaves the 1% for all of humanity's needs.	Line 7
As our population grows, more and more people are sharing this limited resource.	Line 8
Also, the more water that individuals consume, the less there is available for the	Line 9
environment. Therefore, it is important that we use water wisely and do not waste it.	Line 10
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Worldwide Water Usage</p>  </div>	Line 11
The UK has less available water per person than most other European countries.	Line 12
In fact, London is even drier than Istanbul, and the South East of England has less	Line 13
water available per person than some parts of Africa.	Line 14
We use water all the time in our homes, colleges and at work. The average person in	Line 15
the UK uses 150 litres a day, so we are constantly being urged to save water.	Line 16
Excessive consumption of water not only affects our daily lives but also has an impact	Line 17
on the environment. Reducing the amount of water that goes to waste at home helps	Line 18
to safeguard the wildlife that live in waterways and wetlands, whilst cutting the energy	Line 19
needed for treating and pumping water for domestic use.	Line 20
Most water usage in the home is indoors. This _____; personal washing, using	Line 21
kitchen appliances, flushing toilets and washing clothes. Making small changes like	Line 22
turning off running water when it is not needed, avoiding flushing cotton wool or	Line 23
cosmetic tissues down the toilet and only turning on the shower just before you step	Line 24
in, can make a real difference.	Line 25
In the garden, pressure washers should be used sparingly. Watering cans are	Line 26

_____ to hoses as they reduce the volume needed when watering plants. Water	Line 27
barrels are a brilliant method of catching large amounts of rain, which can then be	Line 28
used on the garden during dry spells.	Line 29
The overall amount of water on our planet has remained the same for two billion	Line 30
years. As this is unlikely to change anytime soon, we must conserve as much as we	Line 31
can. If the entire adult population of England and Wales remembered to turn off the	Line 32
tap when they brushed their teeth, we could save 180 million litres a day – enough to	Line 33
supply nearly 500,000 homes and fill 180 Olympic swimming pools.	Line 34

1. According to the text:

- a) fresh water is considered precious as it is in short supply
- b) drinking water is easily accessible across parts of Europe
- c) the amount of water on Earth has been slowly decreasing
- d) a large percentage of water is found in ice caps and glaciers

2. The **main** purpose of the article is to:

- a) convince readers to regularly turn off taps
- b) review how drinking water can be collected
- c) instruct households how to use less energy
- d) explain the importance of water conservation

3. The correct word to fill in the space on Line 7 is:

- a) while
- b) often
- c) which
- d) there

4. There is a punctuation error on Line:

- a) 4
- b) 9
- c) 12
- d) 15

5. What has the writer used to support their argument?

- a) Historical data
- b) Expert opinion
- c) Industry advice
- d) Statistical facts

6. The missing word on Line 27 is:

- a) preferable
- b) preferable
- c) preferable
- d) preferable

7. According to the image on Line 11, which sector consumes the most of our natural resources?

- a) Residential
- b) Agricultural
- c) Construction
- d) Manufacturing

8. This text was written for:

- a) an online forum for gardeners
- b) a report for a business journal
- c) a leaflet for local householders
- d) an article for a trade magazine

9. The correct word to insert in the space on Line 21 is:

- a) include
- b) includes
- c) included
- d) including

10. According to the text, reducing the water that goes to waste can:

- a) improve the efficiency of kitchen appliances
- b) increase the amount of water on the planet
- c) protect plants and animals that live in rivers
- d) provide more water to sports facilities

Text 2

Questions 11 to 20 are about Text 2 below.

Birdwatching: a popular pastime	Line 1
Birdwatching as a hobby has boomed in recent times and some three million adults in the UK engage in this pastime every year.	Line 2 Line 3
You don't need to know anything about birds to enjoy watching them, whether your observing small birds feeding from a bird table or delighting in the sight of big birds of prey soaring hundreds of feet in the air. Birds are everywhere; they are interesting to watch and listen to and provide pleasure for many people.	Line 4 Line 5 Line 6 Line 7
Birdwatching, officially known as birding, is a form of wildlife observation which can be done with binoculars, telescopes, listening devices or even the naked eye. Modern technology has also facilitated the use of webcams to enable birders to see different species around the world and share their observations with others.	Line 8 Line 9 Line 10 Line 11
The term 'birders' describes a person who seriously pursues the hobby of birding. They may be an amateur or professional. Birding is a hobby for individuals who enjoy the challenge of bird study, recording sightings or just being involved in activities connected to bird life. A birdwatcher is someone who watches birds for any reason and should not be confused with the serious birder.	Line 12 Line 13 Line 14 Line 15 Line 16
Birdwatchers are often referred to as twitchers. 'Twitching' is a British term used to mean 'the pursuit of a previously located rare bird. This is now a highly developed activity in the UK and Europe since it is possible to travel across countries quickly and with relative ease. By virtue of these individuals' serious intent to spot rare birds, they should not be called birdwatchers who are, allegedly, less dedicated to this hobby.	Line 17 Line 18 Line 19 Line 20 Line 21
Twitchers have also developed their own terminology. For example, a twitcher who fails to see a rare bird has 'dipped out'; if other twitchers do see the bird, the person who doesn't may feel 'gripped off'.	Line 22 Line 23 Line 24
Last year birdwatchers, or twitchers, from all over Britain turned up in a tiny Welsh village in Pembrokeshire to see the first recorded visit of a masked wagtail. More than 40 enthusiasts drove through the night and slept in their cars to get the first glimpse of the bird seen flying between chimney pots in Camrose. One twitcher, a man from Derbyshire, said: 'This is as exciting as it gets – this little bird hasn't been seen on our shores before. If it sticks around until the weekend there will be hundreds of people here to see it.'	Line 25 Line 26 Line 27 Line 28 Line 29 Line 30 Line 31

11. The writer suggests that:

- a) serious birders will only observe rare species
- b) birding is best enjoyed in large groups of people
- c) there are many different aspects to birdwatching
- d) Britain has more twitchers than the rest of Europe

12. The **best** word to replace 'enthusiasts' on Line 27 is:

- a) experts
- b) followers
- c) supporters
- d) professionals

13. The language in this text can **best** be described as:

- a) informative
- b) descriptive
- c) imaginative
- d) persuasive

14. There is a grammar error on Line:

- a) 4
- b) 8
- c) 14
- d) 15

15. According to the text, technology has:

- a) allowed twitchers to see even smaller birds
- b) helped more adults to take up birdwatching
- c) encouraged birders to travel longer distances
- d) enhanced communication between birdwatchers

16. What punctuation is missing from Line 18?

- a) Quotation mark
- b) Exclamation mark
- c) Apostrophe
- d) Comma

17. What word would **best** replace 'since' on Line 19?

- a) which
- b) while
- c) yet
- d) as

18. The writer identifies **main** points by using:

- a) regional jargon
- b) direct quotations
- c) descriptive language
- d) specialist vocabulary

19 There is a spelling mistake on Line:

- a) 10
- b) 13
- c) 21
- d) 22

20. The writer suggests that:

- a) twitchers must have access to cars
- b) Wales has many rare bird sightings
- c) anyone can become a birdwatcher
- d) birders study all forms of wildlife

End of test

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?