

Tips to improve reading skills in preparation for the exam

Reading and vocabulary

- Regularly read articles in the target language, focusing on gist and key information.
- Search online for exam-style reading materials in the target language.
- Identify and list key topic-related vocabulary from texts to build vocabulary knowledge.

Vocabulary revision

- Revise commonly tested vocabulary such as numbers, dates, and times.
- Create and memorise a list of distractor words (e.g. but, however, whereas, without).
- Check with your teacher for distractor words specific to your language.

Synonyms and question practice

- Make a revision list of synonyms, especially for adjectives of personality and family-related terms.
- Practise with sample questions and past papers from class resources.

Grammar and question words

- Learn a range of question words by heart.
- Revise and practise verb tenses and time phrases to understand time references in questions.

During the exam

- Stay calm and don't panic – focus on what you do understand.
- Look at the titles of texts and any illustrations for helpful clues.
- Read the paper/questions carefully, highlighting key words and context clues.
- Use visuals in the question to support your answer.
- Consider the whole question before finalising your answer; make notes if helpful.
- Look for synonyms and equivalent expressions (e.g. 14 days = a fortnight).
- Use cognates wisely but be cautious of false friends.
- Focus on key words that link to the question and avoid distractors.
- Read carefully for parts of the text that confirm or disprove answers (e.g. negatives).
- Avoid jumping to conclusions based on the first thing you read.
- Check the tense of the question to ensure your answer is relevant.
- In multiple choice or selection questions, tick or cross statements to narrow choices.
- Make a logical guess if unsure, ensuring the answer makes sense.
- If time permits, review your answers to ensure they are complete and accurate.