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**FUNCTIONAL SKILLS**

English Level 2



**Area: Reading**

Criterion: Identify implicit and inferred meanings in texts

**Implicit and inferred meaning**

**Explicit information**: This is information that is stated clearly and directly in the text. You don’t have to guess or read between the lines.

For example, ‘Overhead, the sky is blue and the sun is shining brightly.

What colour is the sky?

The text clearly states that the sky is blue.

**Implicit information**: This is information that is not directly stated. You need to use clues in the text to understand it.

For example, ‘She shivered as she walked through the door’.

What was the weather like outside?

The text does not state what the weather is like. However, the word ‘shivered’ suggests that the weather is cold, rainy or windy.

Please note that learners will not be awarded marks for copying or re-wording the quotations given.

**Look for details:** Pay attention to descriptions and actions that suggest a hidden, or implicit meaning.

For example, ‘‘A Long Walk’ has created a buzz among film fans and critics alike’.

Describing the film as ‘creating a buzz’ implies that the film is popular.

**Context clues**: These are hints within the text that help you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words or the overall message.

Top tip: Look at the sentences before and after the information.

**Word choice**: Writers choose specific words to create a particular effect or to hint at something deeper.

An article states ‘This book is sure to capture your imagination’.

The phrase ‘capture your imagination’ implies that the book is fictional.

**Text A**

You see the following advertisement:

**Master Your Finances Workshop**

Are you ready to take control of your financial future? Join our new Master Your Finances Workshop! This practical and engaging course is designed to help you develop essential financial skills that are vital for both personal and professional success.

Our workshop offers a comprehensive curriculum that covers everything from budgeting and saving to investing and managing debt. With a focus on real-world applications, you’ll learn how to create a financial plan, understand credit scores, and make informed financial decisions with confidence.

Not only will you gain practical skills, but you’ll also enjoy a supportive learning environment with experienced instructors who are passionate about helping you succeed. Our classes are kept small (a maximum of eight attendees), making it easier to grasp complex concepts and improve your financial literacy.

By completing this workshop, you’ll not only earn a respected qualification but also gain peace of mind knowing you’re equipped to handle your finances effectively. Imagine the freedom you’ll feel when you can manage your money confidently and achieve your financial goals.

Don’t miss out on this chance to invest in your future. Spaces are limited, so enroll today and take the first step towards financial independence.

Visit our website or call us at 01234 567890 for more information.

Remember, your financial potential is limitless – let us help you unlock it!

**Using the information provided above, answer the following questions.**

**Question 1**

Look at the second paragraph in the text.

The writer mentions that the workshop has a ‘focus on real-world applications.’

What is the writer suggesting about the course content?

(1 mark)

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**Question 2**

Look at the third paragraph in the text.

The writer says, ‘Our classes are kept small (a maximum of eight attendees)’.

What does this imply about the learning experience?

(1 mark)

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**Question 3**

Look at the fourth paragraph in the text.

The writer says, ‘Imagine the freedom you’ll feel when you can manage your money confidently and achieve your financial goals.’

What is the writer suggesting about the benefits of the workshop?

(1 mark)

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**Exam practice text**

**A poster of a veterinary centre

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**Exam practice 1**

Look at the fourth paragraph in the exam practice text.

The writer states that rescue centres are full of dogs because ‘many people take on a dog without researching the breed’.

What does this imply?

(1 mark)

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**Exam practice 2**

Look at the third paragraph in the exam practice text.

The writer says, ‘One reason why working dogs make good pets is that they have traditionally worked closely with people and can, therefore, be naturally loyal, affectionate and intelligent.’

What is the writer suggesting about **training** working dogs?

(1 mark)

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**Answers**

**Implicit and inferred meaning**

Please note that there may be other valid responses.

**Question 1**

Accept any of the following:

a) the course will teach practical skills that can be used in everyday life

b) the content is relevant and applicable to real-life financial situations

c) learners will engage in activities that reflect real financial decisions and scenarios

**Question 2**

Accept any of the following:

a) learners will get more individual support and help from instructors

b) the learning experience will be more tailored to each person's needs

c) students will have a better chance of understanding and mastering the material

**Question 3**

Accept any of the following:

a) the workshop will help you feel more in control of your finances

b) you will experience less financial stress and more financial security

c) achieving financial goals will lead to a sense of freedom and satisfaction

**Exam practice**

**Exam practice 1**

Accept any of the following:

a) they didn’t know what to expect

b) they don’t know how handle the breed of dog they have chosen

c) they didn’t know their dog had health problems

d) they can’t afford the vet bills

**Exam practice 2**

Accept any of the following:

a) Working dogs have a strong bond with humans so they are easier to train

b) They are typically affectionate and loyal so they like being trained

c) Working dogs are intelligent so they are easy to train

**Your functional skills exam**

Your functional skills exams will consist of 2 papers.  
These papers will take place over the following time periods:

* Reading – 60 minutes
* Writing – 60 minutes

Further information on the format that your test will take can be obtained from your training provider.

**Hints and tips**

* Find out what format your exam will be in. It may be paper-based   
  or on-screen.
* Plan what you are going to revise in advance. Don’t leave it until the last minute.
* Do as many past papers as you can so you are prepared for the day. If possible, try to complete the past papers following the same format as the actual exam.
* Find a quiet place to study and revise. It helps to sit at a table or a desk, don’t revise in bed.
* Don’t stay up all night revising the night before your exam. It’s important to have a good rest so you feel refreshed and ready to go.
* Read the question 3 times. The first time to ensure you understand what is being asked, the second time to get an understanding of what you need to do, and a third time to figure out exactly what maths techniques you should be applying.
* If you are struggling with a question, skip it and come back to it later. Try not to sit getting worked up about a difficult question, it will only waste exam time. Move on and come back to it after you have answered the other questions.
* Take note of the number of marks available. This will give you an indication of how much working out you must show. For example, 1 mark will need an answer only and more marks will need you to show your working out.
* When you’ve finished the exam, go back and check your answers. If you still have time remaining, use it to check your answers and when you have checked your answers check them again.