

Top tips for

PASSING

a reading exam



- Pay attention to the wording of the question
- If you are asked to explain or describe something, try and expand on it as much as possible. The examiners are looking for more than just a simple list
- This is a test of your reading skills, so make sure the answer is taken from the documents rather than from your own ideas or experience
- Look at how many marks are allocated to a question. For questions with more than one mark, you need to provide sufficient detail to each question. You can prepare for this in advance by working on practice materials that require detailed answers
- Identify the purpose of a text. **Don't** give an overview or comment on the text that focuses on content
- Answers should be relevant to the purpose – for example: to advise about x, to persuade about y, to advertise about something... and so on
- Complete the paper! You must answer all questions to give yourself the best chance of success.
- If you are asked to utilise information contained in texts in the exam, this is asking you to use the information you have been given, rather than simply finding a piece of information in the document
- In an exam you may be asked to identify features of texts. So you need to look for headings, subheadings, bullet points, numbers or images
- Some questions may require you to identify language features which may include bias, persuasion or humour. Make sure you understand what these terms mean and how they are shown in an exam
- **Don't** spend time writing in full sentences or on double-checking correct spelling, punctuation or grammar. You aren't marked on these skills in the reading test. **Do** ensure that your responses are legible and make sense
- Read the wording of multiple choice questions carefully – you may be asked to choose more than one response

Good luck!

