PRACTICE PAPER 2

**Reading Practice Task**

**Read the following message.**

Canada is surrounded on three sides by oceans. To the north, the Arctic Ocean borders Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Off the west coast of British Columbia is the Pacific Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean, meanwhile, sits to the east of Canada's Maritime provinces, which include Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

**Using the drop-down menu (  ), choose the best option according to the information given in the message.**

1. Which province is on the Pacific Ocean?
2. Nunavut
3. British Columbia
4. Nova Scotia
5. Prince Edward Island

**Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence**

**Read the following message.**

To Whom It May Concern,

I don’t usually write emails like this, but I had an experience with one of your bus drivers this morning that has stayed with me all day, and I felt I should share it with you.

Having recently moved from Gloucester to the downtown area, it has taken me some time to learn the routes of the local buses. I first tried looking at the map at the station and asking my apartment manager, but I still wasn't clear about how to get around town. I also couldn't find any information kiosks near to my home. Nevertheless, I finally figured it out using your online maps and schedules at www.catchmybus.com.

Over the weekend, I planned the best routes to my new office. I knew that I would get on the #2 at Bank and Queen, then transfer to the #42 once I got to McLeod. However, the weekend was a busy one for me, and I didn’t get caught up on my sleep. I was up early enough to get ready for my first day at work. I even made my way to the stop at Bank and Queen by 7:30 to catch the 7:37 bus. The problem was, I closed my eyes for a moment at the bus stop and ended up nodding off. Fortunately, when the bus approached, the driver saw me sitting there and honked his horn at me. I was so pleased that he stopped and took a moment to wake me up. If it weren’t for him, I would have been late on my first day! He then greeted me with a big smile and said, “Good morning!” as I got on the bus.

In my sleepy haze, I forgot to look at the driver’s nametag (and I almost left my bag on the bus), but perhaps the shift supervisor can look at the schedule. Could you please pass along my thanks to the driver and make sure his excellent customer service is recognized?

Regards,  
  
Adam Stevenson

**Using the drop-down menu (  ), choose the best option according to the information given in the message.**

1. Adam now lives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* in Gloucester.
* in the downtown area.
* outside the city.
* near McLeod Street.

2. The man is writing about something that happened on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Saturday.
* Monday.
* Wednesday.
* Friday.

3. Adam figured out how to get to work by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* checking with his apartment manager.
* using the transit information kiosks.
* asking one of the bus drivers.
* visiting the transit web page.

4. Adam’s problem that morning was that he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* didn't wake up on time.
* was late for work.
* missed the bus.
* was very tired.

5. The most important detail in Adam's message is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* he waited in a bus shelter.
* the bus driver honked at him.
* he intended to transfer to Bus #42.
* he was at Bank and Queen at 7:30.

6. The message expresses \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* gratitude.
* concern.
* sadness.
* excitement.

**Here is a response to the message. Complete the response by filling in the blanks. Select the best choice for each blank from the drop-down menu  
(  ).**

Dear Mr. Stevenson,  
  
We truly appreciate your taking the time to 7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Surveys and forms are all very good, but a personal note is even better!  
  
I’m not surprised that you found the downtown bus routes 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_than those you’ve been used to. For your reference, the new 9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ #616 will operate from Bank and Queen during peak periods.  
  
Yes, the shift supervisor will definitely be able to 10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, the drivers are assigned set routes and schedules until October. You will most likely be able to 11. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
  
Thank you again for writing!  
  
Sincerely,  
  
Bill Liu

7.

* tell us about your transit experience
* let us know about the route confusion
* return the bag you found on the bus
* report a problem with our website

8.

* less numerous
* much slower
* more complicated
* more stop-and-go

9.

* bus shelter map
* shuttle bus
* information kiosk
* online mapping tool

10.

* make a change in schedule
* determine your driver's name
* identify your forgotten bag
* monitor customer service

11.

* consider establishing an information kiosk
* thank your driver when you next catch the bus
* suggest that our drivers wear name tags
* remind all our bus drivers to be on time

**Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram**

A screenshot of a flyer

Description automatically generated

**Read the following email message about the diagram on the left. Complete the email by filling in the blanks. Select the best choice for each blank from the drop-down menu (  ).**

To: 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

▾

From: Natalie Moreau <moreaun@xmail.com>  
Date: March 12, 2015  
  
I happen to be shopping for business cards, so I was happy to see your flyer in my inbox this morning! I like the "Dynamic" and "Unique" cards as they both 2.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I appreciate the appeal of the "Unique" card, but I worry that it is so unique as to be distracting! So I was leaning towards the "Dynamic" card, but I 3.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Bottom line is I'm not too keen on any of the featured templates, and, actually, I’m looking for a 4.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_card, so I thought I'd check out your other templates (especially since 5.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). However, when I clicked on the link for your website, I landed on the order form. This happened when I manually input your website address as well. Thought you should know!

Cheers,

Natalie Moreau

1.

* University Admissions
* B & C Business Cards
* Best Business Cards, Inc.
* Mr. Andrews, Supervisor

2.

* allow for substantial descriptive content
* are available with raised print
* are available in a matte card
* feature several eye-catching colors

3.

* want a card that is partially black
* want my name to be prominent
* need to order only 100 cards
* prefer a card with a glossy finish

4.

* white
* durable
* one-sided
* multi-coloured

5.

* you don't offer custom design
* you accept orders by email
* you offer a discount on all orders
* you will ship to Canada

**Using the drop-down menu (  ), choose the best option.**

6. Moreau is most likely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* applying to post-secondary school.
* seeking to improve her business presence.
* retiring soon from her job.
* working for a business card manufacturer.

7. What would best describe Moreau's email? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* confused and annoyed
* interested and helpful
* relieved and grateful
* angry and critical

8. Moreau probably received the flyer as which of the following? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* a mis-addressed email
* a reply to a specific query
* an email advertisement
* an attachment to an electronic receipt

**Reading Part 3: Reading for Information**

**Read the following passage.**

**A.** Belonging to an order of carnivorous insects called Odonates (a word which derives from the Greek word for “tooth”), dragonflies have existed for more than 300 million years, yet scientists have only recently begun researching them. The exact number of dragonfly species is not known, but scientists believe that there are over 5000 worldwide, with more than 450 in North America, including over 80 in British Columbia alone. Dragonflies are unique creatures with a diverse range of habitats. They have been detected in both acidic bogs and alkaline lakes. Although dragonflies can be found in a wide range of environments, they all live near water.  
  
**B.** Dragonflies lay their fertilized eggs in ponds or marshes during the spring and summer. From these eggs emerge nymphs, immature water-dwelling insects. Depending on the species, a dragonfly may spend anywhere from 1 to 4 years in the nymph stage, living just below the water surface before becoming a fully developed adult, mature enough to climb out of its watery home, shed its skin, and fly away. Relative to its entire life cycle, the time a dragonfly spends as an adult is short, lasting only several months.  
  
**C.** Dragonflies are skilled predators whose hunting techniques are specific to each phase of their life cycle. As nymphs, they stalk their quarry on low-lying greenery or shoots; lie in the mud at the bottom of a pond to wait for prey; or bury themselves in the mud to search for food. They eat aquatic insects and, once they grow big enough, sometimes consume tadpoles and even small fish. As adults, though, dragonflies hunt while flying through the air, positioning their legs to form a basket that captures mosquitoes, small midges, and other tiny flying insects.  
  
**D.** Researchers are continually uncovering interesting facts about the dragonfly. An adult can fly at top speeds of up to 100 kilometres per hour, making it one of the fastest insects in the world. Each dragonfly eye has a 360-degree field of vision and 30,000 lenses that help it detect motion. In Myanmar, a country in Southeast Asia, dragonflies have been introduced to watery locations for their habit of eating mosquito larvae—an effective strategy for controlling mosquito-transmitted diseases such as dengue fever. Who knows what future research will reveal about this fascinating creature!  
  
**E. Not given in any of the above paragraphs.**

**Decide which paragraph, A to D, has the information given in each statement below. Select E if the information is not given in any of the paragraphs.**

 1. Dragonflies can be used as a form of pest and illness control.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 2. The dragonfly’s hunting tactics vary depending on its life stage.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

3. Close proximity to water is necessary for dragonfly habitation.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 4. Dragonflies' eyes have inspired new vision technology.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 5. Dragonflies have been in existence since prehistoric times.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 6. A nymph’s maturation rate depends on its nutrient intake.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 7. New information about dragonflies is still being discovered.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 8. Canadian dragonflies have unique hunting techniques.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

 9. Dragonflies spend less time in full maturity than in early life phases.

* A
* B
* C
* D
* E

**Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints**

**Read the following article from a website.**

The Canadian government has a long history of funding visual and performing arts across the country. Unfortunately, in the face of difficult fiscal choices, the government has increasingly withdrawn its support. Meanwhile, some influential groups have recently claimed that funding for the arts is a waste of public money and falls outside the purview of the government.  
  
In an interview, Myriam Donahue of the Canadian Taxpayers League expanded on this subject. “Society doesn’t accept government intervention in other economic sectors; the arts should be no different. Government intervention distorts the market. Artists should be more entrepreneurial and obtain money from the private sector,” claimed Donahue. “We appreciate a work of art the same way we appreciate a good meal or a sports game. Just as the government doesn’t tell us what to eat for dinner or what sports to watch, it shouldn’t be in the business of selecting which artist is fittest for public consumption. When that happens, taxpayers subsidize the leisure pursuits of society’s wealthiest people.”  
  
Understandably, artists have resisted. “It’s not realistic to imagine that private sponsorship and philanthropy are a panacea to replace government funding,” explained community arts organizer Katarina Bakir. “Businesses see government support of the arts as a stamp of approval ensuring high standards of quality and integrity. With government cutbacks, the private sector has actually been more reluctant to sponsor events and artists. Earnings for most professional Canadian artists are already hovering around the poverty level. If funding cuts continue, artists will have to choose between falling further into poverty or changing professions.”  
  
Eastern University sociologist Dr. Peter Horvath agrees that artists need entrepreneurial skills and sees many social benefits to public patronage for the arts. “The arts are often accused of being elitist, but surveys show that Canadians actually prefer artistic events to live sports. By funding the arts, governments create a shared meaning and a joint understanding of our country’s values. Supporting the arts provides a common good in the form of public shows and events, but it also enhances our cohesiveness as a community. It fosters a healthy society.”

**Using the drop-down menu (  ), choose the best option according to the information given on the website.**

1. The article is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* what measurable value the arts brings to our society.
* why the private sector should financially support artists.
* whether artists should rely on themselves or on charities.
* whether working artists deserve government sponsorship.

2. Paragraph one provides a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* description of various types of performing arts.
* few pieces of background information.
* good example of the problem that follows.
* brief historical overview of Canadian artists.

3. Myriam Donahue's views would likely be supported by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* administrators working for a government-funded arts council.
* corporations dedicated to funding overseas health initiatives.
* dance organizations reliant on government sponsorships.
* Canadian residents interested mainly in spectator sports.

4. Bakir thinks that implementing Donahue’s ideas would lead to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* a decrease in the number of working artists.
* a decrease in government income tax rates.
* an increase in the quality and integrity of art.
* an increase in private funding for the arts.

5. The author’s tone indicates support for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* eliminating public funding of visual and performing arts.
* government commitment to supporting Canadian artists.
* increased public participation in local arts organizations.
* private sector funding for the arts across Canada.

**The following is a comment by a visitor to the website page. Complete the comment by choosing the best option to fill in each blank.**

I’m an alternative rock musician, and my band has been trying for years to get government funds to go on tour. We’ve been denied money by bureaucrats who seem willing to fund only classical ballet, operas, and symphony orchestras.  
  
So Myriam Donahue strikes a chord with me when she says governments that fund the arts 6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, 7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m wary of Ms. Donahue’s advice. Our brand of heavy metal music is a very small niche and doesn’t appeal to the mass market. It’s hard to imagine it would appeal to the “suits” who are your typical corporate donors. That’s why I question Ms. Donahue’s opinion that 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  
  
9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ms. Bakir’s prediction. That is, to survive economically, I may genuinely have to 10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6.

* do so without economic intervention
* pay for the pastimes of the elite
* undervalue the work of modern musicians
* support administrators rather than artists

7.

* due to her lack of information on the issue
* similar to Ms. Katarina Bakir
* based on Dr. Horvath's strong opposition
* despite her statistical evidence

8.

* artists should produce practical things
* free handouts distort the true meaning of art
* governments should have good taste
* private philanthropy can sustain the arts

9.

* Moreover, I am also doubtful of
* Thus, I could become an example of
* Unfortunately, I have to disagree with
* Indeed, Ms. Donahue does share

10.

* cut back on my unnecessary spending
* give up on my dream just to pay the rent
* produce music of a lower quality standard
* seek funds from more conservative donors

ANSWER KEY

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Answer Key** |  |
| Practice Test B - Reading Practice Task | British Columbia |  |  |
| [Return to Practice Task](https://instructionalproducts.paragontesting.ca/InstructionalProducts/FreeOnlineSampleTest/FOST/View/cd61efa4-aef1-40bc-bbfd-58fca2b44d65) |  |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q1 | in the downtown area. |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q2 | Monday. |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q3 | visiting the transit web page. |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q4 | was very tired. |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q5 | the bus driver honked at him. |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q6 | gratitude. |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q7 | tell us about your transit experience |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q8 | more complicated |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q9 | shuttle bus |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q10 | determine your driver's name |  |  |
| Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence - Q11 | thank your driver when you next catch the bus |  |  |
| [Return to the beginning of Part 1](https://instructionalproducts.paragontesting.ca/InstructionalProducts/FreeOnlineSampleTest/FOST/View/a648fc13-f318-4c8f-b152-00eefae0f74a) |  |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q1 | B & C Business Cards |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q2 | allow for substantial descriptive content |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q3 | need to order only 100 cards |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q4 | one-sided |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q5 | you will ship to Canada |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q6 | seeking to improve her business presence. |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q7 | interested and helpful |  |  |
| Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram - Q8 | an email advertisement |  |  |
| [Return to the beginning of Part 2](https://instructionalproducts.paragontesting.ca/InstructionalProducts/FreeOnlineSampleTest/FOST/View/194d183e-a28f-43eb-a09e-cb71af29c71b) |  |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q1 | D |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q2 | C |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q3 | B |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q4 | E |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q5 | A |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q6 | E |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q7 | D |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q8 | E |  |  |
| Reading Part 3: Reading for Information - Q9 | B |  |  |
| [Return to the beginning of Part 3](https://instructionalproducts.paragontesting.ca/InstructionalProducts/FreeOnlineSampleTest/FOST/View/aa75acfe-cb35-4372-ad78-5167781f2685) |  |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q1 | whether working artists deserve government sponsorship. |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q2 | few pieces of background information. |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q3 | Canadian residents interested mainly in spectator sports. |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q4 | a decrease in the number of working artists. |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q5 | government commitment to supporting Canadian artists. |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q6 | pay for the pastimes of the elite |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q7 | similar to Ms. Katarina Bakir |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q8 | private philanthropy can sustain the arts |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q9 | Thus, I could become an example of |  |  |
| Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints - Q10 | give up on my dream just to pay the rent |  |  |