



Introduction to the Reading Sub-Test

Week 1: Day 3

Wednesday 23rd September 2026



Objective

- Gain a deeper understanding of Parts A, B, & C of the Reading sub-test
- What will the questions look like?
- Which techniques are required?
- Questions?



Reading Sub-Test: Key Info

- 60 minutes in total:
 - 15 Minutes for Part A (taken away once finished)
 - 45 minutes for Part B & C (You will decide how to manage your time for these 2 sections)
- Task types: Matching, short answer questions, sentence completion, multiple choice.
- Text types: Informational texts typically used by healthcare professionals, texts on medical topics.
 - ▶ descriptions of presenting factors, symptoms and diagnostic tools
 - ▶ information about investigations and differential diagnoses
 - ▶ medication tables and dosage charts
 - ▶ treatment pathways and options, often represented as flow-charts
 - ▶ instructions about dressings, mobility aids and other devices
 - ▶ advice to give patients on discharge

Reading: Part A

- 15 minutes - this is the **fast** part of the test and they will be strict on time.
- In 15 minutes, you must **read 4 short texts** (approx. 650 words each), related to **one healthcare topic** and answer **20 questions** related to those texts.
- The 20 questions are **divided into 3 sub-tests**. The aim being to find specific information under pressure.
- Each correct question receives **1 mark**.

Key skills required:

'Skimming' and **'scanning'** for the correct information!

Identifying the correct extract to answer the question (the answers won't follow the order that the extracts are in. (Sometimes you may need to consider more than 1 one of the texts to find the correct answer)

Reading Part A: Question Types

Passage Selection:

Match the information to the correct text. Use headings, sub-headings, and other layout features to help you.

Questions 1-7

For each question, **1-7**, decide which text (**A, B, C** or **D**) the information comes from. Write the letter **A, B, C** or **D** in the space provided. You may use any letter more than once.

In which text can you find information about

- | | | |
|---|--|-------|
| 1 | procedures for delivering pain relief? | _____ |
| 2 | the procedure to follow when splinting a fractured limb? | _____ |
| 3 | what to record when assessing a patient? | _____ |
| 4 | the terms used to describe different types of fractures? | _____ |
| 5 | the practitioners who administer analgesia? | _____ |
| 6 | what to look for when checking an injury? | _____ |
| 7 | how fractures can be caused? | _____ |

Short Answer Questions: Locate the answer to questions from one of the 4 texts. Looking for detailed information!

Top Tip: Make sure you note down the information accurately and avoid spelling errors!

Questions 8-14

Answer each of the questions, **8-14**, with a word or short phrase from one of the texts. Each answer may include words, numbers or both. You should **not** write full sentences.

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 8 | What should be used to elevate a patient's fractured leg? | _____ |
| 9 | What is the maximum dose of morphine per kilo of a patient's weight that can be given using the intra-muscular (IM) route? | _____ |
| 10 | Which parts of a limb may need extra padding? | _____ |

Reading Part A: Question Types Continued

Fill in the missing words: Complete the sentences with the correct words that can be found in the texts.

Remember that spelling needs to be accurate!

Questions 15-20

Complete each of the sentences, **15-20**, with a word or short phrase from one of the texts. Each answer may include words, numbers or both.

- 15** Falling on an outstretched hand is a typical cause of a _____ of the elbow.
- 16** Upper limb fractures should be elevated by means of a _____.
- 17** Make sure the patient isn't wearing any _____ on the part of the body where the plaster backslab is going to be placed.
- 18** Check to see whether swollen limbs are _____ or increasing in size.

Strategies for Part A:

Time is of the essence!!

- 30 seconds to read each text.
- Write a brief outline of what each text covers to help you.

Key Skills - What's the difference?

Skimming: Looking quickly to gather a general sense of ideas, information or topic.

Scanning: Looking to find specific information, words or phrases.

Close Reading: Details and careful analysis to develop a deeper understanding. (slower)



Let's look at some Part A extract examples.....

Reading: Part B & C

- 45 minutes for both B & C - you will decide how much time you need for each section.
- **Part B:**
 - You are given **6 short extracts**. (Each extract is unrelated, unlike in Part A)
 - **One** 3-option multiple choice question per extract.
 - Understand the details, purpose, gist of **short workplace texts**. E.g. guidelines, policies, emails etc.
 - Ideally spend no more than **2 minutes** on each text and question.
 - Purpose of text may be **implied** and not immediately obvious.

Things to consider when reading texts for Part B

What? Is being discussed? Type of text?

Who? Is discussing the text? Would read this text?

Why? Has this text been written?

Top tips: Read the question before you look at the text to better understand the context.

Options are unlikely to match the wording in the extracts so it is not simply about matching.



Let's look at some Part B extract examples.....



● Part C:

- You are given **2 extracts** with **8 multiple choice questions** per extract.
- Extracts are longer (Approx. 800 words each). Don't spend more than **20 minutes** on each extract.
- The extracts are unrelated and will be **about different topics**.
- Generally articles or extracts from journals. (You are not expected to have a specialised knowledge of these topics).
- Some questions may relate to the understanding of specific words or expressions in context.
- Likely to include more complex vocabulary and **implied meaning and opinion**.
- Questions will follow the order of information in the extract.

- **Part C: How to approach it**

- Read the **title and first paragraph** to understand the **context** of the extract.
- With each question, read the extract for meaning and focus on the **ideas, concepts, opinions and tone**.
- **Understand the question:** don't get distracted by the answer options straight away.
- If you don't know the answer straight away, **try eliminating wrong answers**.



Let's look at some Part C extract examples.....



Any Questions?

