READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

Introduction

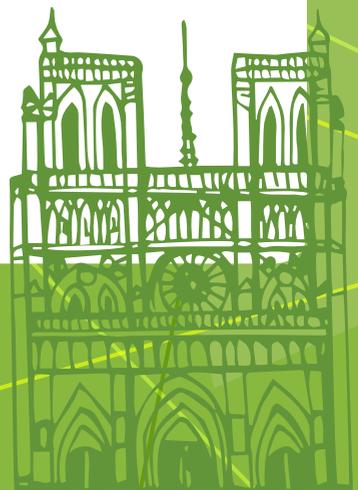Reading is Section B of the AS2 examination and Section B of the A22 examination.

Assessment

In Reading Comprehension you will be assessed on your ability to understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions from a variety of written texts (including authentic sources) covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres.

At AS / A2 levels the passages for the reading examination are drawn from sources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books or other forms of extended writing that relate to the themes.

Assessment Objective/s

Reading is assessed according to the AO2 criterion, i.e. understand and respond, in writing, to written language drawn from a variety of sources.

Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

- **The learning and revision of vocabulary underpin success in EVERY skills area.**
  - Read for pleasure – German magazines, newspapers and teenage literature.
  - Learn Vocabulary. This underpins success in EVERY skills area.
  - Learn vocabulary according to topics. There are often useful vocabulary lists in text books, but it is essential to make your own resources.
- Learn vocabulary also according to word families, for example, under the topic
  - Umwelt learn the noun Umweltverschmutzung and the verb verschmutzen.
- Read outside the textbook. There is a wealth of material on the web and in newspapers.
- There is no shortcut to the acquisition of vocabulary but constant learning and revision are essential.

Dealing with a Reading Text under examination conditions
  - Read the text slowly straight through at least once to capture the gist of the text.
  - Read through the questions carefully, taking note of what exactly is being asked.
  - Keep in mind the meaning of the question words (wo, wohin, woher, was, wann, wie, warum, inwiefern, wer)
- and those which include prepositions, for example, womit, woraus, wodurch, worauf, wozu and worum.
- It is important to use your time wisely, and time spent in preparation is time well spent. It is also essential to allow yourself sufficient time to reread your responses.
  - Annotate the text before you start to write your answers. Put the letter of each question at the side of the text where the relevant information is to be found.

Michael K und Julia S hatten sich auf der Berufsschule kennengelernt. Er war schon zwanzig, sie war erst achtzehn Jahre alt. Es war Liebe auf den ersten Blick, und während ihrer Studienzeit verbrachten sie immer viel Zeit zusammen. Er wollte Mechaniker werden und hatte vor, seine eigene Werkstatt zu eröffnen, sobald er es sich leisten konnte. (a)

Julia dagegen wollte bei einer großen Firma arbeiten, in der Kommunikationsabteilung, und zu diesem Zweck hatte sie sich für den Studiengang Informatik entschieden. Sobald sie beide mit ihren Studien fertig waren, heirateten sie und zogen in eine Wohnung in der Innenstadt Mannhein. Es machte ihnen nichts aus, ob die Wohnung schön eingerichtet war, solange sie die lebensnotwendigsten Dinge hatten. (b)

Questions
(a) Was war Michaels Berufswunsch?   (2)
(b) Woran erkennt man, dass ihnen materielle Dinge nicht viel bedeuteten?   (2)

- Questions on the text are usually set in chronological order, and so this annotation is a useful guide, if you are doubtful about which information answers which question.
- Take account of the number of marks given in brackets at the end of each question. This is a useful guide to the amount of detail required.
- Only then should you begin to write your answers.
- Attempt every question. If you leave a question unanswered you will definitely get no marks.
- You may be required to infer meaning and draw conclusions, in other words, you should read between the lines.
- In your response you should express your opinion and justify it, using evidence from the text.
- There may be more than one acceptable answer.
- Planning is the key to success.
- Reviewing is also the key to success.
- Read carefully what you have written in order to correct any errors.