

In the past lectures, we have had some rules about how to deal with academic reading. After finishing the part of phonics, we have to practice academic reading.

**First here are some tips that help you understand and deal with the questions that follow the reading passage.**

### **Matching Sentence Endings:**

- **Task:** Completing sentences by matching the start of the sentence with the correct ending given in a list.
- **Skills:**
  - locating information in the passage
  - understanding information
- **Tips:**
  - read through the sentences and then read through the possible endings
  - prepare paraphrases
  - find information in the passage
  - choose the best ending to match the information in the passage
  - the completed sentence must be grammatically correct
  - sentence beginnings follow the order of information the passage
  - answers are usually letters (A-G) – read instructions carefully to check
  - there are usually more endings given than you need

### **Classification:**

- **Task:** Decide which category the information belongs to from a list.
- **Skills:**
  - locating information in the passage
  - categorising information
- **Tips:**
  - find information in the passage
  - decide which category the information belongs to
  - look out for paraphrases

### **The Third question:**

Is a grammar revision.

Now read the passage and try to answer the questions

## D Test practice

### General Training Reading

#### Questions 1–9

Read the passage below and answer Questions 1–9.

## How to choose a university course

### How do I choose a course?

You've decided you want to do a course. Whether you would like a career change, a better job or simply to learn something new, it's a good idea to think carefully first. Here's a guide to help you.

### Qualifications – why do I need them?

Qualifications prove you've acquired knowledge or developed skills. For some careers like medicine and law, it's essential you have specific qualifications. For others, such as journalism, it helps to have a particular qualification.

Most universities set entry requirements for degree courses. Mature entrants don't always need formal qualifications, but need evidence of recent study, relevant work experience or professional qualifications. Professional bodies may grant you membership if you have certain qualifications. It's not always essential to have a qualification. Working knowledge, such as being able to use computer software, can be just as important.

### What type of course should I do?

Your motives will help you choose the best course for your aims and goals. If you are career-driven, you'll need a course relevant to your profession. If you are interested in self-development and meeting people, you should find out who else will be on the course.

There are work-related (vocational) and academic courses. Further education colleges offer academic courses and work-related courses. Universities offer higher education qualifications, such as academic first degrees and higher degrees and the more vocational diplomas.

For a career in plumbing, a vocational course is essential. For teaching, you need a degree. However, for many jobs, you have a choice between academic and vocational courses. A vocational course is better if you like doing things with your hands and working manually. You might prefer an academic course if you like researching, analysing and presenting arguments.

### **Which type of study would suit me best?**

Do you prefer on-the-job training, or do you prefer to research and gather facts? Do you like working in a group covering the same topics and working towards the same goal? If you prefer to work on your own, at your own pace, an open or distance learning course might suit you. You study from home, with the help of tuition packs, computers and tutor support via telephone or email. You can speed through the course or take your time. But you do need self-discipline and motivation.

### **What about my personal circumstances?**

You might prefer an open or distance learning course if:

- you're working and you don't know how much time a week you can commit to
- you work irregular hours
- you're at home looking after pre-school children.

Many colleges and training centres now offer flexible open-learning courses, where you can study at your own pace.

### **How do I know if it's a good course?**

You've decided which subject and type of course you want, and how to study it. You now need to choose between different course titles and providers. There are many courses and they aren't of equal value. The only way to assess the quality and value of a course is by research. Read prospectuses (course guides) carefully and note if a course is accredited or validated by a recognised body (this might be an awarding body or a professional body). This can add extra weight to your qualification.

Don't take everything you read at face value; check out the facts about each course yourself. Ask course tutors as many questions as you want.

### **How can I be sure I'm making the right choice?**

Be clear of your goal. If you've decided on a particular job, get an idea of what the job's about and if you'll like it. Read careers information, buy trade magazines, and speak to people currently working in the job. This research is well worth it. It's better to take your time rather than do a course that leads to a job you might not really want. You'll ensure that you don't waste any time or money.

### **What am I going to do after the course?**

Plan for when you finish. If you're aiming for a particular job, do voluntary work while studying. If you're doing an English course and want to be a journalist, you could write for the student newspaper or work on the radio. Having a plan will help you make the most of the opportunities that come your way when you're on the course.

**Questions 1–5**

Complete each sentence with the correct ending **A–F** from the box below.

Write the correct letter **A–F** next to Questions 1–5.

- 1 Students who want to do law .....
- 2 Mature students .....
- 3 Students who are motivated by self-development .....
- 4 Students who have young children .....
- 5 Students who choose a career in journalism .....

- A** will not need any experience to start a course
- B** will benefit from open-learning courses
- C** could get relevant work experience while they study
- D** can be accepted onto a course without qualifications
- E** should enquire about the other students on their course
- F** must have certain qualifications

**Questions 6–9**

Classify the following statements as applying to

- A** academic courses
- B** vocational courses
- C** both academic and vocational courses

Write the correct letter **A–C** next to Questions 6–9.

- 6 These courses are available through further education colleges. ....
- 7 You must take this kind of course if you wish to have a career in plumbing. ....
- 8 You will learn research methods on this type of course. ....
- 9 You will learn practical skills on this course. ....

**Grammar focus task**

These are extracts from the text. Without looking back at the text, fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets and then answer the questions that follow.

- 1 Your motives ..... (*help*) you choose the best course for your aims and goals.
- 2 If you are career-driven, you ..... (*need*) a course relevant to your profession.
- 3 You ..... (*ensure*) that you don't waste any time or money.
- 4 What ..... (*I/do*) after the course?
- 5 Having a plan ..... (*help*) you make the most of the opportunities that come your way when you're on the course.

Which future forms are used? .....

Why? .....