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English B – Standard level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Medio – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

7 May 2026 / 7 mai 2026 / 7 de mayo de 2026

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to students

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux élèves

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'avoir reçu l'autorisation de le faire.
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Cuadernillo de textos – Instrucciones para el alumnado

- No abra este cuadernillo hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuadernillo acompaña a la parte de comprensión de lectura de la prueba 2.

Text A

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Text B

Over £200,000 raised for Spellow Library after the riots

1 Following anti-immigration riots in Liverpool, a campaign has raised over £200,000 to repair Spellow Library, which was damaged during the unrest.

2 Spellow Library in Walton, Liverpool, was left torched and vandalised by anti-immigration rioters earlier in the year. The library was more than just a library; it also served as a community hub and a food bank. In response to the events, the community has rallied together to raise repair funds for the library, with a number of high-profile figures also pledging their support.



3 The fundraiser was started by a resident local to the library, Alexandra McCormick. After seeing the damage done to the community hub, she began a GoFundMe appeal with the goal of raising £500. Alexandra explained why she began the fundraising campaign: “I always loved to read when I was a child. My mum loves to read and now my little girl loves to read. Just seeing such a gorgeous community space destroyed—especially with it being a library—just really upset me.”

4 Despite the initially low fundraising goal, the total amount donated now stands at just over £237,400. A number of celebrities, including TV cook Nigella Lawson, and children’s author Frank Cottrell-Boyce, have donated to the cause. “I think when something that’s good for the community is damaged, especially when it impacts children and older people, I think people really come out in force and rally.” Alexandra explained.

5 Alexandra also describes the fundraiser as a community effort, with thousands of people working together to raise awareness of the library and the campaign. Spellow Library opened 18 months ago, with the specific purpose of serving deprived communities in the area. Throughout the year, community events are held to support the population, and over the course of the summer, the library planned to host a number of children’s activities.

6 On X (formerly Twitter)*, Liverpool Libraries and Information Services said: “We’d like to thank everyone very much for the generosity and support we have received following the incident at the Spellow Library hub.” Since the riots, the summer activities have now been relocated, with a full list of new locations being available on Liverpool City Council’s website.

* X (formerly Twitter): a social media platform where users can post short messages for others to see

Text C

The dos and don'ts of your first semester at university

Starting university is an exciting time. But, we know it can also be slightly daunting, so read our crucial top tips below.

Do get involved

- 5 There's more to university life than just studying, and there's no better way to make friends than taking part in all the extras. Of course, in your first semester you've got freshers* week to enjoy, a week of great nights out and freshers fairs to learn about everything you need to know and
- 10 meet fellow students. Also, get involved with some societies; if you're a fanatic sports player, find your sport and sign up to the team, or look for alternatives such as music groups, debating societies, country-inspired ones, eco groups,
- 15 course-specific groups and so much more.



[– 31 –]

- We've heard it all: "it's only first year", "first year doesn't count". But that's not strictly true. For many courses, the first year does count towards the final grade and what you're learning in this first year will help you down the line. So go out and enjoy yourself, but set the alarm for
- 20 those 9.00am lectures also.

[– 32 –]

- Maybe it's somewhere you've never been or somewhere you're sure is full of brain boxes and mean librarians, but you couldn't be more wrong. At times the library will become a second home to you throughout your university life. Get to know it early, find the books you need,
- 25 which areas you like, where the computers are and, of course, the quiet zones for when you really need to get your head down.

[– 33 –]

- If you have a question, ask it! Everyone's in the same shoes as you being completely new to university life so the chances are somebody else is thinking it too. Whether it's about the lecture,
- 30 your student accommodation or the university in general, don't hesitate to ask. Your lecturers, university staff and those working at your accommodation will all be super friendly and helpful and are there to help you adjust to university life.

[– 34 –]

- If this is the first time you've lived away from home, the idea of managing your money can be somewhat overwhelming. We recommend sitting down with a parent before you start planning your finances. This way you know how much you have to spend on bills, how much to budget on the food shop and what's left to go out and enjoy yourself with.
- 35

* freshers: students who have just started at a university

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