

**Functional Skills – English
Level 2 Reading**



2793-005-2

Reading Texts

This booklet contains the texts you will need to answer the reading assessment questions.

Remember to read the texts carefully before you attempt to answer the questions.

Do not open this paper until you are told to do so by the invigilator/tutor.

Identity Cards: An overview

As part of government policy to improve national security and crack down on fraud, identity cards are being introduced alongside passports. Both documents will include biometrics of your unique physical features (face and fingerprints), securing them to your biographic details (including your name, address, and date of birth).

If you're 16 or over and decide you would like an identity card you will be able to apply for an ID card in a very similar way to how you would apply for a passport from 2012. Every British citizen over 16 will have the option to apply if they wish to do so, however they will not be compelled to have one.

As the National Identity Service begins to roll out from 2009, enrolment will be available earlier than 2012 in selected locations, beginning with Manchester. People can register their interest online to be sent updates on the development of ID cards in their area.

A _____

When the identity card is launched, it will cost £30.

B _____

No bigger than a credit card and easy to carry around, the identity card will be convenient and portable. On the face of the card there will be:

- your photograph
- your full name
- your gender
- place and date of birth
- your nationality - applies to British citizens only
- an image of your signature

C _____

ID cards are already being used by some groups:

- **Foreign Nationals**

In November 2008, the first identity cards for foreign nationals began to be issued to people from outside the European Economic Area who had been granted an extension of their stay in the UK as a student, or on the basis of their marriage to, or partnership with, a UK citizen. As well as being an immigration document for foreign nationals, the card will allow them to prove their right to live in the UK, and to work, study or access public services here.

- **Critical Workers**

A number of airport employees working airside (the other side of passport control) are now required by law to obtain identity cards.

ID – NO!

ID-No is an organisation against the introduction of ID cards in the United Kingdom. We believe that the cards are:

- unnecessary
- expensive
- a distraction

We are looking for support from the general public for our cause and would invite you to sign up to our online petition against ID cards at our website: www.id-no.org.uk.

Why should we say no?

We believe many of the reasons given for adopting ID cards are flawed, for example:

Preventing illegal immigration and working

People will still enter Britain using foreign documents and ID cards offer **no more deterrent** to criminals than our current passport and visa system.

Benefit fraud

Identity is “only a tiny part of the problem in the benefit system”. Figures for claims under false identity are estimated at £50 million (2.5%) of an (estimated) £2 billion per year in fraudulent claims.

Identity fraud

Both Australia and the USA have far worse problems of identity theft than Britain, **because** they have ID cards. A common “secure”, trusted, ID card which can be copied is **more** useful to criminals.

Massive costs

According to estimates, the cost of setting up the scheme will be of the order of **£200 for every person** in the UK. This money could be better spent on other areas, such as hospitals and schools.

Voluntary?

We are currently in “voluntary phase” for ID cards. This means that they are not compulsory, however, this could be changed at a later date and everyone could be **forced** to obtain an ID card.

As you can see, the arguments against ID cards are clear. Please join us today in our campaign to stop them!

Sign up to our online petition at www.id-no.org.uk.

Our website contains more detailed information about our arguments against ID cards.

Manchester Airport welcomes the pilot of new Identity Cards

November 2008

Manchester Airport today became one of the first areas in the country to pilot the new Identity, or ID, cards. The ID cards are being piloted with small groups of key workers before being rolled out across the country in full in 2009.

Along with London City Airport, Manchester is participating in the pilot that will require certain staff to apply for the cards, this will normally be those staff who work airside (the other side of passport control). It is hoped that over time the introduction of the cards will benefit all those involved.

Today Manchester airport said 'We are committed to delivering identity cards to airside workers because we believe they offer real benefits to businesses operating at Manchester Airport. Moreover, improved identity checks will also provide greater transferability for individuals in terms of applying for new jobs within the industry where airside clearance is required without the need to repeat lengthy security checks.'

Further to these benefits to the airport, the cards will additionally serve as a document that staff can use to prove their identity outside of work, as well as a travel document for within the EEA. It is also hoped that they will improve the confidence of airport customers about their safety whilst travelling through the building thanks to the increased security of the new cards.

When the cards are fully introduced in 2012 it is hoped that they will bring wider benefits to the whole population including private citizens, businesses and local authorities who have for a long time been lacking a clear and simple way of proving identity. At present many use a disorganised system of photocopied bank statements, phone bills and birth certificates. This means an end to revealing details about your finances or personal life just to prove an identity or address.

The cards will also be used to ensure that foreign nationals living, working and studying here legally are able to easily prove their identity and prevent those here illegally from accessing services that they should not.

However, the cards are not popular in all quarters. Groups such as ID-NO have been campaigning against them on the grounds that they will cost too much, affect our civil liberties and not deliver the benefits that they promise.

The Manchester Airport pilot will provide the first opportunity for the cards to be trialed and evaluated for real. The results of the pilot will help identify any major issues before the cards become available nationally.