

## Section B: Reading Task 2

## A READING AND ANALYZING THE TEXT

The second task in the ECCE test consists of a set of four related texts followed by 10 multiple choice questions. Read the texts below and do the activities that follow.

A

## COLORADO

## Silver Mountain Resort

The perfect place to go skiing and snowboarding in Colorado



**Winter season:** November 1 to March 31  
**Peak elevation:** 12,500 ft.  
**Skiable area:** 350 acres  
**Longest trail:** 5.5 miles

**Ski area hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
**Half-day hours:** 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 or 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Full-day tickets:** \$60

**Half-day tickets:** \$45

Accommodations: hotels available within 5 miles, starting at \$120 for double rooms.

**NEW!!** This summer, throughout the months of June and July, we will have mountain biking races!

C

## NO SNOW THIS WINTER?

By James Wright

Colorado Springs, CO. At this point we don't know what to expect. During the last 50 years, our winters were characterized by perfect, soft, white snow. Our annual average snowfall ranged from 25 to 50 inches. Last year we had less than 10 inches of snow. And something similar happened all over the country. Last winter Vermont, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, and Montana had about 50% of the average snowfall of the last twenty years.

The economy of our city depends on the weather. Our ski resorts, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods



stores, to name a few, rely on the winter season to make ends meet. If we don't attract tourists from all over the world, if

we don't have what tourists want in winter, we will need to find new alternatives to keep our beautiful city alive.

The City Council will soon schedule an open meeting with local residents and businesspeople to discuss what the city should do in response to changes produced by global warming. We should all be there. It's time to start thinking about what we want for the future and to start making new plans.

B

## THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

The Mayor of Colorado Springs, Ms. Alisha White, requests the honor of your presence at an open forum

*Winter without snow: Analyzing alternatives*

**August 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**  
**City Council Auditorium**  
**1200 Main Street, Colorado Springs**

The Presidents of the Colorado Hotel Association, the United Ski Resorts Association, and the mayor will present and award the best five initiatives received from city residents.

Each of the top five initiatives will get an award of \$100,000 from the city to support the creation of new businesses and the development of alternative sources of income not dependent on snow.

There is still time to submit more initiatives. If you have an initiative to propose, submit it by e-mail to mayorinitiatives@springs.org by July 15.

D

New Message

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**From:** tbanks@silvermount.com

**To:** billadd@mymail.com

**Subject:** Your application

Dear Mr. Addison,

We appreciate your interest in joining our team of ski instructors. We were very impressed by your outstanding qualifications and experience.

We were originally planning on hiring five new instructors but the drop in the annual snowfall has made us reconsider. Since we estimate that we will receive 50% of the tourists we usually get at our resort, we will be hiring only two new ski instructors, who will work full-day shifts. You are one of the applicants we are considering. We would like to schedule an interview with you at our resort on June 30 to discuss more initiatives that you could help us with next winter. If you are still interested in this position, please contact Betty Davidson to make the arrangements for your upcoming visit. I recommend you stay in the area for one or two nights so we can show you around our facilities and the local area.

Yours sincerely,  
 Trevor Banks,  
 General Manager

## Section B: Reading Task 2

## Reading skills and strategies

## Identifying purpose

In questions about purpose, there is always one correct option that summarizes the purpose of the section. The other options are either very general or too specific. You have to find the option that best summarizes the author's purpose for the entire text.

**3 Answer the following questions about the texts on page 14. Identify which options are too general and which ones are too specific to describe the purpose of the section.**

- 1 What is the main purpose of section A?
  - a to publicize a resort's opening hours
  - b to advertise a hotel
  - c to invite bikers to mountain bike races
  - d to advertise a holiday destination
- 2 What is the main purpose of section B?
  - a to encourage people to submit proposals
  - b to announce the date of an event
  - c to invite people to an award ceremony
  - d to invite residents to meet the mayor
- 3 What is the main purpose of section C?
  - a to explain why we get less snow
  - b to make readers think about possible changes
  - c to invite residents to an open meeting
  - d to predict what will happen in the future
- 4 What is the main purpose of section D?
  - a to enquire if a candidate is interested in a job
  - b to confirm a job offer
  - c to reject a job candidate
  - d to introduce Betty Davidson

## Reading skills and strategies

## Recognizing the relationship between ideas or different sections of the text

Some of the questions will ask you to identify information that is mentioned in more than one section of the task. Look at the following question:

- 1 What will Mr. Wright probably be doing on August 1?
  - a visiting Silver Mountain Resort
  - b attending an open forum
  - c interviewing for a job
  - d writing a proposal

The correct answer is b – *attending an open forum*. In section C, James Wright mentions in his article that all residents should attend the open meeting organized by the City Council. Details of this meeting are mentioned in section B. The date set for this open forum is August 1.

**4 Answer the following questions according to the information in the text. The questions refer to sections A, B, C, and D. Justify your answers by underlining the relevant parts in the text.**


- 1 What will Mr. Addison's working hours be if he is selected for this job?
  - a 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  - b 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  - c 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  - d 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 2 Which sections have references to the impact of the weather on the city's economy?
  - a sections A, B, and C
  - b sections B, C, and D
  - c sections A, C, and D
  - d all sections
- 3 What can Mr. Addison do during his visit to Silver Mountain Resort?
  - a go skiing
  - b teach snowboarding lessons
  - c attend the mayor's meeting
  - d go mountain biking

**B FOCUS ON KEY VOCABULARY**

Match the two halves to make compound nouns.

- |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1 city .....     | a room    |
| 2 open .....     | b forum   |
| 3 double .....   | c warming |
| 4 general .....  | d manager |
| 5 sporting ..... | e biking  |
| 6 mountain ..... | f council |
| 7 global .....   | g goods   |

**C INTERACTING WITH THE READING PASSAGE**

 Imagine you were going to the open forum in Colorado Springs. What proposals would you make to the mayor to attract tourists to the town? Discuss with your partner and then present your ideas to the class.

**D PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE**

Choose the best option to answer the following questions:

The following questions refer to section A on page 14.

- 1 What is the purpose of section A?
  - a to advertise a resort
  - b to announce a new activity
  - c to advertise a hotel
  - d to announce new prices
- 2 How much would it cost to ski at the resort from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.?
  - a \$45
  - b \$60
  - c \$90
  - d \$120

The following question refers to section B on page 14.

- 3 What will happen at the open forum?
  - a A dinner will be held.
  - b The residents will present their initiatives.
  - c Five residents will get cash awards.
  - d The mayor will propose new initiatives.

The following questions refer to section C on page 14.

- 4 What is the main point of section C?
  - a A city is undergoing an economic crisis.
  - b Tourists are no longer interested in skiing vacations.
  - c The mayor has agreed to have a meeting.
  - d A way to attract more tourists should be found.
- 5 How much snow did Vermont get last winter?
  - a equivalent to the annual average
  - b more than expected
  - c half of the annual average
  - d more than in previous years

The following question refers to section D on page 14.

- 6 Why did Mr. Addison receive this e-mail?
  - a He has been hired for a job.
  - b His working conditions have changed.
  - c He is being considered for a job.
  - d He is being made redundant.

The following question refers to sections A, B, C, and D.

- 7 Which sections invite the reader to contact somebody?
  - a sections A and C
  - b sections B and D
  - c sections C and D
  - d sections B and C

