



NCFE Level 1 Functional Skills Qualification in English (603/5058/1): Reading

Paper number: **Sample Assessment Materials**

Time allowed: **1 hour**

Learner instructions

- Use black ink.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Read **each** question carefully.

Learner information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 30.
- You will need access to a dictionary.

Do not turn over until the invigilator tells you to do so.

Please complete your details below.

Learner name:

Centre name:

Learner number:

Centre number:

BARTON DAILY NEWS

Sparks fly over electric vehicle charging spaces

By Natalia Lewis, News Editor

Council announces new green plan

In the UK, the number of electric vehicles, usually referred to as EVs, is growing. At the beginning of 2025, there were almost 1.5 million EVs on the road.¹ In response to this, Barton Council plans to add new EV charging spaces on the high street. This is part of a long-term plan to reduce harmful fumes by 50% by the end of 2030.

The new charging stations will be solar powered, making good use of free energy from the sun. The plan is to move away from petrol and diesel cars completely. Supporters say investing in EV technology will lead to cleaner air, quieter roads, and happier shoppers. 'It's great to see the council investing in the future. EV drivers from out of town will be more likely to come and do their shopping in Barton,' said Anna Barnes, café owner.

Local shoppers raise concerns

However, not everyone is so thrilled. The plan has sparked strong reactions from local residents and business owners. Some locals point out that the EV spaces will replace regular parking spots, reducing the number of spaces for non-EV drivers. 'It's hard to find a parent and child space near the shops. If you take away spaces for regular cars, it's only going to make it worse,' argues local resident Tom Harris.

Retired teacher Jaz Green agrees, 'It's not fair giving the best parking spaces to EV owners. The rest of us will have

to park further away and walk longer distances to the shops. It's unfair, unreasonable, and inconvenient!'



Getting ready for the future

The council insists the move is necessary to get Barton ready for the future. A council spokesperson commented, 'We need to prepare now. These spaces will become vital for the survival of our high street. As more EVs are bought, we'll have to provide spaces for them. This is just phase one of a much bigger plan. We expect to add more EV spaces over the coming years.'

While the planned spaces might be a step towards a greener high street, their success will depend on how well the council balances the needs of all drivers.

Have your say

Email your local councillor:

b.stevens@bartoncouncil.biz.uk

¹ www.EVcharging.biz

Section 1

This section has a possible **13 marks** available.

Questions 1 to 8 are about Text 1. Make sure you refer to Text 1 when answering these questions.

Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

- 1** Where will the EV charging stations get their power from? **[1 mark]**

- 2** Using Text 1, identify whether **each** of the following statements is **true** or **false**. **[2 marks]**

Statement	True or False
The council wants to move away from petrol and diesel cars completely.	
The council does not have any plans to increase the number of EV charging spaces in the future.	

- 3** What is the purpose of Text 1?
Select **one** of the following: **[1 mark]**

- A** To advise readers on how to use charging stations safely
- B** To describe electric vehicle charging points
- C** To explain the issues around new charging spaces
- D** To persuade readers to continue to shop locally

Answer _____

4 The article in Text 1 talks about plans for new spaces for EVs.

Identify **two** impacts of the plans on local people.

[2 marks]

1.

2.

5 The writer of Text 1 uses language features to explain the reasons for the council's plan.

Give **one** quotation for **each** of the following features:

(a) Statistics

[1 mark]

(b) Rule of three

[1 mark]

6 What **two** things does the image in Text 1 tell readers about EV charging spaces?

Select **two** of the following:

[2 marks]

- A** They accept mobile phone payments
- B** They are cheap to use
- C** They are dangerous to use
- D** They show drivers when the car is charged
- E** They take a long time to charge

Answer 1 _____

Answer 2 _____

7 (a) Where did the writer get their information about the number of EVs in the UK?

[1 mark]

(b) Which section presents the council's comments?

[1 mark]

8 The writer uses the word 'vital' in the section, 'Getting ready for the future'.

What does the word 'vital' mean in this context?

You may use a dictionary to help you answer this question.

[1 mark]

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Text 2

Inbox	From: s.garcia@biznet
 Folders	To: b.stevens@bartoncouncil.biz
 Sent	Subject: Concerns about new electric car spaces on the high street
 Drafts	Dear Councillor Stevens, I am writing to share my thoughts on the plan for new electric vehicle (EV) charging spaces on our high street. I appreciate the council's efforts to protect us from harmful fumes. However, I do wonder if this is the best use of our money. Firstly, I understand the positives of this new plan. Promoting EV use is vital for reducing carbon emissions, and it's great to see these steps being taken. However, only 17% of local people own an EV. This means these prime parking spaces may be empty much of the time. Meanwhile, where will the other 83% of us park? The town needs a few EV spaces, but not as many as mentioned in the plan. Where will it end? While the planned charging spaces may attract visitors from outside of the town, the potential loss of six regular spaces to electric vehicles is already causing frustration among shoppers. This could have a negative impact on local businesses as local drivers will spend their money somewhere else. Barton Residents' Association will be holding a meeting on Thursday 25 January at 7.00 pm (doors open at 6.45 pm). We will be asking people to sign our petition against this new plan. Funding should be ring-fenced for more urgent issues in our town, such as: • fixing potholes • easing traffic jams • improving public transport. I do think we should be encouraging people to buy electric vehicles and perhaps even create a quieter high street, but I feel it would be more useful to have charging stations in other parts of town. I beg the council to change this plan. Protecting the environment is a primary concern, but it should not come at the expense of more important local problems. Yours sincerely, Mrs S Garcia

Section 2

This section has a possible **17 marks** available.

Questions 9 to 19 are about Text 2. Make sure you refer to Text 2 when answering these questions.

Answer all questions in the spaces provided.

- 9** How many regular parking spaces will change to electric charging spaces? **[1 mark]**

- 10** Using Text 2, identify whether **each** of the following statements is a **fact** or an **opinion**. **[2 marks]**

Statement	Fact or Opinion
To give prime parking spaces to electric vehicles is wrong.	
The meeting will be held on 25 January.	

- 11** According to the writer of Text 2, what percentage of local people own an electric vehicle? **[1 mark]**

Please turn over for the next question.

12 Using Text 2, identify **two** positive effects of the new charging spaces. **[2 marks]**

1. _____

2. _____

13 Why has the writer used brackets in Text 2?

Select **one** of the following:

[1 mark]

- A** To give an example
- B** To give extra information
- C** To show enthusiasm
- D** To show humour

Answer _____

14 (a) What does 'impact' mean in the context of Text 2?

[1 mark]

(b) The text says that the funding should be 'ring-fenced'. What does 'ring-fenced' mean in the context of Text 2?

[1 mark]

15 Which **one** of the following words from Text 2 is descriptive?

[1 mark]

- A** Drivers
- B** Fumes
- C** Harmful
- D** Meeting

Answer _____

16 Identify the language feature in this quotation from Text 2:

‘Where will it end?’

[1 mark]

17 The writer uses the phrase, ‘primary concern’.

What does the word ‘concern’ mean?

You may use a dictionary to help you answer this question.

[1 mark]

- 18** Give **one** suggestion the writer makes for spending council money.

[1 mark]

- 19** Look at this quotation from Text 2. State whether it is an example of **persuasive** or **descriptive** language.

[1 mark]

Quotation	Persuasive or Descriptive
I beg the council to change this plan .	

For the following questions, you will need to refer to Text 1 **and** Text 2.

- 20** Which **one** of these statements applies to **both** texts?

[1 mark]

Statement	Tick one (✓)
The electric vehicle charging spaces will replace regular parking spaces.	
Electric vehicle ownership is increasing.	

21 Both texts mention how local people can give their opinions about the new charging spaces.

Give **one** example from **each** text.

[2 marks]

Example from Text 1:

Example from Text 2:

[Total: 30 marks]

This is the end of the external assessment.

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To be completed by the examiner	Mark
Section 1	/ 13
Section 2	/ 17
TOTAL MARK	/ 30