ncfe.

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

Paper Title: Level 1 Functional Skills Qualification in English: Reading

Paper number: P001233

Time allowed: 1 hour

Learner instructions
- Use black or blue ink.
- Read each question carefully.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Write your responses in the spaces provided.
- All of the work you submit **must** be your own.

Learner information
- The marks available for **each** question are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 30.
- The use of a dictionary is permitted.

To be completed by the examiner	Mark
Section 1	/ 13
Section 2	/ 14
Section 3	/ 3
TOTAL MARK	/ 30

Please complete the details below clearly and in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Learner name _____

Centre name _____

Learner number [_____]   Centre number [_____]

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

What is fake news and is it important?

by John Prentice

Fake news has been around for hundreds of years, yet it is only recently that the term has come into common use. Do you ever wonder why? A recent report by UKPoll has said there are 'serious concerns; about the effect of fake news on our 'shared values and democratic institutions'[1]. That sounds quite serious. So let's look at what fake news really means.

Types of fake news

The first type of fake 'news' is usually non-deliberate. It's 'news' published in print, on the TV or the Internet, which is not completely accurate. For example, a newspaper might report that a local shop owner has been charged with drink-driving, whereas it was, in fact, another person of the same name. Mistake. The second type is where writers exaggerate to make a point or push only one side of an argument. This type of news is not necessarily untrue but it is likely to be inaccurate. It's often biased, like when a TV channel headlines only parts of a politician's speech out of context.
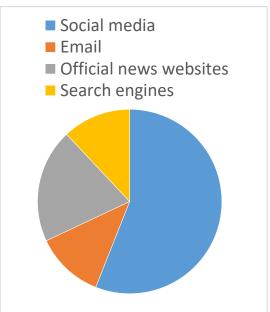
Then there's the kind where people tell lies on purpose. Often the entire story is false. People do this for a number of reasons. For example, they may want people to buy a certain product. They may want you to think or vote in a particular way. Or they may just be making what they see as a joke.

But all these kinds of fake news have been around for a long time. So why has the idea of fake news burst so suddenly into the headlines?

It's the Internet of course

Most of us now have access to the Internet and we can be swamped with fake news, particularly when we use social media. The leader of UKPoll says: "There's almost more fake news out there than there is real news". We might share a friend's post about an actor's bad manners, without knowing it is untrue. You may click on a link to a website which exists solely to publish fake news without realising that's its purpose, because it looks so real.

- Social media
- Email
- Official news websites
- Search engines

So does fake news really matter?

The answer to that question has to be 'yes it does'. It matters greatly because what we read or hear or see has an effect on our attitudes and how we behave with other people. And I would like my views to be based on fact not fiction.

[1] UKPoll Fake News Report, 24th July, 2019.

Section 1

The questions in this section refer to Document 1.

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

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

1   Identify whether **each** of the following statements about Document 1 is **true** or **false**.

[2 marks]

Statement	True or False
The **main** purpose of this text is to persuade readers that fake news has a negative effect on society.	
The writer **mostly** uses informal language.	

2   Identify whether **each** of the following quotations from Document 1 is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

[2 marks]

Statement	Fact or Opinion
'That sounds quite serious.'	
'It matters greatly'	

3   Give **two** examples of fake news mentioned in Document 1.

[2 marks]

....

....

....

....

4 Give **two** reasons why the writer has referenced quotations from the UKPoll report in paragraph 1.

[2 marks]

....

....

....

....

5 What organisational feature has the writer used to divide the text in Document 1 into sections?

[1 mark]

....

....

6 Why does the writer think that discussing the topic of fake news is important?

[1 mark]

....

....

....

7 Give **one** reason why the writer includes inverted commas when using the word 'news' in paragraph 2.

[1 mark]

....

....

....

8 What does the chart imply about access to news that is **not** mentioned in the text?

[1 mark]

....

....

9 The writer says 'we can be swamped with fake news'. What does the word 'swamped' mean in this context?

You can use a dictionary to answer this question.

[1 mark]

....

....

This is the end of Section 1.

Please turn over and begin Section 2.

Discussion topic – How do you recognise fake news?

Suetoo	It's dead easy to tell whether news is fake; when I'm on a fake website my computer crashes! But seriously, the social media platforms allow people to share their opinions and keep up-to-date with popular topics.
LaptopLarry	It's difficult to recognise fake news because the people that spread it are very clever. I think the best way is to ask yourself about the source of the information. If you can't find the source, immediately distrust it. If you can find it then check it out using a trusted search engine.
Webus.com	I think this fake news problem is so big, so complicated and so out of control that it's impossible to stop. Perhaps we just need to embrace it.
Northerncaller	If you've clicked onto a strange website then ask yourself this; does it look genuine or does it look like a 'copycat' website? What about the web address; does it end in something strange like .com.co.
Wolfman	This is what fake news does for free speech.
Wildgirl53	So those Presidents didn't share confidential information? Well, I just loved reading about it. Ha, ha! I'm fed up with the proper stuff. It's boring. No one can stop it anyway so why don't we just give it a hug and go with it?
GaryH	Don't you think fake news is a terrible problem? You can't tell whether something is genuine or not. You have to find the source, although this is difficult. The problem is anyone can post on social media and the social media businesses ought to check whether it's genuine or fake.
Snowman10	The major problem with addressing the question you're asking is that 'fake news' is almost always found on social media platforms and these companies should be inspecting it! Those running social media should be able to recognise when someone is using propaganda to force their opinions on others by spreading rumours or tricking people, and trash it.

Section 2

The questions in this section refer to Document 2.

This section has a possible **14 marks** available.

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

10 Use information in Document 2 to say if these statements are **true** or **false**.

[2 marks]

Statement	True or False
Northerncaller and Snowman10 are the only two contributors who have made a practical suggestion as to how to deal with fake news.	
LaptopLarry and GaryH have similar views as to how to recognise fake news.	

11 What does Webus.com mean about fake news when they say 'Perhaps we just need to embrace it'?

[1 mark]

....

....

12 Suetoo says 'the social media platforms allow people to share their opinions'. What does the word 'platforms' mean in this context?

[1 mark]

....

....

13 Identify **two** organisational features within Document 2 that help distinguish comments between contributors.

[2 marks]

....

....

14 What does the image used by Wolfman imply about fake news that is **not** mentioned in his post?

[1 mark]

....

....

15 Snowman10 mentions that there might be some who are 'using propaganda'. What does the word 'propaganda' mean in the context of their overall comment?

[1 mark]

....

....

16 Give **two** quotations from Document 2 where contributors say what they want social media companies to do about detecting fake news.

[2 marks]

....

....

....

....

17 Some contributors use persuasive language to express their opinions. Give **two** examples of this.

[2 marks]

....

....

....

....

18 State the textual feature used by the writer in **each** of the following quotations.

a) 'I think this fake news problem is so big, so complicated and so out of control that it's impossible to stop.'

[1 mark]

b) 'Don't you think fake news is a terrible problem?'

[1 mark]

This is the end of Section 2.

Please turn over and begin Section 3.

Section 3

The question in this section refers to Document 1 and Document 2.

This section has a possible **3 marks** available.

Answer the question in the space provided.

19 Compare the information, ideas and opinions given in Document 1 about fake news with what the contributors say about fake news in Document 2.

[3 marks]

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

....

[Total: 30 marks]

This is the end of the assessment.