

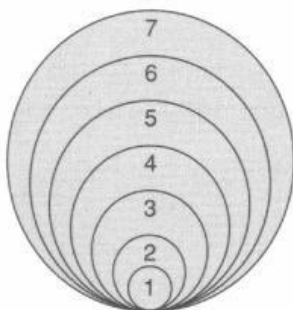
9 Community spirit

Exam focus: Matching information

Aims: Identifying sections of a text where information can be found
Identifying different types of information | Summarising a paragraph
Identifying the function of a paragraph

Part 1: Vocabulary

- 1 Look at the diagram and put the words a–g in order of size, 1–7, starting with the smallest place.

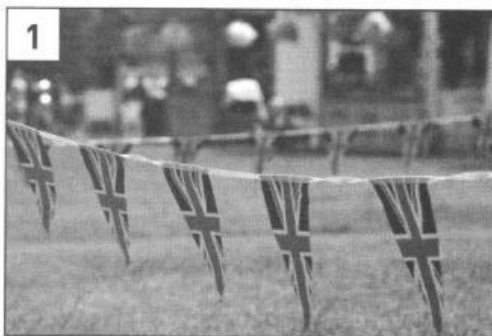


- | | | | |
|---|---------|---|---------------|
| a | city | e | neighbourhood |
| b | country | f | street |
| c | county | g | suburb |
| d | house | | |

1	_____	4	_____	7	_____
2	_____	5	_____		
3	_____	6	_____		

- 2 Match the pictures 1–4 with the words a–d.

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|---|--------------|-------|
| a | a cream tea | _____ | c | an allotment | _____ |
| b | a village green | _____ | d | bunting | _____ |



3 Match the words 1–6 with the definitions a–f.

1 a neighbourhood ____	a an organisation of people interested in a particular activity or subject who usually meet on a regular basis
2 a community ____	b a number of people or things which are together in one place at one time
3 a club ____	c all the people who live in a particular area or place
4 an association ____	d an official group of people, for example a political party, a business, a charity, or a club
5 a group ____	e an official group of people who have the same occupation, aim or interest
6 an organisation ____	f one of the parts of a town where people live

4 Complete the passage with the words a–h.

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| a associations | d cream tea | g neighbour |
| b bunting | e green | h plumbers |
| c communities | f groups | |

The Big Lunch is a new initiative that aims to bring neighbours and (1) _____ together by stringing up (2) _____ and sharing a plate of sandwiches and a (3) _____. More than 7,200 people have been busy setting up Big Lunches across the UK.

One of these events is being organised in the village of Wolvercote, three miles from Oxford, on the (4) _____, and they are expecting 300 people.

'We want to create a chance for people to meet their immediate (5) _____, and we also want to mix up the different (6) _____ in the area. It's all about getting people to shop locally, as well as join groups such as allotment (7) _____,' says the organiser. Planned events include face-painting and composting classes, and there will be stalls selling home-grown food and elder-flower champagne.

The Big Lunch can be beneficial in other ways, too. It's a great way to find reputable (8) _____, mechanics, painters or decorators.

5 Underline at least ten words or phrases related to the topic of neighbourhoods and communities in the passage. Use your dictionary if necessary.

The Prince of Wales is backing a campaign by 250,000 volunteers to save Britain from unsightly development and clutter.

The initiative, entitled Street Pride, aims to mobilise communities into taking an active role to prevent local roads, squares and precincts being spoiled. Backed by 1,000 civic groups across the nation, the organisers say that they want to create a vibrant body of activists.

Griff Rhys Jones, the comedy actor and presenter, will act as the figurehead for the campaign, which will be supported by English Heritage, the well-known organisation that protects and promotes England's historic built environment.

There are already many local campaigns. Activists in Tonbridge, Kent, are determined to restart the high street clock to re-assert its importance as a landmark in the town and in St Albans, locals are opposing a warehouse development.

Elsewhere there are plans to provide good playgrounds and save open spaces for community recreation. A priority will be to work with schools and to inspire children from an early age to value their local streets and distinctive buildings.

- 6 Find words in Exercise 5 that collocate with the words in the tables.

Adjectives	Nouns
active	1 _____
civic	2 _____
3 _____	campaign
4 _____	spaces
distinctive	5 _____

Verbs	Nouns
back	6 _____
mobilise	7 _____

- 7 Which word in Exercise 5 means ...

- things that fill a place in an untidy way? _____
- related to the duties or feelings that people have because they belong to a particular community? _____
- an organised group of people who deal with something officially? _____
- people who work to bring about political or social changes by campaigning in public or working for an organisation? _____
- a person who is recognised as being the leader of an organisation or movement, although they have little real power? _____

- 8 Complete the tables with the correct word forms.

Noun	Adjective
suburb	1 _____
charity	2 _____

Noun	Noun (person)
action	6 _____
7 _____	a campaigner

Verb	Noun
participate	3 _____
initiate	4 _____
5 _____	a volunteer

- 9 Complete the sentences 1–4 with words from Exercise 8.

- Hundreds of independent schools could lose their _____ status unless they increase fees.
- The charity is supporting a(n) _____ to bring together global leaders, college and university students, and private citizens to identify global challenges and solutions.
- Because of the recession, many local councils are selling residential property in _____ areas of large cities.
- In her youth, she was a(n) _____ and _____ for black civil rights.

Part 2: Practice exercises



Exam information: Matching information

In this type of task you need to match specific information, for example a reason, a description, an explanation, to the section of a text where it can be found.

The text is divided into sections which are labelled A, B, C, etc. Your answer to the questions is the letter of the relevant section.

The questions do not follow the order of the information in the text.

1 Read the text fragments 1–4. What are they about? Choose from the options, a, b, or c.

1 Everybody knows the positive influence a good school in the neighbourhood can have on property prices. So, what do you do when you don't have one?

- a the importance of good schools
- b rising property prices
- c the price of education

2 A group of residents in Bolnore, near Haywards Heath, West Sussex, decided to build a school themselves. They successfully bid to start an eco-school in local woodlands. The parent-led group has just appointed a headteacher; the primary school, with space for 210 pupils, will open in September.

- a applying for jobs in primary schools
- b the power of parents
- c environmentally-friendly building

3 The group is just one of a growing number across the country: people banding together to improve their way of life, from saving a village shop or pub to starting a shared agriculture scheme, where everyone helps out and gets fresh vegetables weekly.

- a the importance of healthy eating
- b the disappearance of traditional village life
- c the trend of taking action

4 Across Britain, a community spirit is growing. The fact that most of the schemes are also green adds to their appeal. So, what is going on, and could you do the same in your area?

- a the attraction of green schemes
- b a call to action
- c growing your own vegetables

Exam tip: In this type of exam task, you do not have to say what a whole paragraph is about. You have to find specific information in a paragraph.

2 Match the information underlined in the sentences 1–6 with the type of specific information.

1 London's East End community has changed. The old family structure – <u>in which mums had a lot of influence and sons followed dads down the docks</u> – is officially dead.	a reason
2 Many of those interviewed come across as model citizens. <u>Their children are better disciplined</u> , they're starting to achieve good grades and, in sharp contrast to the first generation, they see this place as home.	b explanation
3 The authors draw some important conclusions from all this. <u>Their main recommendation is a fresh approach to the culture of entitlement.</u>	c example
4 The study found that among white families running their own businesses, a strong sense of community endures. <u>Working together encourages mutual support.</u>	d comparison
5 Step back another half-century and you find a different scene: <u>a place inhabited by up to 150,000 Jewish immigrants.</u>	e summary
6 <u>Like some of the street markets that have sprung back to life in the past few years,</u> the community could, over time, reinvent itself.	f description

3 Underline examples of the types of information a–d in Text 1 and e–g in Text 2. You should be able to find them in the order they are listed and you may find more than one example.

- a** a reason **c** details **e** a comparison **g** an explanation
b an example **d** a summary **f** a description

Text 1

As I have worked with volunteers and volunteer groups for many years, I can vouch for the fact that the community spirit is flourishing. Every day I watch volunteers interacting with their fellow human beings, and in so doing, enriching themselves in so many ways.

I work in Manchester, and my job is placing volunteers with hospices, old age homes, and care homes for children. Our volunteers range in age from 17 to 70 and come from a wide range of backgrounds, but they are all willing to give up their time in order to help others. They are proof, if proof is needed, that we live in a rich multicultural environment. Volunteering is one of the most powerful forces for good in our society.

Text 2

Don't forget the power of local government when it comes to issues in your neighbourhood. In geometry, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. In politics, if you have a local issue, take the shortest route and go first to your local council. Some issues are far better dealt with at community level. I live in an area where there is lack of infrastructure, lack of amenities, and a risk of flooding. There is a tendency to become quite angry if such issues are not dealt with. Keeping calm and electing the most level-headed member of the group as spokesperson will help your cause.

Another big problem is ghost estates, neighbourhoods with half-empty or empty buildings. Residents should ask their local politicians what will happen to these developments and how they plan to make things better.

- 4 The passage below has three paragraphs a–c. Which paragraphs mention the following? You may use any letter more than once.

- 1 a rescue operation ____
- 2 the high numbers of disappearing facilities ____
- 3 an example of a fund-raising activity ____

a

According to the Rural Shops Alliance, 600 country shops closed last year. Add the post office closure programme into the mix and thousands of neighbourhood hubs are being lost.

b

The people of Avebury, in Wiltshire, are among those trying to reverse the process. In April last year, their village shop closed when the adjoining post office shut down. Last Sunday, however, it reopened. The villagers, led by a small steering group, banded together to raise enough money to save it: 241 people bought £10 shares, with £3,000 coming from local donations and £25,000 from charitable schemes.

c

The National Trust, the organisation which owns the building, offered a minimal rent, a local blacksmith and carpenter made the shop sign and fitted out the interior, and one volunteer bakes cakes to sell. The shop, manned by a part-time manager and more than 30 volunteers, will stock everyday items such as sweets and washing-up liquid, as well as newspapers and fresh bread. There will also be post office facilities four half-days a week.

- 5 There are some reading strategies that help you match information. Are the sentences 1–6 good strategies or not? Write Y (yes) or N (no).

- 1 You should bear in mind that the numbered questions are paraphrases of bits of information in the paragraphs. ____
- 2 Before looking for detailed information, it is a good idea to have a general idea what is in the paragraphs first, so you should skim-read the text first to find out. ____
- 3 When working with paraphrases, underlining key words in the questions can help. ____
- 4 If you keep the questions or key words in mind when you are reading, you are more likely to find the information you are looking for. ____
- 5 If you have found an answer in a paragraph, you should look for the answer to the next question in the next paragraph. ____
- 6 You should answer the questions in the order they are given. ____

Check the answers to this exercise before doing the same type of task again in Exercise 6.

- 6 Use appropriate strategies to help you do the task.

The passage below has three paragraphs, labelled a–c. Which paragraphs mention the following? You may use any letter more than once.

- 1 a countryside issue ____
- 2 an example of a successful protest ____
- 3 a reason why pubs close ____
- 4 an organisation that encourages partnerships ____
- 5 a well-known person ____

a

According to recent figures from the British Beer & Pub Association, 39 pubs close every week. These days, it's far cheaper to buy alcohol in supermarkets to drink at home than it is to visit the local boozer. But that's not deterring the drinkers who are banding together to save their local pubs.

b

In Hesket Newmarket, Cumbria, 125 people raised £1,500 each and bought the Old Crown: each of them now has a say in how it is run. The pub in Charlton Horethorne, Dorset, was virtually derelict and about to be turned into a car park until the village rallied, set up a 'save the pub' group and had planning permission for the car park turned down: the Kings Arms reopened for business earlier this month. There are other examples up and down the country.

c

'The rural pub is the heart of the community – we've got to keep it as the heart,' says Pub Is the Hub, a scheme initiated by the Prince of Wales, which encourages breweries, pub owners, licensees and local communities to work together to support pubs in isolated rural areas. Pub Is the Hub (www.pubisthehub.org.uk) offers support and suggestions on how to go about things: it has assisted more than 350 pubs since its formation in 2001.

Part 3: Exam practice

The following passage has seven paragraphs, labelled A–G. Which paragraphs mention the following information? You do not need to mention all the paragraphs.

- 1 the relationship between local environment and behaviour _____
- 2 the benefits of asking around _____
- 3 becoming an organiser _____
- 4 partnerships against crime _____
- 5 problems which are not really problems _____
- 6 aspects of neighbourhood research _____

Will you love your neighbours?

A

When you are interested in buying a house, it's easy to check the location and specifications of the house, but how can you assess an area's community spirit – not just if the neighbours are friendly, but whether people will get involved in helping to deliver public services, setting up social enterprises and tackling local issues? Here are some tips for finding out what an area's community spirit is like.

B

If an estate agent shows you around, ask for the vendor's phone number. 'Meeting the seller is an opportunity to find out what an area is like,' says Chris Gittins, manager of Streets Alive (streetsalive.org.uk), which works with residents, councils and voluntary groups to build communities by hosting events and activities in streets. It is also worth trying to meet the neighbours to find out more about an area. If you don't find anyone at home, or don't get a clear response, talk to people in the pub or the corner shop.

C

Living Streets (livingstreets.org.uk), which promotes safe, active and enjoyable streets, says steer clear of heavy traffic. Its research shows that people living on busy streets shield themselves from noise, don't go outside and restrict their children's independence – all of which reduces interaction with neighbours. And although an open space may seem like an asset, it can also become a source of conflict, says Dominic Church, senior adviser at the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. 'If they are not kept clear and nobody is clearly responsible for the maintenance, they can become breeding grounds for graffiti, antisocial behaviour and kids mucking about,' he says.

D

Local police can tell you whether there is a Neighbourhood (or Home) Watch scheme in your area (mynhw.co.uk). Living in an area with a scheme doesn't just reduce your insurance premiums and ensure that the police tackle local issues such as theft: research shows that even when neighbours have nothing in common they share a desire to create a safe area and create a community spirit. If there isn't a scheme, find out why.

E

Councils have lists of local voluntary organisations that can help to reveal the interests and activities of local communities. Some councils also run award schemes, which may include prizes for active and inspirational groups. Search the web, use social media and post queries on forums to find out residents' views. This may give you more varied and up-to-date information than the council. Look at newschoolsnetwork.org to see if there are any plans to set up a new free school in the area. This is a sign of socially engaged parents and community motivation.

F

Floods, high crime levels and other issues can give a neighbourhood a bad image, but they can boost community spirit. In my case, the floods of 2007 brought people together to tackle climate change, which led to a low-carbon group that this year won two national competitions worth more than £800,000. The CrimeMapper website (maps.police.uk) provides information on crime and antisocial behaviour by area and police force. You can search by five types of crime and get details of your local neighbourhood policing team, its contacts, and the next 'Have Your Say' meeting.

G

If you are confident about the house, you could go ahead with the purchase and hold a street party to boost community spirit. 'People who have just moved into a house are critical to setting up street parties,' Gittins says. 'After two or three years it becomes harder – they meet neighbours, get set in their routines, and feel less motivated.'