

## CAE Part 7

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### What is Advanced (CAE) Reading Part 7 – Gapped Text?

- It's a long text which has had 6 paragraphs removed from it.
- The candidate's task is to fit those 6 paragraphs into the text in the correct place. (1 extra paragraph has been added which is not used.)
- The gapped text task tests the CAE candidate's knowledge of the overall structure of a text as well as the linguistic devices which bind a text together.
- In order to complete the task successfully, candidates must analyse both the macro and microstructure of the text through an understanding of general flow of discourse throughout combined with the local structure of words, phrases and paragraphs.

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### Tips and Tricks

- **Give yourself enough time** to complete this task. It can take up to 20 minutes of your exam time.
- **Read through the complete text very quickly first.** You should have a general idea of the topic and style of the text before starting. This shouldn't take longer than a couple of minutes.
- **Focus on the paragraphs before the main text.** As you read through them, underline **reference words** (e.g. this, it, they) and **linking words** (e.g. however, additionally).
- After reading the paragraphs, start reading the text. Read the first paragraph and the paragraph that follows the first gap.
- There are **three elements** to consider:
  - the **macrostructure** of the text (logical beginning, middle, end)
  - **grammatical links** between paragraphs (reference and linking words)
  - **lexical links** between paragraphs (synonyms)

- In order to be confident of a correct answer, you should always **try to find two of the three elements listed above**. A gut feeling can help you here, but it shouldn't be the only reason you choose an answer.
- **Work systematically** through the text paragraph by paragraph.
- If you aren't sure of a paragraph, work to **eliminate wrong answers** and write down which ones you eliminated. This way, when you come back to it later, you have less options to choose from.
- After choosing an answer, read through the preceding paragraph, the paragraph you chose and the following paragraphs in order. **Do they sound correct together?**
- **Keep up the pace**. There is a huge risk of spending too much time on this task, which will hurt you in other parts of the exam.

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## Understanding Reference

- **Reference words are anchors that connect one part of a text with another.** They are often used to avoid repetition and to improve the flow of a text. Lets look at a few different types of reference words:
  - **subject/object pronouns** (I, he, she, it, they, him, her etc.)
  - **possessives** (his, her, their etc.)
  - **relative pronouns** (which, who, where etc.)
  - **determiners** (this, that, those, these, such)
  - **substitution of nouns** with with one, ones
  - **linking words** (however, furthermore, too etc.)
- As you read through the missing paragraphs and the long text, you should underline or highlight **every** reference word.