Retrieval of explicit and implicit information:

Assessment Objective (A01 Strand 1): *Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.*

Information retrieval questions test a reader's ability to:

- identify the explicit information or ideas needed to answer the question
- isolate key details
- interpret the meaning of implicit ideas and information
- clearly refer to evidence in the text.

Before answering:

1. Make sure you are looking at the **correct** text and the **right** part of the text.
2. Be aware of how many marks the question is worth. E.g. if it is a 5-mark question you will probably be asked for 5 details.
3. Read the question **at least twice** to make sure you know exactly what you are looking for.
4. Use skimming and scanning techniques to find the detail(s) you need quickly.
5. Think about how much time you should dedicate to the question – don't be tempted to spend too long on this question and reduce the time you have available elsewhere.

When writing your answer:

- double check that you have read and understood the question and the instructions at the start of the question;
- identify relevant words or phrases from the text to answer the question – be specific.
- your answer may be brief but make sure you have provided enough detail to answer the question;
- track through the section of the text carefully – reading chronologically will help to make sure you don't miss anything.

Bullet points are fine for information retrieval questions but make sure your answer makes sense!

Skimming

This is when you do not read every word but try to take in the overall meaning of a piece of writing by moving your eyes throughout the text. Headings and opening sentences are useful for directing this technique...

Scanning

This is useful if you are looking for a particular word or piece of information. For example, in the second C2 Q1 example below you could begin by scanning the text for the word 'crater'.

Checklist for improving your answer:

- ✓ Have you answered the question?
- ✓ Have you retrieved sufficient information?
- ✓ Have you checked that you copied the information down correctly?
- ✓ Have you checked how many marks the question is worth?

TOP TIPS:

1. Use **short** relevant quotations.
2. **Check** the details of the question carefully.
3. If you are told to look at **specific lines** use your pen and **mark them** off on the exam paper so that you don't lose focus.

Some examples of previous information retrieval questions

Component 1: Q1

Read lines 1-6.
List **five** things you learn about Emma in these lines. [5]

List **five** things you learn about Jonathan in lines 1-17. [5]

Read lines 1-16.
List **five** things you learn about Brian Faulkner in these lines. [5]

Component 2: Q1

Read the newspaper article 'Miners Rescued from Chilean Mine' in the separate Resource Material.

a. What was the nickname of the rescue capsule? [1]
b. How did the miners let the rescuers know they were still alive? [1]
c. Where were the men taken once they had been brought to the surface? [1]

Read the newspaper article 'Iceland's erupting volcano' in the separate Resource Material

a. When did the Eyjakull volcano last erupt? [1]
b. How close did Tom Robbins get to the crater of Eyjakull? [1]
c. How wide is the crater of Katia? [1]

Read the newspaper article 'Inside America's Toughest Prison' in the separate Resource Material.

a. Give one example from the article of how the worst prisoners were punished in the past? [1]
b. At the time the article was written, how many prisoners were in Florence Prison? [1]
c. Give one example of the privileges that prisoners may earn for good behaviour? [1]

Component 2: Q3

To answer the following questions you will need to read the account in 'The Penny Review' magazine.

a. What caused the coal mine to collapse? [1]
b. What detail does the writer give that shows the rescue attempt never slowed or stopped? [1]
c. What gave the rescuers hope that the miners were still alive? [1]

To answer the following questions you will need to read Pieter Sandrick's account of the Krakatoa volcano explosion on the opposite page.

a. On which day of the week did the Krakatoa volcano start to erupt? [1]
b. How far away was Krakatoa from the town of Anjer? [1]
c. How did Pieter Sandrick survive when the 'wall of water' hit the coast? [1]

To answer the following questions you will need to read the extract on the opposite page by Charles Dickens.

a. When Charles Dickens visited the Eastern Penitentiary prison, what did he describe as awful? [1]
b. Give two details from the text that suggest prisoners are in the Eastern Penitentiary prison for a long time. [2]