



Diploma Programme
Programme du diplôme
Programa del Diploma

English B – Higher level – Paper 2 – Reading comprehension
Anglais B – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 2 – Compréhension écrite
Inglés B – Nivel Superior – Prueba 2 – Comprensión de lectura

8 May 2025 / 8 mai 2025 / 8 de mayo de 2025

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

1 h

Text booklet – Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet accompanies paper 2 reading comprehension.

Livret de textes – Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret accompagne la partie de l'épreuve 2 portant sur la compréhension écrite.

Text A

Living and working with invisible disability: “By being true to my experiences I am more effective”

- 1 Roda joined UNICEF through the United Nations (UN) Volunteer programme. As a programme officer, she helps the Child Protection team in the Philippines in developing programmes that are more inclusive and that also better respond to the needs of children with disabilities. As a person with a disability herself, Roda brings a unique perspective to UNICEF’s work. In this story, she shares about her journey and how it shaped her to become the person and professional she is today.



- 2 *Roda, how did you first hear about UNICEF?*
I first saw the UNICEF logo in Time magazine. I was about 10. There was a story and photos where people wore light blue jackets with the word UNICEF. Later, I learned more when my mom brought home holiday greeting cards with the word UNICEF on them and a short text about how the cards helped children and the organization’s work.
- 3 *What is your background? What experiences shaped your path to a humanitarian career and UNICEF?*

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I am a person with an invisible disability. As a child, teenager, then young adult, I had to take care of my mom, who had multiple sclerosis¹ for 16 years. I masked my disability for most of my life. When my mother passed, I had the space and time to recognize and begin to accept my disability. This was a long process, but at the end of it I felt a strong need to advocate for others like me.

4 I have a BA in Political Science. I have worked in government, in the private sector as a copy and news writer, and in NGOs² handling partnerships and supporting projects. Volunteering provided the most education, fulfillment and professional advancement.

5 My most meaningful volunteering experience was in Nashville, in a foot clinic for homeless people. I gave foot baths to people who walked the streets in wrong-sized shoes and unwashed socks. Blisters and other foot problems are common among homeless people, but when they sat on the chair in front of me, they were visible, and happy for the conversations that for a while set aside the mask of invisibility they wore every day in society.

6 *What is the role of volunteerism in your life?*

Volunteering opens up opportunities for a life that otherwise would be closed to some groups. In my case, it gave me a door to a world of high-level developmental work within a powerful and historic organization. Volunteering provided a pathway – not in spite of my disability, but because I have a disability.

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¹ multiple sclerosis: a life-long condition that affects the brain and muscles. Symptoms include tiredness and difficulty walking.

² NGOs: short for “non-governmental organizations”: non-profit organizations who often aim to address social or political issues.



Five things you must do to become a better musician

The music industry has always been competitive, and many new musicians wonder if they have what it takes to “make it”. Making music for fun isn’t so hard, but turning that passion into a career is a whole different ball game. If you’d like to become a pro someday, here are five things you can do *right now* to become a better musician.

5 **Have a patient, persistent attitude**

This might be the most important thing on the list, which is why we’re giving it the top spot. A career (of any kind!) doesn’t happen overnight, and you can’t expect the arts to be any different. Even famous musicians who seem to appear out of nowhere have been carefully planning and working towards that time for years, sometimes decades. Whether you play the violin or want to be a singer, make small steps to improve your craft each and every day.



[– 20 –]

20 This is a huge part of being a professional musician – some professionals spend more time improvising than playing music from a book! It's also one of the scariest and most difficult tasks to learn. When it comes to improvisation, it's important to remember that different musicians improvise in different ways. For this reason, it might be beneficial to seek improvisation advice from a variety of different musicians, your teacher included. After all, what works for one musician might not work for you, and vice versa.

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25 Some of the best musicians make the mistake of thinking they've learned everything they can possibly learn. This is untrue, even of award-winning musicians who sell out the biggest arenas around the world. True artists never stop absorbing knowledge and ideas that enrich their minds. Read, listen, watch, ask questions, and immerse yourself in music whenever possible. Don't discount unconventional sources of wisdom, either. Always take what you learn in your personal life and see how you can apply it to your life as a musician.

30 **[– 22 –]**

It can be super tempting to skip out on practicing in favor of spending time with your friends or getting some extra sleep, but always remember that without practice you simply won't progress. If you're finding it hard to stay motivated, ask your teacher for some pointers. Most teachers are accustomed to students who lose interest or have difficulty staying dedicated, making them a
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[– 23 –]

40 To put it simply, there is no substitute for real-world experience. Look around for some local open-mic nights and try to perform once a week. Some of these specialize in promoting beginner musicians, so you won't have to worry about being "good enough" to perform. The more you put yourself out there and perform in front of others the more comfortable you'll become with interacting with a crowd. If you do make a mistake, it's not the end of the world. Take a deep breath and keep going – the show must go on!



An extract from *Mr Rosenblum's List*

It will be cloudy and dull this evening and tonight with periods of rain; the rain being moderate or heavy in many districts. Fog will be extensive on high ground with fog patches along the south coast. Tomorrow, more general and heavy rain will spread from the south-west with temperatures of approximately fifty-seven degrees. That concludes the weather summary;
5 *a further news bulletin may be heard at a quarter to...*

Jack Rosenblum switched off the wireless* and nestled back into his leather armchair. A beatific smile spread across his face and he closed his eyes. "So there is to be more rain," he remarked to the empty room, stretching out his short legs and giving a yawn. He was unconcerned by the dismal prognosis; it was the act of listening to the bulletin that he savoured. Each evening
10 during the weather forecast he could imagine he was an Englishman. When the forecast was stopped through the war he grieved on behalf of the British, aware what loss this absence would inflict, and when it started again he listened in religiously, happily considering all the Englishmen and women hearing "light drizzle on high ground" at the same instant as he. Through the daily weather reports he felt himself to be part of a nation; the prediction may be sleet in Scotland
15 and sunshine in the West Midlands but the ritual of the weather forecast united them all. The national preoccupation had been rightfully restored and in his soul Jack rejoiced.

He stared out of the window, watching the rain trickle down the pane. Beyond, the tatty grass of the garden ran up to a dilapidated fence, and on the other side was the heath. No one had

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of the garden ran up to a dilapidated fence, and on the other side was the heath. No one had
mended the fence. It had been falling down since 1940 but there was no new wood with which
20 to mend it. He could have found some on the black market, but the simple truth was that he, like
everyone else in London, had ceased to notice the shabbiness of his surroundings. Over the
last ten years the city had slowly decayed, cracks appearing in even the smartest façade, but
the people of London, like the spouse of a fading beauty, had grown far too familiar with the city
to notice her decline. It was left for those who had returned from exile to observe with dismay
25 the drab degeneration of the once great capital. London was blackened and smoke stained,
with great gaping holes strewn with rubble.

* the wireless: the radio