

COMPARING TEXTS

Level 1 Reading: compare information, ideas and opinions in different texts and support your answer with evidence.

1. What does comparing texts mean?

Comparing texts means reading two texts together and noticing what is the same and what is different. At Level 1, you may need to compare information, ideas or opinions and use evidence from both texts.

2. What can you compare?

What to compare	What this means	Useful question
Information	facts, details, dates, numbers or events	Do both texts give the same facts?
Ideas	main messages or important points	What do both writers think matters?
Opinions	views, feelings or judgements	Do the writers agree or disagree?
Language	formal, informal, persuasive or descriptive wording	How does the writer speak to the reader?

3. Simple exam method

Step 1	Read both texts carefully.
Step 2	Find the shared topic.
Step 3	Underline evidence from Text A and Text B.
Step 4	Decide what is similar or different.
Step 5	Write a clear answer using both texts.

4. Useful comparison words

Similarities	Differences
both, also, similarly, in the same way, Text A and Text B both say...	however, but, whereas, on the other hand, Text A says..., while Text B says...

5. Example comparison

Text A	Text B
Community gardens help people grow food and meet neighbours. They can improve mental health and make streets look brighter.	Some residents like community gardens, but others think more space should be used for parking. They agree that green spaces can help people relax.

Similarity: Both texts say green spaces can help people. Text A says gardens can “improve mental health”, and Text B says green spaces “can help people relax”.

Difference: Text A is positive about community gardens, while Text B gives another view about parking.

6. Strong answer checklist

A strong comparison answer should:

- mention both texts
- use short evidence from Text A and Text B
- explain a similarity or difference
- use comparison words such as both, however, while or whereas
- answer the exact question, not just summarise the texts.

7. Common mistakes

Do not write about only one text. Do not copy long sections without explaining. Do not say “they are the same” without evidence. Always compare and explain.