

A



## **Functional Skills Certificate**

### **FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH**

**Component 1 Reading Level 1**

**47201**

### **Insert**

**The two sources that follow are:**

**SOURCE A: a webpage about becoming a prison officer**

**SOURCE B: an article about Alcatraz**

## **SOURCE A**

**As a prison officer no two days are the same.**

**Sometimes it will be tough, but you will have real job satisfaction too. You will play a huge part in the life of a prisoner, helping them to learn and develop new skills. You will work with people from all kinds of backgrounds to create a safe space for prisoners.**

**Duties include anything from checking cells for banned items such as phones, or checking prisoner numbers. 90% of this job is talking and providing a positive outlook. Working in a prison is fast-paced and varied and you will be trained for all kinds of situations.**

### **Rewards and requirements**

- **Starting salary of £22 000 – £31 000 for a 39-hour week**
- **12 weeks' paid training**
- **25 days' annual holiday**

**To become a prison officer, you will need to be at least 18 years old. You should be reasonably fit and have good eyesight. You don't need qualifications.**

**Personal qualities are more important, such as:**

- **communication skills to talk and listen to others**
- **quick thinking to meet unexpected challenges**
- **team-working to support colleagues**
- **strength of character to handle difficult moments**
- **fairness and honesty when dealing with people.**

**You should also believe that people can change their behaviour and turn things around.**

**Listen to what some serving prison officers said:**

**“The best part of my day is when someone tells me I’ve changed their life. The worst part is dealing with complaints!”**

**“The things that you do make a difference to people’s lives.”**

**“I don’t get scared, although you need to use authority to get your point across sometimes.”**

**You will have the opportunity to grow, develop and meet challenges, while making a real difference to people’s lives. It is challenging, but you’ll have the support of a strong team and excellent training.**

**[Turn over]**

## **SOURCE B**

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## TRANSCRIPT OF SOURCE B

Information on the presentation of the text is in square brackets.

[On the top left of the page is a heading that says 'ALCATRAZ' in large white text on a green background.]

[Underneath the heading is the following smaller black text.]

Alcatraz is a famous disused prison on a small, windy island nicknamed The Rock.

The prison once held criminals like 'Scarface' Al Capone and George 'Machine Gun' Kelly. Today it is one of the most popular attractions in the San Francisco Bay Area. The ferry to the island takes 15 minutes and passes by the Golden Gate Bridge, Bay Bridge and Angel Island.

[To the right of this text is an aerial photo of Alcatraz, showing prison buildings on a small island. There are bushes, trees and cliffs along the side of the island.]

Once on the island, visitors can explore at their own pace with the prison audio tour or choose a guided tour led by a ranger. There are stories from prisoners and guards, plus exhibitions to see.

[Turn over]

**[Below this paragraph is a photo of a dark prison cell. There are bars on the window and door. Inside the cell is a man covering his face with his hands and sitting on the floor.]**

**[To the right of the photo is the following text. It is inside a text box with a black frame and grey background. The text is black, bold and italic. In the bottom-right corner of the text box is a keyhole.]**

**The tour invites you to step inside the cells and hear the kinds of sounds the prisoners would have heard.... At one point you listen to a prisoner's own account of how he used to cope with the darkness....**

**[Underneath the photo and text box is a heading that says 'TIPS FOR YOUR TRIP' in large white text on a green background.]**

**[Underneath the heading is the following smaller black text.]**

**Alcatraz tickets sell out quickly so get yours in advance. Make sure you check the departure time printed on your ferry ticket. Tickets include round-trip ferry travel.**

**Ferries back to the city are available every half hour.**

**The walk to the prison from the ferry dock is steep and hilly; an electric shuttle bus departs from the dock twice an hour for visitors requiring assistance.**

- **Wheelchairs are not provided or loaned at the prison but the cellhouse does have elevators.**
- **Ferries depart from Pier 33, San Francisco, California 94123, USA.**
- **Alcatraz cruises depart every half hour between 9 am and 4 pm.**
- **The early-bird trip departs at 8:45 am.**

**[The bullet points in this list are black keyholes.]**

**We advise you to bring some food as there are only a few snacks offered on the ferry. Water is available on the island.**

**Bring a camera and a coat for the beautiful but chilly ferry rides.**

**END OF SOURCES**

**There is no source material printed on this page**

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