

Master OET Reading Part A



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This guide will break down the OET Reading Part A, provide you with valuable practice, and show you how to prepare effectively.

Understanding OET Reading Part A

The OET (Occupational English Test) Reading Part A is designed to assess a healthcare professional's ability to quickly find and extract specific information from multiple short texts. This skill is crucial for daily medical practice, where professionals need to interpret patient information, clinical guidelines, and other documents.

Many candidates find this section challenging due to the significant time pressure (15 minutes) and the dense medical content presented across the four short texts. The section evaluates your ability to:

- Locate specific information quickly.
- Effectively scan and skim texts.
- Understand the purpose and key details in healthcare materials.

OET Reading Part A: Sample Test

Instructions: You have 15 minutes to complete this test. Read the four texts below on the topic of pneumonia in children and answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A

Table: Assessment of pneumonia in children

	Mild to moderate	Severe
Infants	Temperature <38.5°C Respiratory rate <50 breaths/min Mild recession Taking full feeds	Temperature >38.5°C Respiratory rate >70 breaths/min Moderate to severe recession Nasal flaring Cyanosis Intermittent apnoea Grunting respiration Not feeding Tachycardia* Capillary refill time ≥ 2 s
Older children	Temperature <38.5°C Respiratory rate <50 breaths/min Mild breathlessness No vomiting	Temperature >38.5°C Respiratory rate >50 breaths/min Severe difficulty in breathing Nasal flaring Cyanosis Grunting respiration Signs of dehydration Tachycardia* Capillary refill time ≥ 2 s

*Values to define tachycardia vary with age and with temperature.^{67[8]}

OET Reading Part A: Sample Test (cont'd)

TEXT B

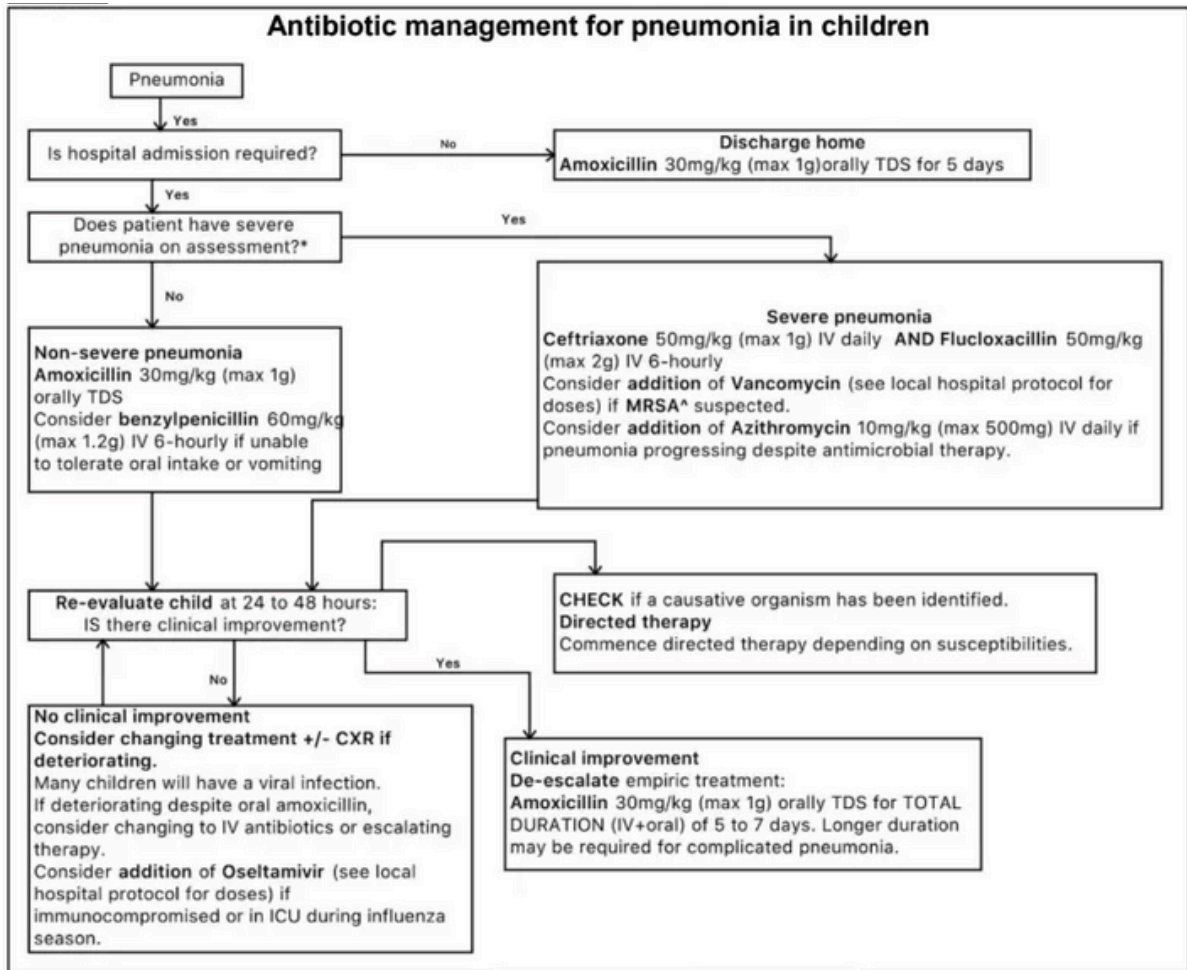
Investigations for pneumonia in children:

Investigations, including CXR (chest X-ray), are **NOT** recommended for routine use in the diagnosis and management of CAP (community acquired pneumonia), particularly in those with mild disease who are expected to be managed as an outpatient. A CXR (posteroanterior view) is recommended for patients who require admission or if severe or complicated pneumonia is suspected.

- **U&E (urea and electrolytes)** may be helpful in identifying hyponatremia secondary to syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH) and *should be done if the child is receiving intravenous fluids*.
- **FBE (full blood exam)** may be helpful in sepsis, or severe or complicated disease.
- **Microbiological investigations** are generally not needed and should only be considered in children with severe pneumonia or complications:
 - **Blood culture**
 - **Testing for viral pathogens** (nasal swabs and nasopharyngeal aspirates for PCR and viral culture)

OET Reading Part A: Sample Test (cont'd)

TEXT C



OET Reading Part A: Sample Test (cont'd)

TEXT D

General management in the community and in hospital

What general management strategy should be provided for a child treated in the community?

The general management of a child who does not require hospital referral comprises advising parents and carers about:

- Management of fever
 - Use of antipyretics
 - Avoidance of tepid sponging
- Preventing dehydration
- Identifying signs of deterioration
- Identifying signs of other serious illness
- How to access further healthcare (providing a 'safety net').

The 'safety net' should be one or more of the following:

- Provide the parent or carer with verbal and/or written information on warning symptoms and how further healthcare can be accessed;
- Arrange a follow-up appointment at a certain time and place;
- Liaise with other healthcare professionals, including out-of-hours providers, to ensure the parent/carer has direct access to a further assessment for their child.

Recommendation

- Families of children who are well enough to be cared for at home should be given information on managing fever, preventing dehydration and identifying any deterioration.

Matching questions

Instructions: For each question, 1-2, decide which text (A, B, C, or D) contains the information. You may use any letter more than once.

1. Which text gives guidance on the indications for ordering a radiograph? _____
2. Which text provides information that should be given to the family of a child being sent home? _____

Answers & Explanations

Question 1

Answer: Text B

This question asks you to find which text has guidance on when to order a particular kind of test for a child with pneumonia—specifically, a radiograph, also known as an X-ray.

The first paragraph of **Text B** contains two sentences describing when an X-ray is and is not recommended: "Investigations, including CXR (chest X-ray), are NOT recommended for routine use... A CXR is recommended for patients who require admission or if severe or complicated pneumonia is suspected." This is a very clear statement of the indications for an X-ray.

Text C also mentions 'consider changing treatment +/- CXR if deteriorating'. However, this information is much less focused than the detailed guidance in Text B.

Question 2

Answer: Text D

This question asks you which text has information you should provide to the family of a child with pneumonia. This information is supplied in **Text D**, which states in the first sentence: 'advising parents and carers about...'

The bulleted list that follows contains precautions and signs that parents need to know to care for their child at home. At the bottom of Text D, the recommendation reinforces this: 'families... should be given information on managing fever, preventing dehydration and identifying any deterioration'.

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