**Scanning**

The purpose of scanning is to be able to locate a specific detail such as a key idea, word, date, name, or time in a piece of text. It involves rapid movement of the eye across the page whilst skipping most of the text, but keeping the specific detail which is required at the conscious level.

Good scanners:

• repeat the required word or phrase verbally or non-verbally to themselves whilst they are searching the text

• look for key information or indications, e.g.

– capital letters to indicate proper nouns (names, places etc.)

– look for numbers if they are searching for a date

– check headings and sub-headings for clues

• recognise keywords in the task and look for where they are repeated in the text or title

• in a dictionary or phone book, use the header words to help you scan. You can find these in bold type at the top of each page

• identify key words in the question to work out what to look for

***Try the activities on the next page to practise scanning***

***Practise the skill***

1. Read the text below and highlight all the numbers. You have one minute to do it.

**About the UK - people**

The UK population is 65.1 million. The population has grown by over 5 million in the last 10 years.

England has the biggest population with 54.8 million people. Scotland has 5.4 million, Wales has 3.1 million and Northern Ireland has 1.8 million.

The birth and death rate are falling and as a result the UK now has an ageing population. This means there are more people over 60 than children under 16.

The UK population is ethnically mixed. People of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Black Caribbean and Black African background make up 13% of the population.

However, in London the amount increases to 40% of the population. This means London is one of the most ethnically mixed cities in the world. Over 300 different languages are spoken in London.

2. Read the text below and highlight all the proper nouns. You have two minutes to do it.

**About the UK – English history**

In 1066 King William I invaded England from France. In the years before that, England was ruled by leaders from different tribes including the Romans, Vikings and Saxons.

Most of these tribes had come from Europe. They brought with them their languages (Italian, German, Danish) and culture. King William I spoke French and this was the main language for 300 years.

The periods in English history are named after the families who were kings and queens at the time. The groups include the Normans, the Tudors, the Stuarts and, the present royal family, the Windsors.

Our current queen, Elizabeth II, is the 40th monarch since William I. She is the longest reigning monarch in our history. She has been queen for over 65 years.