

Name _____ Date _____ Time taken _____

What this sheet trains

Divided attention - holding a second rule in mind while your main attention is busy elsewhere. This is the skill behind listening to a teacher while taking notes, or checking your working while solving the next step.

Strategy: anchor and sweep. Give the main task your focus and let the second task run as a quick, automatic check - do not swap your full attention back and forth.

1 Read and tally

Main task: read the passage once. Second task: the counting rule below.

Counting rule

Every time you read the word lake, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

The surface of the Dead Sea, a lake rather than a sea, is falling by roughly a metre a year. The lake has no outlet, and historically held its level because the Jordan River and a few streams delivered about as much water as the desert sun evaporated. Since the 1960s Israel, Jordan and Syria have diverted most of that inflow for irrigation and for drinking water, while mineral works at the southern end pump brine into pans to extract potash and bromine. What reaches the lake today is a fraction of the natural flow, mostly agricultural runoff and treated sewage, and the water balance has been negative for sixty years.

The visible consequence is not only a retreating shoreline. As the lake surface drops, fresh groundwater flows out through sediments that contain buried layers of salt laid down when the water stood higher; the salt dissolves, leaving voids, and the ground above collapses without warning into sinkholes several metres across. Thousands have opened along the western shore, swallowing roads, date plantations and a resort car park. Geologists can map where the salt layers lie and so outline the hazard zone, but they cannot predict the day a particular cavity reaches the surface, which makes the risk manageable only by abandonment.

Proposals to pipe sea water uphill from the Red Sea and let it fall into the basin have been studied for decades and are usually presented as restoration of the lake. They are not. Red Sea water differs chemically from Dead Sea brine, and mixing the two at scale risks gypsum precipitation and algal blooms that would turn the lake white or red, while the economics of the scheme have always depended on the desalination and hydropower it would carry rather than on the lake. The uncomfortable point is that the level is low because the water is being used upstream by people who need it, and no pipeline into the lake removes that choice.

Tally here - one mark per lake

Make the marks as you read, then write your total before turning the page.

Total

1 Questions - cover the passage first

Answer from memory. Do not look back at the passage.

My tally total

From page 1

Q1. Why has the Dead Sea been losing about a metre of depth each year?

Q2. How does a falling lake level create sinkholes along the shore?

Q3. Why does mapping the salt layers still leave the sinkhole risk hard to manage?

Q4. Why does the writer reject the idea that a Red Sea pipeline would restore the lake?

2 Grid sweep with a running count

Main task: cross out targets. Second task: keep a count in your head.

Rules - read both before you start, then start the timer

Main: cross out every number that is a multiple of 7.

Second: count - silently, no marks - how many numbers end in 8. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

881	842	479	296	625	488	178	779	388	907	193	765
931	709	175	227	515	836	939	442	391	512	785	149
704	316	594	624	396	184	122	515	744	783	110	103
534	734	124	505	729	619	616	855	520	124	121	678
429	854	996	598	790	529	578	792	170	770	605	663
491	861	736	776	908	491	381	196	480	532	510	147
668	528	797	368	584	242	895	812	107	307	140	345
335	450	802	307	202	781	709	530	786	491	749	233

Stop the timer when the grid is finished, not when you write the total.

Numbers ending in 8

Write it once the grid is done

3 Copy and total

Main task: copy each row of digits. Second task: keep a running total.

Rules

Main: copy each four-digit group into the box beside it, in order.

Second: add the two middle digits of every row to a running total as you go.

Write the running total in the box at the end of each row - from memory, not by going back and adding up at the end.

	Copy here	Running total
3 8 2 7		
1 4 7 3		
9 9 4 3		
9 4 3 4		
6 8 3 6		
1 3 1 5		
6 5 3 9		
8 8 9 2		
5 5 3 6		
8 5 7 7		
3 4 3 2		
9 4 8 6		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Which of your two tasks gave way first, and what would you do differently on a second attempt?

Q2. In a long written paper, do you lose accuracy or lose time first, and which costs you more marks?

Q3. How do you keep track of several coursework deadlines without checking the list every hour?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
lake

8

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 7

12

Task 2 · counted
ending in 8

10

Task 3 · final total
two middle digits

120

Task 1 - suggested answers

- Q1. Most of the inflow from the Jordan and smaller streams is diverted for irrigation and drinking water, and mineral works evaporate more brine.
- Q2. Fresh groundwater dissolves buried salt layers, leaving voids, and the ground above collapses into them without warning.
- Q3. The hazard zone can be outlined but the timing of any collapse cannot, so the only safe response is to abandon ground.
- Q4. Mixed water would change the lake's chemistry, and the scheme's real value lies in desalination and hydropower rather than the lake.

Notes for the parent or teacher

- Mark the two tasks separately. A student who scores well on the main task and loses the count has not failed - that is the normal pattern, and it is the thing worth discussing.
- Do not prompt or remind during a task. The reminder is the skill.
- An untimed run is a valid run. Record the time only if the student wants to beat it next week.
- Repeat the sheet after a week rather than straight away. Spacing is what makes the gain stick.
- This is attention practice, not an assessment. It does not diagnose anything, and no sheet of this kind should be read as a measure of ability.