

E3 Functional Skills reading – practice questions

The last burger in Iceland

Name _____ Date _____

Adapted from: <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/weird-news/icelands-last-mcdonalds-cheeseburger-perfectly-26083246>

Part 1

Iceland's last McDonald's cheeseburger perfectly preserved 13 years after the chain closed.

By Michael Moran, 29 Jan 2022

The fast-food meal is showing no signs of mould or decay, despite having been bought just before Iceland's last McDonald's outlet closed its doors in October 2009.

If you live in the UK, you have access to some 1300 McDonald's restaurants and takeaways. Not everyone is so lucky! Iceland's last Maccy D's closed in 2009. There's just one McDonald's cheeseburger left in the country and it's in a museum.

The perfectly preserved snack was originally saved by accident, but went on to be exhibited in the National Museum of Iceland before finding a permanent home at the Snotra Guesthouse in the south of the country.



This photo was taken 13 years after Hjortur made his McDonald's purchase (Image: CEN)

Hjortur Smárason bought the cheeseburger on October 30 2009, one day before the last McDonald's in Iceland closed its doors.

He put it aside, but then forgot about it until he was moving house in 2012. He found the burger in his garage, next to some boxes containing tools, some old roller blades and other odds and ends.

"It looked like I bought it just 15 minutes earlier," he says.

"The same with the fries, they looked new but as if they'd gone cold on the way home."

While most people might have just chucked it out, Hjortur decided to preserve the last cheeseburger in Iceland for posterity.

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Part 2

The Icelandic cheeseburger isn't the only vintage McDonald's exhibit. Two Aussie blokes claim to have an even older McDonald's cheeseburger. Casey Dean and his mate Eduard Nits bought a huge bag of Maccy D's back in 1995 when fast food was still an exciting novelty to teenage boys in Australia.

The feast ended up being too much for them and a left-over cheeseburger ended up in a box filled with old junk in Eduard's sister's shed and was forgotten about it until 2015.

Eduard says when he rediscovered the burger, it was as good as new: "The rats had eaten through the garbage bag, through the clothes, through the box and got to the burger and they left it!"



Casey Dean bought his McDonald's burger in 1995 (Image: AFP via Getty Images)

A McDonald's spokesman did not dispute Casey and Eduard's burger being the oldest – but said there is a simple explanation for why it had not formed any mould.

"The reason why our burgers sometimes don't go mouldy when left out at room temperature, in a dry environment, is that once the food is cooked there isn't enough moisture to support bacterial growth to break it down," they said.

"Instead, it simply dries out."

The spokesman added that the best time to enjoy a McDonald's meal is when "it's hot and tasty".

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Questions for 'The Last Burger in Iceland' text – Part 1

1. When did the last McDonald's in Iceland close? *Give the month and the year.*

2. How many McDonald's restaurants might you find in the UK?

3. 'The perfectly **preserved** snack' ...

What does **preserved** mean?

You may use a dictionary. Please tick the correct answer.

A	cooked	
B	sold	
C	made	
D	protected	

4. Where is the McDonald's Burger now?

5. '... Hjörtur decided to preserve the last cheeseburger in Iceland **for posterity**.'

What does **for posterity** mean?

You may use a dictionary. Please tick the correct answer.

A	for a poster	
B	to sit on	
C	for past generations	
D	for future generations	

(5 Marks)

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Questions for 'The Last Burger in Iceland' text – Part 2

1. When were the Australian burgers bought?

2. How many years later were they rediscovered?

3. What did McDonalds say about their burgers?

Tick the correct statement.

... once the food is cooked there isn't enough moisture to support bacterial growth ...	<input type="checkbox"/>
... once the food is cooked there is enough moisture to support bacterial growth ...	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. When is the best time to enjoy a McDonald's meal?

5. 'I had heard that McDonald's never **decompose**.'

What does **decompose** mean?

You may use a dictionary. Please tick the correct answer.

A	last	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	shut	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	decay	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	stop	<input type="checkbox"/>

(5 Marks)

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You need to read both parts of the text to answer these questions.

1. The **main** purpose of the text is to:

A	explain that fast-food is healthy	
B	inform you that fast-food is very popular in Iceland	
C	advise you how to preserve burgers	
D	tell you about several preserved McDonald's burgers	

2. What type of non-fiction text is this?

A	a diary entry	
B	a letter	
C	an article	

3. Tick **two** organisational features that occur in the text.

A	captions	
B	bullet points	
C	pictures	
D	menus	

4. The text is organised into:

Tick one answer.

A	paragraphs	
B	columns	
C	text boxes	

(5 Marks)