

Reading: *Inspection findings 2008-2011*

Features that were often missing (from Schemes of Work) were:

- **sound-spelling links**
- speaking beyond the topic
- the use of **reading** to stimulate other skills
- creative writing
- the **use of ICT in different ways** to raise achievement
- the use of **authentic materials**
- assessment.



Ofsted, Changing Landscape, 2008

Reading was not taught beyond exercises in course books or previous examination papers and teachers made insufficient use of the wealth of authentic material that is available to develop students' speaking, listening, writing, knowledge about language, language learning strategies and intercultural awareness.

p.7, Ofsted, Achievement and Challenge, 2011

Example of excellent departmental practice:

Students are very well prepared for reading in examinations. A variety of texts is used from Year 7 onwards, including texts of different lengths from a range of authentic sources, such as websites, and opportunities for reading are written into schemes of work. Students are confident when reading aloud and their pronunciation does not hinder communication. Students are able to re-use language they have read in speaking and writing tasks.

p.14, Ofsted, Changing Landscape, 2008

To improve practice, the departments visited need to:

- develop a systematic approach to reading, including the use of dictionaries and reading authentic materials as required, that helps students to attain Level 5 and beyond in reading from as early as possible in their language learning
- develop cross-departmental reading practice which is enjoyable and engaging (for example, older students reading to and writing books for younger ones) and encourages pupils to read for interest and pleasure
- incorporate reading activities beyond those in the text book into schemes of work and lessons
- use reading to develop good pronunciation, expand students' knowledge about language and their intercultural understanding, and stimulate communicative speaking and writing activities.

p.44-45, Ofsted, Achievement and Challenge, 2011