

APPENDIX B

READING COMPREHENSION MODULE					
	May 2006	November 2006	May 2007	November 2007	May 2008
Age (predictor variable)	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Overall exam difficulty	.039	-	.045	.039	.040
Topic familiarity (Text A)	.021	-	.014	-	-
Topic preference (Text A)	.015	.021	.025	.035	.040
Text lexical complexity (Text B)	.025	.017	.030	.034	.038
Expected text level	-	.015	.028	.033	-

Table 2: The effect of age as a predictor variable

READING COMPREHENSION MODULE					
SEX	May 2006	November 2006	May 2007	November 2007	May 2008
Module difficulty	-.279	-	-.238	-.291	-.327
Topic familiarity (Text C)	-	-	.311	.383	.362
Lexical complexity (Text A)	-.390	-.648	-.468	-.403	-.373
Expected text level	-	-	.271	-	-
Task level	-	-	-	-	.197
Rubrics	-.487	-.452	-.554	-.566	-

Table 3: The effect of sex as a predictor variable

READING COMPREHENSION MODULE			
B2 Level			
	May 2006	November 2006	May 2007
Text A	Value	Value	Value
Spearman	.376	.359	.319
Text B			
Spearman	.388	.371	.323
Text C			
Spearman	.363	.388	.270

Table 7: B2 level text lexical complexity and its relationship to Module 1 difficulty