



# Information Literacy 1

## Level 3 Exercise 1

# Information Literacy 1, Level 3 Exercise 1

## “Evaluating reliability”:

This exercise teaches you how to assess the reliability of published information.

Questions 1-5 are about the reliability of different types of information. The final question deals with the author's purpose and intended audience for the publication.

**Q1.** Which are the four characteristics of **government information**?

- The publication is intended for a wide audience.
- It introduces new laws and regulations.
- The author is a subject specialist.
- It introduces new scientific results.
- The publication includes many photos.
- The author works for a government agency.
- The information is generally objective.
- The publication is intended for specialists.

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Q2. Which are the four characteristics of **professional literature**?

- The author is a scientist.
- The information is checked by editors.
- The publication is intended for a wide audience.
- The publication includes many photos.
- The information includes many formulas and calculations.
- The author is a subject specialist or a member of a professional organization.
- The information is peer reviewed.
- The publication is intended for colleagues.

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Q3. Which are the four characteristics of **news items** (such as newspaper articles)?

- The publication is intended for a wide audience.
- The author is an expert on the subject.
- The publication is intended for colleagues.
- The author is usually not an expert on the subject.
- The objectivity of the information is not guaranteed.
- It is written to inform readers about current developments.
- It is written to further the author's reputation and career.
- The information is generally objective.

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Q4. Examples of scientific literature are:

- articles in scientific journals, such as the *Journal of Materials Science*
- conference papers
- theses and dissertations

Which are the four characteristics of **scientific literature**?

- The author is a member of a professional organization.
- The content is only checked by the author.
- The author is a researcher.
- The publication includes proper references to literature.
- It is written to disseminate research results.
- The content is checked using peer review.
- It is written to inform readers about current, newsworthy developments.
- The publication is accessible online.

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**Q5.** How can you assess the reliability of **weblogs, tweets or Facebook** updates? Tick all correct answers.

- Author's reputation
- Does the author regularly write about the subject?
- Network (following, followed, friends)
- Number of followers
- Can the data be confirmed from other sources?
- Number of tweets/updates/blog posts

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**Q6.** In this question you are asked to consider why a publication was written, who the intended audience were, and how this might influence the reliability of the publication.

Match the correct information/publication type to each purpose.

<b>A) News items, published in newspapers such as <i>The Times</i></b>	<b>1) Disseminating research results among fellow scientists and advancing the author's reputation and career</b>
<b>B) Opinion or commentary, published in magazines like <i>Newsweek</i> or <i>Time</i></b>	<b>2) Sharing technical developments with colleagues in the field and advancing the author's own reputation and career</b>
<b>C) Scientific Information, published in journals like the <i>Journal of Materials Science</i></b>	<b>3) Informing people about newsworthy developments of interest to the general public</b>
<b>D) Government information</b>	<b>4) Defending a point of view or propagating a personal belief</b>
<b>E) A technical report, published in a trade journal like <i>Cargo</i></b>	<b>5) Informing citizens about official facts and figures, or about decisions, regulations and result of government policy</b>