



TEAM BRIEFING | ENGLISH B1-B2

Duisburg Port Challenge

Where do your sneakers meet the blue economy?

Inspired by the EU4Blue visit to Duisburg's inland port. You are a logistics team advising a sneaker retailer. Follow a fictional shipment, solve twelve questions and challenge a green advertising claim. No previous port visit is needed.

Teams of 2–4 | Ages 15+ | 45–50 minutes | 12 questions | 12 points

Your evidence desk

Duisburg is an inland port connected to the Rhine and Ruhr. It combines water, rail and road transport; this is called trimodal transport. [1] The EU Blue Economy Observatory includes inland freight in its maritime transport sector. [2] Low water can reduce how much cargo a ship can carry safely. [3]

The fictional sneaker shipment

Route model: seaport → inland transport → Duisburg hub → regional shop. This is a simplified route, not a map. Your retailer needs ONE complete shipment within 3 days, costing no more than 1,000 credits. Minimise greenhouse-gas emissions within those limits.

Plan	Main mode	Normal conditions	Low-water conditions
A	Road	1 day 900 credits 1,500 kg CO ₂ e	1 day 1,100 credits 1,500 kg CO ₂ e
B	Rail	2 days 1,000 credits 700 kg CO ₂ e	2 days 1,000 credits 700 kg CO ₂ e
C	Water	3 days 800 credits 500 kg CO ₂ e	4 days 950 credits 800 kg CO ₂ e

Invented game data, not duisport measurements or real transport prices. Each figure covers the same complete delivery, including handling and final delivery. Main mode means the largest transport stage. The low-water road price reflects higher demand in this game; it is not a universal rule.

Word help: freight/cargo = goods being moved; inland = away from the coast; berth = ship parking place; emissions = gases released; CO₂e = a measure combining different greenhouse gases; shore = land beside water.



QUIZ ROUND 1 | B1-B2

Follow the sneakers

Choose ONE answer per question. Use the evidence desk where relevant. Agree as a team; do not look at the solutions.

1 Your sneakers arrive at a seaport and travel along the Rhine to Duisburg. What does this show?

- A Only coastal towns take part in global trade.
- B An inland port can connect a region with world trade.
- C The ocean journey ends at the final shop.
- D All goods in Duisburg are made locally.

Our answer: _____

2 A container moves from a ship to a train and then to a truck. What does trimodal mean?

- A Three containers on one ship.
- B Three companies using one railway.
- C Three countries sharing one port.
- D Three transport modes working together.

Our answer: _____

3 Which job helps the sneaker shipment move through the port?

- A A logistics planner arranging its next connection.
- B A shoe designer choosing next season's colours.
- C A shop assistant decorating a shop window.
- D A sports coach planning a training session.

Our answer: _____

4 Which aim best combines business, people and the environment?

- A Move more goods and check only the profit.
- B Cut energy use and stop all worker training.
- C Keep useful jobs while reducing pollution and protecting the river.
- D Protect the river while ignoring every transport need.

Our answer: _____

Round score: ____ / 4 One answer we want to discuss: ____



QUIZ ROUND 2 | B1-B2

Beat the disruption

Choose ONE answer per question. Use the evidence desk where relevant. Agree as a team; do not look at the solutions.

5 Normal conditions apply. Which plan meets the deadline and budget with the lowest emissions in the game?

- A Plan A
- B Plan B
- C Plan C
- D None of the plans

Our answer: _____

6 The river is now low. Which plan meets BOTH the deadline and budget?

- A Plan A
- B Plan B
- C Plan C
- D No plan

Our answer: _____

7 How much lower are Plan C's normal emissions than Plan A's?

- A 300 kg CO₂e
- B 500 kg CO₂e
- C 1,000 kg CO₂e
- D 1,500 kg CO₂e

Our answer: _____

8 Why can low water cause problems for a loaded ship?

- A It may need to carry less cargo to travel safely.
- B It can always carry more cargo in shallow water.
- C It no longer needs enough space below the hull.
- D It can keep the same load on every river section.

Our answer: _____

Round score: ____ / 4 One answer we want to discuss: ____



QUIZ ROUND 3 | B1-B2

Challenge the green claim

Choose ONE answer per question. Use the evidence desk where relevant. Agree as a team; do not look at the solutions.

9 An advert says: “These sneakers have zero emissions because the last truck is electric.” What is the problem?

- A Electric vehicles cannot deliver sneakers.
- B The colour of the truck is missing.
- C The advert tells us how the shoes were made.
- D One electric journey does not prove the whole product has zero emissions.

Our answer: _____

10 Ships can use shore power while they are at a berth. What does shore power mean?

- A Electricity made by the ship's propeller.
- B Electricity supplied from land to a moored ship.
- C A fuel tank carried beside the ship.
- D A cable used to pull ships upstream.

Our answer: _____

11 A terminal introduces new digital equipment. Which action supports workers?

- A Remove training because software knows everything.
- B Let new staff learn only by making mistakes.
- C Offer paid training and explain changing roles.
- D Measure only the number of containers moved.

Our answer: _____

12 Which result gives the strongest evidence that a transport trial is improving?

- A Lower total emissions for the same delivery task, with safety maintained.
- B A new green logo on every container.
- C More views of the company's advert.
- D One quiet truck photographed outside the gate.

Our answer: _____

Round score: ____ / 4 One answer we want to discuss: ____



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Answers and explanations

- 1 B — An inland port links waterborne trade with businesses and consumers further inland.
- 2 D — Trimodal transport combines water, rail and road.
- 3 A — The logistics planner coordinates the movement of freight. Other jobs relate to the product but not this port task.
- 4 C — Sustainable development considers economic activity, social needs and environmental protection together.
- 5 C — All three plans meet the normal limits. C has the lowest total emissions: 500 kg CO₂e.
- 6 B — B takes two days and costs 1,000 credits. A costs too much; C takes too long.
- 7 C — 1,500 minus 500 equals 1,000 kg CO₂e for this complete shipment.
- 8 A — Less available depth can limit safe draught and therefore the cargo a vessel can carry.
- 9 D — Manufacturing, electricity production and the other transport stages are outside that narrow statement.
- 10 B — Shore power supplies electricity from land while a vessel is moored; its overall impact depends on the electricity supply and use.
- 11 C — Training and clear information help workers participate in technological change.
- 12 A — Comparable measured outcomes are stronger evidence than branding, attention or a single photograph.

Score the quiz

One point for each correct answer; no deductions. Total: 12. Use the explanations to discuss reasoning and misconceptions. The score measures performance on this activity, not a CEFR language level.

Optional team pitch

Give teams two minutes to advise the retailer: Which plan would you choose in low water under the original three-day deadline, and how would you describe its benefits honestly? Allow a spoken, written or recorded response. This is not an extra scored quiz item.

Model: Choose B. It meets the deadline and budget at 700 kg CO₂e. Call it the lowest-emission feasible option in this game; do not claim that rail is always best or that the delivery has no emissions.



TEACHER GUIDE | B1-B2

Run the port quiz

Print pages 1–4 for each team; retain pages 5–6. Provide pens and calculators. No phones, accounts or online access are required. The port visit is a starting point, not a memory test.

Minutes	Activity
0–5	Recall the visit or imagine a container arriving in Duisburg. Ask what work happens between arrival and delivery.
5–10	Read the evidence desk and explain the game data.
10–28	Play three rounds, about six minutes per round.
28–40	Reveal answers; let teams explain a calculation and challenge a claim.
40–45	Optional retailer pitch and discussion. Allow five extra minutes if needed.

Language and participation

Read questions aloud if useful. Use the word help, allow bilingual dictionaries and practise “We choose ... because ...”. Rotate reader, calculator, evidence checker and spokesperson. A pair can combine roles. Offer quiet written participation; do not score speed or accent.

Scope and reuse

Original quiz inspired by an EU4Blue visit; not an official duisport quiz. Do not assume the group visited a specific terminal or saw particular technologies. The fictional data simplify logistics; real decisions need route-specific evidence. Free educational use and adaptation; not for resale. Existing logo rights remain unchanged.

Sources

[1] duisport. Water. <https://duisport.de/en/water/>

[2] European Commission. EU Blue Economy Observatory: Maritime transport. https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/eu-blue-economy-sectors/maritime-transport_en

[3] CCNR. Market Observation Annual Report 2024, water levels and navigation conditions. https://www.ccr-zkr.org/files/documents/om/om24_II_en.pdf

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