

Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life Level 1 – Reading Sample paper



Time allowed: 60 minutes

Please answer **all** questions. Write your answers in pen, **not** pencil, **on the separate answer sheet**.

You may **not** use dictionaries. You may **not** use correction fluid.

There are blank pages for rough notes at the end of this exam paper.

Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life

Level 1 – Reading

Time allowed: 60 minutes

This examination paper has 30 questions. Answer all questions.

Task 1

Task 1 contains an **explanatory** text. There are eight questions (1-8). For each question, write the letter of the best answer **on your answer sheet**.

Coffee

Paragraph A

It is thought that the coffee tree comes from the country known today as Ethiopia in Africa. There is no real evidence to show exactly when, or how, it was first discovered that a strong drink could be made from the coffee bean, but it is believed that before coffee was appreciated as a beverage, some tribes may have eaten the beans as a source of food.



Paragraph B

There is, *Example*, an interesting story, dating back to 1400, of a shepherd who noticed some goats eating red berries from a bush. After eating the berries, the goats became full of energy. The shepherd told a monk what he had seen, and the monk boiled the berries in water to make a drink which seemed to make tiredness disappear.

Paragraph C

Despite being unsure about how the discovery of coffee as a drink occurred, **1.** that the coffee plant somehow spread to the Middle East. The growing of coffee on a larger scale followed, **2.** the first reports of this were not recorded until the fifteenth century. By the sixteenth century, coffee was grown in Persia, Egypt, Syria and Turkey. The first coffee houses were opened in Mecca, in what is now Saudi Arabia. Some of these developed into luxurious, beautifully decorated places where music, dancing, games and chatting were enjoyed. Thousands of pilgrims travelled to the holy city of Mecca each year from all over the world and **3.** news of the new 'coffee' drink quickly began to spread far beyond Arabia.

Paragraph D

As coffee was a highly valued commodity, the Arabs guarded their plants fiercely for a long time, but **4.** seed beans and plant cuttings were taken out of Arabia to the Dutch colonies of India and Java. In Britain, the first coffee house was opened in Oxford in 1651 and within 50 years there were 3,000 coffee houses in London alone.

Photo: www.felsofoken.hu

Section A: Questions 1-4

There are five gaps in the text. Look at the box below and choose the best discourse marker for each gap. Write the letter **on your answer sheet**.

There is an example (**B**). You can only use each discourse marker once. There is one you do not need.

- A although
- B ~~nevertheless~~
- C consequently
- D the fact remains
- E at this moment
- F eventually

Section B: Questions 5-8

Choose the letter of the best answer according to the text and write it **on your answer sheet**.

- 5. What is the main topic of this text?
 - A the origins of coffee growing
 - B how coffee drinking became popular
 - C why there are so many coffee shops

- 6. The story in paragraph B may explain why
 - A goats eat red berries
 - B coffee gives you energy
 - C coffee berries were first made into a drink

- 7. The idea of coffee spread beyond Arabia because
 - A a lot of people visited Mecca to see its luxurious coffee houses
 - B people who made religious trips to Mecca saw the coffee houses there
 - C Dutch people took plant cuttings out of Mecca to India and Java

- 8. What impression does the **image** add to this article?
 - A coffee drinking is now enjoyed as a social activity
 - B drinking coffee is no longer business-related
 - C colleagues who drink coffee together are more friendly

Task 2

Task 2 contains two **instructional** texts in a work-related context. There are eight questions (9-16). For each question, write the letter of the best answer **on your answer sheet**.

Text one

Ambulance paramedic

A

As an ambulance paramedic you would respond to medical emergencies and carry out non-emergency tasks including hospital admissions, transfers and discharges. When called to an emergency it would be your responsibility to **evaluate** the patient's condition. You could be working with another paramedic on an ambulance or you may work alone and have a car, motorbike or bicycle.

B

The hours of work each week are 37.5 and you would be required to work a variety of shifts including nights, weekends and bank holidays.

C

All paramedics must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To become qualified and **eligible** for HCPC registration you must either complete a university course or apply for a student paramedic post with an ambulance trust and study at the same time as learning on the job. If you go to university the course will last from two to five years, depending on whether you study full-time or part-time. You will also work with an ambulance team to learn practical skills. If you take up a student post with an ambulance trust, there will be a greater amount of training on the job and your performance will be regularly reviewed and assessed over a five-year period.

D

Students earn between £16,000 and £20,000 per annum. Once qualified your starting salary will be approximately £21,000 and could eventually reach £40,000 if you become an area manager.

E

Apart from qualifying and registering with the HCPC you need to have a clean driving licence, pass an ambulance driving course, be fit and have good eyesight. There are also a range of personal **competencies** which are essential to the role. These include excellent communication and decision-making skills.

F

The majority of paramedic careers are in the NHS. There are also jobs in the armed forces and private ambulance services. Once you have three years' experience as a qualified paramedic you could take a training course to become a paramedic practitioner. This would involve working on your own and being responsible for giving emergency and non-emergency care to patients in the community.

Text two

Fast-track your career! Join the North East Ambulance Trust as an apprentice and after five years you could be working as a fully trained paramedic. Our apprenticeships offer a way to earn while you learn and give you real-life experience from the **outset**.

Contact us now to see if you are **eligible**.

Section A: Questions 9-12

Text one has six paragraphs with missing headings. Write the letter of the most suitable paragraph **on your answer sheet**. One paragraph does not have a heading. There is an example.

Example *Job overview*

 A

9. Other vital qualities
10. Qualification routes
11. Career options
12. Typical working pattern

.....

.....

.....

.....

Section B: Questions 13-16

Choose the letter of the answer which best matches the meaning of each word as it is used in the text. Write the letter **on your answer sheet**.

13. **evaluate** (text one, paragraph A)

A judge

B improve

C save

14. **eligible** (text one, paragraph C **and** text two)

A suitable

B prepared

C available

15. **competencies** (text one, paragraph E)

A attitudes

B qualifications

C abilities

16. **outset** (text two)

A experts

B beginning

C location

Task 3

Task 3 contains a **descriptive** text. There are eight questions (17-24). For each question, write the letter of the best answer **on your answer sheet**.

Pilkington House

Paragraph A

Pilkington House is a grand, neoclassical-style stately home in Trysely, near Liverpool. It was commissioned by Colonel Stuart Hyde-Moor in 1820, but took over ten years to build. Hyde-Moor used an architect who, although relatively little known then, went on to become one of the greatest architects of his time – Reginald Carter. The house replaced an earlier Georgian house which dated from around 1780. The original plans were to extend the old Georgian building, but due to damage during a fire in 1821 work stopped and the building had to be knocked down. The new building had to be moved slightly to the east, but this allowed better views of the lake from the rear of the house. It also provided an impressive approach from the main gate, although the drive had to go around a very large fountain. The site of the former house became the kitchen garden.

Paragraph B

Hyde-Moor was a politician who sat in the House of Commons from 1829-1839. He bought the Pilkington Estate from a local landowner called John Price. Price had inherited the estate from his father in 1815, but soon after he married Lady Katherine de Welles and decided he needed a larger home near London. Rumour has it that the real motivation behind the move, however, was a scandal – letters suggest an unusually close attachment between Lady Katherine and the Head Butler at Pilkington. It is difficult to know how much truth there is behind the gossip, but it is known that while the rest of the staff accompanied the Prices to their new residence, the Head Butler was not recorded on the payroll following the move.

Paragraph C

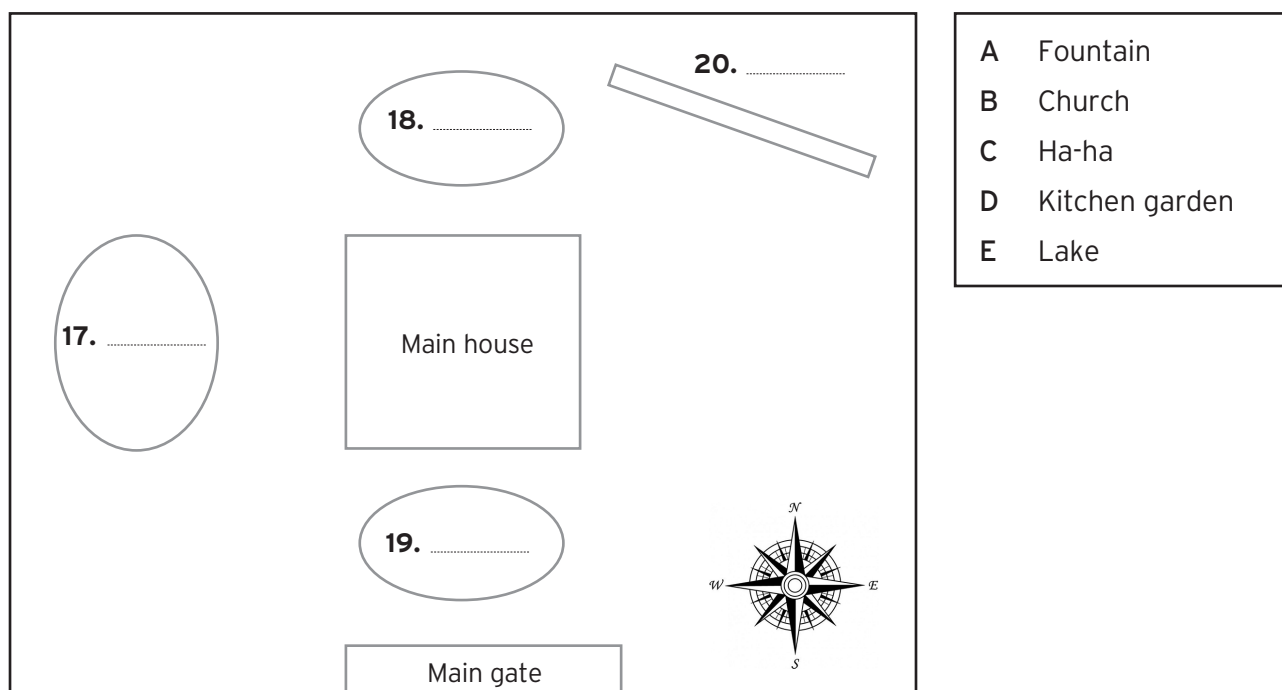
When the house was completed in 1831, Hyde-Moor commissioned the famous landscape designer, Alfred Green, to work on the grounds. Green was well known for developing a landscape which, although man-made, appeared completely natural. One trick was to use a camouflaged wall called a 'ha-ha' to keep sheep and cattle away from the house. It was known as a ha-ha because visitors would walk right up to the feature before realising they could go no further due to a sudden drop, causing them to cry 'ha-ha!' in surprised amusement.

Paragraph D

Some distance to the south of the ha-ha stands the twelfth century church of St Peters, which the family used to walk to every Sunday via a small gate in the south-east wall of the grounds.

Section A: Questions 17–20

Below is a map of Pilkington House. There are some details missing. Read the text and use the information to match labels A to E to the correct part of the diagram. There is one label you do not need. Write the letter of each answer **on your answer sheet**.

**Section B: Questions 21–24**

Choose the letter of the best answer and write it **on your answer sheet**.

21. According to paragraph A

- A Hyde-Moor commissioned Reginald Carter because he was a great architect
- B Reginald Carter became famous because of his work on Pilkington House
- C Reginald Carter was not famous in 1820, but he became famous later on

22. According to paragraph A

- A the house was moved because the views were better
- B building plans changed because of a fire
- C the new house dates from around 1780

23. According to paragraph B

- A John Price wrote letters to Lady Katherine and the Head Butler
- B Lady Katherine de Welles and the Head Butler ran away together
- C the Head Butler did not move to the new house near London

24. According to paragraph C

- A Alfred Green was famous for his natural landscapes
- B Alfred Green enjoyed playing tricks on other people
- C Alfred Green used artificial features which looked natural

Task 4

Task 4 contains a **persuasive** text. There are six questions (25–30). For each question, write the letter of the best answer **on your answer sheet**.

Questions 25–30 test your ability to read a text quickly for the general idea, and to scan it for key words and phrases. You are advised to read the questions **before** you read the text.

Section A: Questions 25–28.

This text has seven paragraphs. Each paragraph has a purpose. Choose the letter of the paragraph which best matches the purposes below. Write the letter **on your answer sheet**.

There is an example. You do not need to use all of the paragraphs.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Example</i> to introduce the book | A
..... |
| 25. to give examples of recipes included in the book | |
| 26. to reassure the reader that shopping for the recipes won't be hard | |
| 27. to explain how the author discovered the recipes | |
| 28. to show that the book contains more than just recipes | |

Section B: Questions 29–30

Choose the letter of the best answer and write it **on your answer sheet**.

- 29.** How did the writer feel about the book overall?
- A positive
 - B neutral
 - C negative
- 30.** What did the writer dislike?
- A there were not enough everyday meals and they took too long to prepare
 - B the meals could make you put on weight and didn't include enough vegetables
 - C there was too much focus on friendships and the ingredients were too rare

Susan Day's Healthy eats from around the world

Paragraph A

We all want to eat healthily and this book is the culmination of a life's work spent concocting the most wonderful recipes based on delicious, tasty foods that are full of things like those all-important fruit and veg and healthy fats.

Paragraph B

The author has spent years travelling around the world from deepest Cornwall to the mountains of India collecting recipes. She has made many friends along the way and really engaged with the food culture, meaning that the dishes, whilst adapted, are truly authentic. You can almost smell the flavours just by turning the pages.

Paragraph C

You'll be able to make delicious meals full of flavour, right up to whole five course meals fit for an impressive dinner party. There is always at least one starter, main course, light snack and dessert from each country. Although, to be honest, it might have been nice to see more 'everyday' meals, as many of these are really intended for entertaining.

Paragraph D

Recipes include healthy takes on traditional cooking from India, China, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Italy, the UK and the Caribbean. You'll soon be making creative curries, stupendous stir fries, sensational satays, incredible injera, perfect pasta, fantastic fry ups and remarkable rice and peas, all without putting on any spare pounds and still getting your five a day!

Paragraph E

Despite the wide-ranging nature of the recipes, the author has cleverly adapted the recipes so that all the ingredients are easy to find for the average British reader. Just pop down to your local supermarket or high street – no need to hunt down rare vegetables in specialist delis.

Paragraph F

My only real concern about the book would be that the recipes are a little time-consuming and can sometimes require a lot of preparation in advance. Part of me suspects that I'll spend more time reading the book than actually creating the dishes!

Paragraph G

I think my favourite part of this book were the many interviews with people from each of the different countries. You really feel the flavour of the people, not just the country, and you can feel the sense of culture oozing out of each recipe. I especially loved the proverb relating to the Ethiopian tradition of using one portion of injera (a kind of bread), as a communal plate – 'Those who eat from the same plate never betray each other'.

*You can use these pages for rough notes. This booklet will **not** be marked.*

