

**QCF**  
**ESOL Skills for Life**  

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**Entry 3 – Reading**  
**Sample**

**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.

## Task 1

**Paragraph one**

Historians believe that the people of Russia, Iran and Turkey began growing pears around 4,000 years ago. From here the fruit spread throughout the rest of Europe and Asia. No one knows whether the apple or the pear came first, but we do know that in ancient times people believed that pears were superior to apples. This is probably because there were more varieties and a wider range of flavours available.

**Paragraph two**

**C (Example)** . This pear became very popular, and is even mentioned in some of Shakespeare's plays. In the eighteenth century, specialist gardeners introduced many new varieties and the number of different types of pears in Britain rose to over 700 by the nineteenth century.

**Paragraph three**

**1.** . We import over three quarters of the pears we **consume**. There are several thousands of varieties of pears throughout the world, but in the UK, only a fraction of these are available. Apart from Conference pears, the most widely available varieties include Williams, Cornice and Concord.

**Paragraph four**

**2.** . The best way to check if your pear is **ripe** is to apply a light pressure to the neck of the fruit with your thumb. If it gives slightly, you know the pear is sweet and juicy. If it is still firm, it's not ready to eat yet.

**Paragraph five**

**3.** . Pears are a really **versatile** fruit which people can have as a snack, a drink, in salads, in main meals, as a dessert and with cheese. They are also a good source of fibre and contain small amounts of phosphorus and vitamins A and C.

**Questions 1-3**

Four sentences are missing from the text on page 2. Look at the following five sentences (A-E) and decide which one best fits each gap. There is one sentence you do not need and an example. Write the letter of your answer **on your answer sheet**.

- A One of the best things about this amazing fruit is that it's not only tasty, but nutritious too.
- B Over the years, the way we grow pears has changed very little.
- C *(Example) In the twelfth century in Britain, monks grew the first English pear, the Warden.*
- D Pears are one of the few fruits which taste better a few days after they are picked.
- E Today, 90% of the pears farmers grow in the UK are Conference pears.

**Questions 4-6**

Choose the letter of the closest meaning for each word. Look at the text carefully to help you decide on the best answer. Write the letter **on your answer sheet**.

**4. consume** (paragraph three)

- A sell
- B grow
- C eat

**5. ripe** (paragraph four)

- A too soft
- B ready to eat
- C cooked properly

**6. versatile** (paragraph five)

- A to have different uses
- B to be good for you
- C to taste delicious

**Questions 7-9**

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

**7.** According to paragraph one, in ancient times

- A there were more types of pears than types of apples
- B apples came in a bigger range of flavours than pears
- C people thought that apples were better than pears

**8.** According to paragraph two

- A Shakespeare famously loved pears
- B the number of varieties of pears went up by the 19th century
- C people used to grow pears and roses together

**9.** According to paragraph three

- A there are only four varieties of pear in the UK
- B Williams pears are not widely available in the UK
- C it's not possible to find all varieties of pear in the UK

## Task 2

## Text A

Briggs & Patel Internal Directory		
Employee	Department	Extension
Pam Barnes	IT Support	101
Eduardo Fonseca	IT Support	172
Milo Fortune	Property Services	222
Aidan Gomes	Property Services	223
Brenda Kray	Human Resources	156
Angela Lee	Accounts	102
Anya Madoob	Human Resources	155
Anna Nadicka	Payroll	195
Gwen Ross	Catering	108
Mike Wong	Accounts	171

## Text B

**Photocopier** 

If the photocopier is broken, please **DO NOT** try to repair it.

Call Aidan on 223. If you need copies urgently, use the machines on the 3rd or 5th floors.

Thank you.

Property Services

## Text C

 Briggs and Patel  
12 Fourth Street  
Leeds  
LD01 3YY  
14th May 2013

Accounts Department  
Moorfields  
London  
SW03 4TR

Please find enclosed our invoice for services on 4th April 2013. We would appreciate prompt payment by cheque or BACS. We do not accept credit cards.

Yours faithfully,  
*M Wong*  
M Wong  
Accounts Manager

## Text D

 SURNAME:	INITIALS:
Permanent residence:	
Address for correspondence (if different from above):	
<b>Professional references</b> Please give two referees who can comment on your professionalism/work ability, one of whom should be your present/most recent employer	
<b>Employment history</b> Please give details of your current position and duties as well as your most recent work experiences.	

## Text E

**Self-certification of sick leave**

Name .....

Department .....

Payroll number .....

First date you were sick .....

Date you returned to work .....

Reason for illness .....

Signature .....

Doctor's certificate    yes/no    (delete as applicable)

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO THE HR DEPARTMENT WITHIN THREE DAYS OF YOUR RETURN TO WORK



Texts A to E on page 4 are all about working at a company called Briggs & Patel.

### Questions 10-12

Match the texts (A-E) with their purposes. Write the letter of the correct answer **on your answer sheet**. There is one text you don't need and an example.

- Example* to help staff find their colleagues' phone numbers ..... A .....
10. to inform staff what to do if there is a problem .....  
 11. to apply for a job at Briggs & Patel .....  
 12. to inform your employer of your reason for absence .....

### Questions 13-15

Look at the following words and phrases from the two forms, texts D and E. Choose the letter of the best answer and **write it on your answer sheet**.

13. Text D asks for your 'permanent residence'. This is  
 A the address you usually live at  
 B the place you want post to go to  
 C the country you were born in
14. Text D asks for a 'professional reference'. You could write the name of your  
 A friend  
 B uncle  
 C manager
15. Text E asks you to 'delete as applicable'. This means you need to  
 A cross out the word 'yes' or 'no'  
 B provide medical evidence  
 C apply for a doctor's certificate

### Questions 16-18

Look at all of the texts to decide where to find the following information. Choose the letter of the best answer and write it **on your answer sheet**.

16. You work at Briggs and Patel, but you have a problem with your payroll. Who can you contact?  
 A Anya Madoob  
 B Anna Nadicka  
 C Mike Wong
17. Aidan works  
 A on the 3rd and 5th floors  
 B in the Accounts department  
 C in the same department as Milo
18. Where is Briggs and Patel's office?  
 A London  
 B Leeds  
 C Moorfields

**Task 3****Paragraph A**

A recent report by Datamonitor, the market research group, shows that over 90% of British people eat junk food while travelling.

**Paragraph B**

This contrasts with other countries in Europe. According to Dominik Nosalik, the report's author, Spanish people only spend £56 a year on unhealthy snacks, Italians spend £128 and British people spend £229! So why are the British eating more junk food than their European neighbours?

**Paragraph C**

Nosalik thinks he knows the reason for this. The UK snack habit is a result of the pressure on British people to work longer and harder. This means that people rarely have time to eat a cooked meal during their lunch breaks.

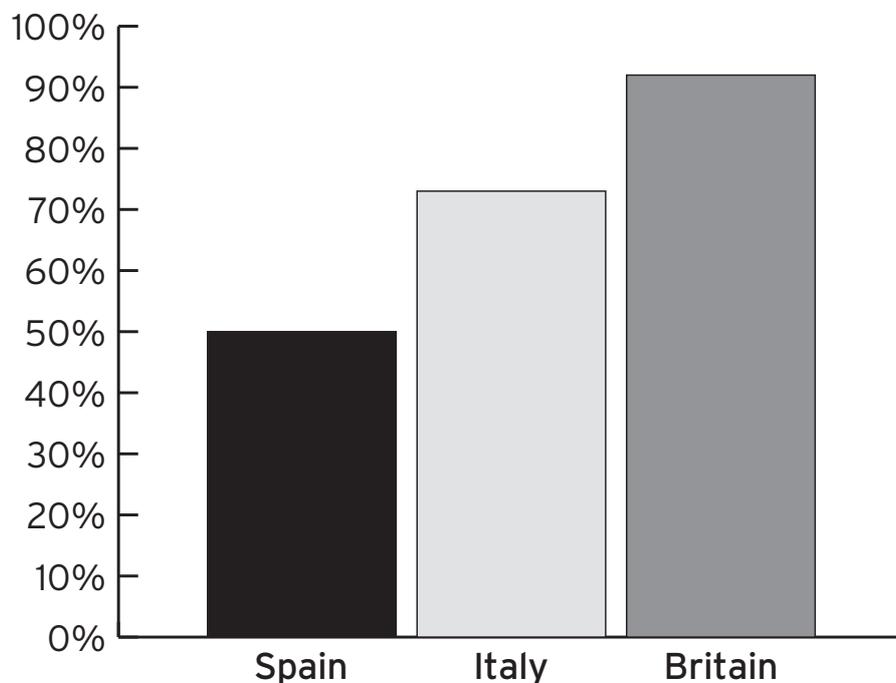
**Paragraph D**

The British also have longer journeys to work. They spend an average of 48 minutes a day travelling to work, while the Spanish and the Italians only spend 34 and 24 minutes respectively. These longer commutes mean that British people buy food that they can eat while travelling instead of buying fresh produce which can take longer to prepare.

**Paragraph E**

However, healthier alternatives are becoming more available. Supermarkets and convenience stores are starting to offer healthier snacking options. So next time you feel hungry when you're on a journey, buy yourself a bag of fruit and forget about the crisps!

### Percentage of people who eat junk food while travelling



**Questions 19-21**

The text on page 6 has five paragraphs (A-E). Each paragraph has a purpose. Choose the letter of the paragraph which best matches the purposes below. Write the letter **on your answer sheet**. You do not need to use all of the paragraphs.

- Example to introduce the text* ..... A
- 19.** to give a possible explanation for the data .....  
**20.** to explain how much the UK spends compared to other countries .....  
**21.** to suggest an alternative to unhealthy snacking .....

**Questions 22-24**

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

- 22.** Who spends the least on snack food?  
 A the Spanish  
 B the Italians  
 C the British
- 23.** Who spends the least time travelling to work?  
 A the Spanish  
 B the Italians  
 C the British
- 24.** In which country do 73% of people eat junk food while they are travelling?  
 A Spain  
 B Italy  
 C Britain

**Questions 25-27**

Your teacher has made a list of words from the text for you to learn. The words are in alphabetical order, but the following words are missing: **breaks, crisps, rarely, habit**. For each word, choose the correct place (A-E) in the list and write the letter **on your answer sheet**. There is one place you do not need and an example.

- Example breaks* ..... A
- 25.** crisps .....  
**26.** rarely .....  
**27.** habit .....

*Word list to learn by next week!*

average

A (example)

commutes

convenience

\_\_\_\_\_ **B** \_\_\_\_\_

fresh

\_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_

junk

prepare

\_\_\_\_\_ **D** \_\_\_\_\_

research

respectively

\_\_\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_\_\_

