

# ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)

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## Level 1 – Reading

### Past paper 3



Time allowed: 60 minutes

Please answer **all** questions. Circle your answers in pen, **not** pencil, **on the separate answer sheet**.  
You may **not** use dictionaries. You may **not** use correction fluid.

**Task 1**

Questions 1-6 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.

**Questions 1-4**

The text on page 3 has six paragraphs. Each paragraph has a purpose. Choose the letter of the paragraph which best matches the purposes below. Circle the letter **on your answer sheet**.

You do not need to use all of the paragraphs.

Example: to explain why Christopher O'Connor's new book is unusual

A .....

1. to retell a story about the first Serama chicken

.....

2. to describe the character of Serama chickens

.....

3. to describe Mr O'Connor's first meeting with Serama chickens

.....

4. to explain why Mr O'Connor started taking photographs of Serama chickens

.....

**Questions 5-6**

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

5. Christopher O'Connor was surprised by the Serama chickens because they are

A tiny

B friendly

C expensive

6. The writer of this text thinks Mr O'Connor's book is

A disappointing

B interesting

C famous

## **A celebration of chickens**

### **Paragraph A**

Christopher O'Connor, the famous wildlife photographer, has written a new book – and the subject is rather surprising! In the past, Mr O'Connor has written about lions, elephants and snakes, but his latest book is about chickens! However, these are not ordinary chickens – they are a wonderful breed called the Serama.

### **Paragraph B**

Mr O'Connor discovered Serama chickens while he was on holiday in Malaysia, where he saw an advertisement for a chicken beauty contest! He decided to attend and was amazed to see that people had brought their birds from all over the country. They were competing for a prize of around £1,000.

### **Paragraph C**

He noticed the Seramas in particular because they were not just beautiful but also very small. In fact, they are the smallest type of chicken in the world. He has been taking photos of these special birds ever since that day.

### **Paragraph D**

In his book, Mr O'Connor tells an interesting traditional story about the birds' origins. It is said that the first Serama chicken was once a prince who was very handsome but extremely proud. One day an old lady asked the prince if she could have a drink of water but he refused, so she turned him into a chicken.

### **Paragraph E**

Serama chickens come from Japan and were first imported to the UK in 2005. They are very good natured and calm. In the book, one owner, Alan Smith from York, describes how his friendly Serama once followed him all the way to the corner shop, waited for him to buy a newspaper, then accompanied him back home again!

### **Paragraph F**

So it's not surprising that Serama chickens are becoming more and more popular. I predict that Mr O'Connor's fascinating and beautiful book will only increase demand – perhaps they will become the most wanted pet this year!

**Turn over page**

**Task 2****Questions 7-10**

Five sentences are missing from the text on page 5. Look at the following sentences and decide which one best fits each gap. Circle the letter of your answer **on your answer sheet**. There is an example (A). There is one sentence you do not need.

- A (Example) ~~The Plain English Campaign was founded by Chrissie Maher in 1979.~~
- B Now the Plain English Campaign advises people all over the world on how to communicate clearly.
- C The European Commission even changed one of its international rules as a result.
- D Every year the campaign awards prizes to organisations that have produced literature that is clear and easy to understand.
- E It all started when Chrissie Maher held a protest in Parliament Square, London.
- F In 1981 the UK Government worked with the Plain English Campaign to rewrite 58,000 of its forms.

**Questions 11-13**

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

11. According to paragraph three, Chrissie Maher protested because she
- A had not received a good education
  - B enjoyed destroying official documents
  - C thought official forms were too difficult
12. According to paragraph four
- A the campaign was well-known before the protest
  - B the policeman read a complicated document
  - C the policeman did not understand the law
13. According to paragraph five, the Plain English Campaign
- A helps more people than Chrissie expected
  - B fights for better adult education courses
  - C only helps people who cannot read well

**Questions 14-16**

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

14. In paragraph four, **hilarious** means
- A funny
  - B unfair
  - C illegal
15. In paragraph six, **grasp** means
- A improve
  - B understand
  - C mistake
16. In paragraph eight, **comprehensible** means
- A formal
  - B correct
  - C clear

## The Plain English Campaign

### Paragraph one

What's the longest sentence you have ever seen? In 2005, a council in the north of England put up a notice about its plans to change a public footpath. The notice had only one sentence – but that sentence contained 630 words! You can read it all on the website of the Plain English Campaign.

### Paragraph two

          A (Example)          . It campaigns against 'gobbledygook, jargon and misleading public information' – in other words, against English that is difficult for ordinary people to understand.

### Paragraph three

          7.          . Chrissie had very little formal education and was angry because so many official letters and forms were difficult to read. So she stood in the square and tore up hundreds of official documents.

### Paragraph four

At the protest, a policeman told Chrissie to stop. He read out part of a law called the Metropolitan Police Act, which was written in 1839 and was full of complex sentences. 'Does that nonsense mean we have to go?' asked Chrissie! Some journalists thought this was **hilarious** and wrote about the incident in their newspapers. The Plain English Campaign became famous.

### Paragraph five

When Chrissie started the campaign, her aim was to make life easier for people who, like her, could not read very well. In fact, everyone benefits if official documents are written in clear language.

### Paragraph six

          8.          . They estimated this saved them £15 million – if people can **grasp** the meaning of the forms easily, they are less likely to make errors when they fill them in and this saves the Government time and money.

### Paragraph seven

          9.          . This includes using shorter sentences and choosing common words instead of very formal ones. For example, you don't need to say 'for the duration of' – you can just say 'while' or 'during'.

### Paragraph eight

The campaign runs training courses for lawyers, politicians and academics, and has a team of editors who will 'translate' official documents into **comprehensible** English.

### Paragraph nine

          10.          . It also has a 'Golden Bull' award for organisations that are guilty of writing in English that is unnecessarily difficult to read.

Turn over page

**Task 3**

Texts A-E on pages 8-10 are all related to each other. You need to use all five texts to answer the following questions.

**Questions 17-19**

There are five texts, A-E. Decide which text matches each of the purposes below and circle the letter of the text **on your answer sheet**. One of the texts does not have a purpose listed below.

Example: a job description ..... C

17. to encourage someone to do something .....  
 18. to give a recommendation .....  
 19. to describe some personal experiences .....

**Questions 20-21**

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

20. Which text uses the most formal language?  
 A text C  
 B text D  
 C text E
21. Text A is a job advertisement. We know this because  
 A it asks for your CV  
 B there is an application form  
 C you can click on several links

**Questions 22-27**

Look through all of the texts to find the answer to the questions below. Choose the letter of the best answer and circle it **on your answer sheet**.

22. Abdul's tutor feels that volunteering with the Fire Service  
 A would improve Abdul's English  
 B is exactly what Abdul wants to do  
 C would impress future employers
23. Volunteers with the Fire Service must be  
 A a student at college  
 B able to speak three languages  
 C able to train at the weekend
24. The careers adviser in college is called  
 A Dan  
 B Shahina  
 C Marianne

- 25.** If you complete the fire safety volunteer course you
- A are guaranteed a job
  - B can claim extra benefits
  - C will learn new things
- 26.** Abdul's English is very good because he
- A studied English in his home country
  - B has studied a lot in his own time
  - C is popular with other students
- 27.** Who can speak more than two languages?
- A Saira
  - B Abdul
  - C Metin

**Questions 28-30**

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

- 28. key** (text A) means
- A important
  - B unusual
  - C popular
- 29. work cooperatively** (text C) means to
- A enjoy working on your own
  - B be good at working with others
  - C be able to supervise other people
- 30. apprehensive** (text D) means
- A confident
  - B worried
  - C happy

**Turn over page**

## Text A

## Farmouth Volunteer Agency

Would you like to make a difference to your community, make new friends and learn new skills? Farmouth Volunteer Agency needs people from diverse backgrounds to offer a little bit of their time and make a big difference in our town!

### What can I do?

Farmouth Volunteer Agency is working in association with local organisations to provide a range of **key** services to the community. Choose from a range of exciting projects! (Click on the links on the right of the screen for more information on each organisation)

### What will I get?

There are plenty of benefits to being a volunteer. Whether you want to help other people, learn new skills or improve your CV, your time with us will be well spent.

### What should I do now?

If you want to join the Volunteer Agency, click on the link below and complete the application form. Alternatively, if you would like to speak to one of our advisers, call 01498 767 9090 or drop into our office on Market Street. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

[Application form](#)

In association with...



Farmouth Education Service



Farmouth at Home



Farmouth Fire Safety

[Farmouth council](#)



Farmouth Animal Shelter

## Text B

**From:** Dan Kerrigan

**To:** Abdul Aziz

**Subject:** Great opportunity!

**Attachment:** Become a Fire Safety volunteer

Hi Abdul,

My colleague, Marianne, showed me this advert today and I immediately thought of you. The fire station is running a training course for volunteer fire safety officers. Your English is so good now I think you'd be great! You need to speak another language as well so you've a great advantage because you are fluent in Arabic and French. I know you were hoping to work with the animal sanctuary but I think you'll get a lot out of this. It will certainly look good on your CV!

If you want more info go to see the careers advisers. Shahina and the other advisers know all about it.

Best regards

Dan



**Text C****Become a Fire Safety volunteer**

Join our safety campaign and help us spread our message around colleges and the community. There are so many benefits! You will get hands-on experience of working with us and possibly progress onto other training courses within the service. You will be given advice and guidance on how best to deliver your presentations and all your travel expenses will be reimbursed, and you'll gain new skills.

**Duties**

- give short presentations on fire safety
- translate important information from English into your first language(s)

**Qualifications**

- a good standard of written and spoken English
- ability to speak at least one other language apart from English

**Personal Skills**

- committed to helping others
- confident to speak in front of large groups
- **work cooperatively** at all times

You must be available for 2 full days of training on Saturday and Sunday the 7th and 8th of December. Training will start at 8.30am and end at 5pm. Please bring your own lunch!

**Text D****Farmouth Fire Service Volunteer Programme****Testimonials**

Becoming a fire safety volunteer can change your life! Read what some of our volunteers say about it.

**Saira, aged 21**

Languages: **English and Hindi**

I was born in Britain so I am a native English speaker but my parents are Indian so I can speak Hindi too. I have always been frightened of speaking in public but this programme has really helped build my confidence.

**Metin, aged 18**

Languages: **Hungarian and English**

I've been in England for two years now and heard about the training through Shahina, my careers adviser at college. I was a bit **apprehensive** that my English wouldn't be good enough but in fact I was relieved to find I could understand the trainers and the material fairly easily. If you take up this opportunity, you'll be challenged but you'll learn loads of new vocabulary and you also get the chance to meet people from all over the world.

**Turn over page**

**Text E**

To Whom It May Concern

**Re: Mr Abdul Aziz**

I am Abdul's personal tutor at Farnmouth College. When Abdul first enrolled on our ESOL course he knew no English at all. Since then he has worked tirelessly to improve his spoken and written English. He has attended every class on the course and done hours of independent study. As a result of his efforts, he has progressed from Entry 1 to Level 1 in just three years, which is an amazing achievement.

Abdul is punctual, hardworking and always respectful to his tutors and fellow students. He was elected by his peers to the student council, where he has served with enthusiasm and dedication.

I have no hesitation in recommending Abdul and am confident that he would make an excellent volunteer. Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dan Kerrigan  
ESOL Personal Tutor  
Farnmouth College

**End of exam**



