

ESOL Skills for Life

Level 2 – Reading



Sample paper 3

Time allowed: 60 minutes

- ▶ Write your name, candidate number, centre number and exam date on your answer sheet.
- ▶ You must not open this exam paper until instructed to do so.
- ▶ Please answer **all** questions.
- ▶ Circle your answers in blue or black pen **on the separate answer sheet.**
- ▶ You must not use pencil, erasable pen or correction fluid on the answer sheet.
- ▶ You must not use a dictionary in this exam.
- ▶ You must not take this exam paper out of the exam room.

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 that best matches the purposes below. Circle the letter **on your answer sheet**. You do not need to use all of the paragraphs.

Example: to conclude the article with a final opinion

.....F.....

1. to give some background information on the photographer
2. to explain the public's response to the artwork
3. to detail the layout of the exhibition
4. to outline the symbolism of the photographs

.....

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.....

.....

Questions 5-6

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

5. Allan's new exhibition is different because
 - A it shows landmarks in popular cities
 - B the pictures are very fashionable
 - C buildings are not the focus
6. What is the reviewer's opinion of the exhibition?
 - A the space in Allan's house is ideal to show his pictures
 - B the photographs would be better presented in a public arena
 - C Allan should focus on photographing famous places and buildings

New photography exhibition

Paragraph A

A new exhibition has opened in town. However, it is not in a gallery or a museum – it is in the kitchen of a local photographer, Fergus Allan. *Transport in my lifetime* is his latest work after his successful stint at the Royal Academy of Photography. He has decided to display this set of photographs in his home.

Paragraph B

Allan has been a photographer for 27 years and has been involved in many popular exhibitions. His latest exhibition marks a departure from his usual style of photographing architecture and famous landmarks. Other exhibitions have included photos taken in capital cities and were highly successful.

Paragraph C

Allan's latest work involves eight large-scale photographs of children standing next to large modes of transport dating from the last 50 years. These are all placed around his kitchen which has a high ceiling and lots of natural light. Steam trains and modern trains nestle alongside commuter ferries, jumbo jets and a double-decker bus.

Paragraph D

For Allan, these photographs represent the changes in public transport use. Transport has become smaller in size and stature – people now use single-decker buses or taxis. Roads are congested with cars instead of buses. He has confessed that he longs to live in a time where waiting for a bus or train means time to think or to engage with other commuters. He now thinks that we all live in individual worlds instead of a unified one.

Paragraph E

Unfortunately, few people have dared to visit Allan's house to look at the photographs. The exhibition has not been well publicised and Allan is deciding whether to abandon his idea of using his home to show his pictures. It would be a shame because some of the images are unique and show the historical changes in transport.

Paragraph F

Allan has tried something different with this latest work. The photographs are majestic and inspiring. However, the problem with this exhibition is that it doesn't seem to work in a house. These pictures need a big and accessible space where hundreds can see them, not just the few who have come to Allan's house so far.

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) ~~At the same time, junk food is becoming cheaper.~~
- B Dr Hans, an expert in nutrition, thinks that there could be serious consequences for public health.
- C Another suggestion is that the government could introduce a tax on junk food.
- D There are fears that some people don't know how to cook nowadays.
- E Should supermarkets be doing more to keep the cost down?
- F One reason why fruit and vegetables are more expensive is that people want to buy all varieties throughout the year.

Questions 11-13

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

11. According to paragraph one, in the future, fruit and vegetables will become something people
 A eat every day
 B never eat
 C eat rarely
12. In paragraph three, when does the chef want people to buy fruit and vegetables?
 A all year round
 B when available
 C in the summer
13. The manager of Sunrise Supermarket thinks his products are
 A very fresh
 B well-priced
 C top-quality

Questions 14-16

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

14. **substantially** (paragraph one)
 A a little
 B a lot
 C by half
15. **alternatives** (paragraph two)
 A choices
 B shapes
 C opinions
16. **schemes** (paragraph five)
 A programmes
 B costs
 C diets

The cost of healthy eating

Paragraph one

The cost of fruit and vegetables has risen **substantially** all over the world in the last ten years. The price of green vegetables such as cabbage and broccoli has doubled in the last decade. This has raised concerns that in the future these products will become luxury items, rather than everyday essentials.

Paragraph two

 A (Example) . The price of frozen food products such as pizzas, ice cream and chips is decreasing. Government health advisors have stated that if people can't afford to buy fresh, healthy food, they will have no choice but to turn to cheaper **alternatives** such as ready meals, which often contain high levels of salt, sugar and fat. A new fad of healthy ready-made and delivered meals is becoming popular in big cities, however. Sometimes it is possible to get a discount on the first meal.

Paragraph three

 7. . In the past, people would eat different food according to the season and only buy food that was fresh and available in particular months, for example, strawberries in summer and potatoes in October in the UK. A leading British chef said that if people bought food grown by local farmers, at the correct time of year, the cost would be significantly lower and this would be a great benefit to the local economy.

Paragraph four

 8. . The manager of Sunrise Supermarket doesn't think so. He said that fruit and vegetables are already very reasonably priced in his store. He claimed there are regular promotions and his supermarket also provides a budget range of products. He added that there are also significant reductions at the end of each day on dairy produce and there are also cheaper frozen and tinned products available.

Paragraph five

 9. . This would make it more expensive to buy and therefore less appealing. The extra funds could be used to subsidise the cost of fruit and vegetables. Similar **schemes** have been introduced in countries such as Mexico. However, some people feel that charging more for convenience food would take away their freedom of choice.

Paragraph six

 10. . He added that the government needs to do more to encourage healthy eating, and investing time and money on this issue will save money in the long run by reducing healthcare costs. Failure to do so could lead to an increase in illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes. What is more, people could become deficient in essential vitamins and minerals that fruit and vegetables provide. He said that a great deal more needs to be done so that people can eat healthily and cheaply.

Turn over page

Task 3

Texts A-E on pages 8-12 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: *to discuss the performance of two different candidates*
and *to decide who should get the job*

 D

17. to reject a candidate for a job **and** to offer encouragement
18. to invite a candidate for an interview **and** to give information about what to expect
19. to advertise a job **and** to give information about the candidate profile

Questions 20-22

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

20. Text A is
- A an attempt to interest people in horticultural jobs
 - B a balanced evaluation of careers in horticulture
 - C a warning that horticulture is not for everyone
21. According to text D, Andrei
- A performed quite well at the interview
 - B had some good ideas for the rose garden
 - C does not have much experience of gardening
22. According to text D, Sara
- A seemed less ambitious than Andrei
 - B was by far the best candidate
 - C arrived late for the interview

Questions 23-27

Text A has six paragraphs with missing headings. Choose the best paragraph for each of the following headings and circle the letter **on your answer sheet**. You do not need to use all the paragraphs. There is an example.

Example: A Great Variety B

23. Of National Importance

24. Find Out More

25. Start Anytime

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

26. Preserving the Past Ltd is based in

- A Southfield
- B Newtown
- C Mayhurst

27. Applicants for the gardening job at Southfield Castle must have

- A a qualification in horticulture
- B an understanding of volunteering
- C experience of working in a castle garden

Questions 28-30

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

28. **dedicated** (text B)

- A frequent
- B loyal
- C lazy

29. **concerns** (text D)

- A worries
- B points
- C hopes

30. **grumpy** (text D)

- A elderly
- B amusing
- C bad-tempered

Turn over page

Text A

<div> <div> <div>⬅</div> <div>➡</div> </div> <div>www.national-horticulture-association.co.uk</div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> </div>					
About Us	Careers	Courses	Jobs	Contact Us	About Horticulture

WORKING IN HORTICULTURE

A

Horticulture isn't just about gardening, although gardening is obviously an important part of it. Jobs in this sector can range from managing a garden centre, to looking after the grounds of a historic property, to advising a local council on planting.

B (Example)

In fact, there's something for everyone in horticulture. You could be a soil scientist, a park ranger working in one of our beautiful National Parks, or a journalist writing about plant-related issues for a range of specialist and general publications.

C

People come into horticulture at all stages of life. Some begin with an apprenticeship, some build on a degree in a subject like Biology or History, and others train part-time in order to prepare for a change in career in later life.

D

There are few, if any, millionaires working in horticulture, but there are a lot of very happy individuals who have welcomed the opportunity to develop a career that they find satisfying and worthwhile.

E

Horticulture is one of the largest industries in the UK. A thriving horticulture sector is crucial to the health of the nation – after all, without plants we wouldn't be able to survive at all! It's a great area to work in if you want to feel you are making a difference.

F

Click on the 'Careers' tab to find detailed information about the different jobs that fall under the heading of horticulture.

Text B

<div> <div> <div>←</div> <div>→</div> </div> <div>www.national-horticulture-association.co.uk</div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>					
About Us	Careers	Courses	Jobs	Contact Us	About Horticulture
<h2 style="text-align: center;">GARDENER</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Southfield Castle</h3> <p>Are you looking for a career in horticulture? Start here! Southfield Castle is run by Preserving the Past Ltd, so experience gained in this post could open the door to a range of exciting opportunities at any of our properties throughout the country.</p> <p>Southfield Castle is set in outstandingly beautiful grounds in the Midshire countryside. The garden looks wonderful all the year round and attracts visitors from all over the world.</p> <p>About this job</p> <p>We're looking for a passionate gardener who understands the importance of this historic garden to our national culture. The successful candidate will play a vital role in ensuring that visitors have an outstanding experience with us. As a gardener, you will be part of a team charged with keeping the garden beautifully presented at all times. This will include planting, pruning, mowing and hedge clipping. You will also be required to support our many dedicated volunteers. Regular weekend working, as part of a rota, is expected of all our staff.</p> <p>About you</p> <p>You will have practical experience of gardening and horticulture and hold at least a Level 2 qualification in horticulture. You must be able to demonstrate an excellent knowledge of plants. You need to be passionate, enthusiastic and willing to engage with our visitors, answering their questions with courtesy and an obvious pride in Southfield Castle garden.</p> <p>What you can expect from us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary well above the industry average • Opportunities for training and development • Annual pay review • Generous holiday entitlement • Opportunities for promotion within the company, including gaining managerial experience at many of our beautiful properties across the country 					

Turn over page

Text C**To:** Andrei Grigorescu**From:** Susie Smythe**Subject:** Interview

Dear Andrei

Thank you for your interest in the position of gardener at Southfield Castle. I am pleased to invite you for an interview at 9.30am on Thursday 26 June.

The interview will take place in our office at 8 Church Street, Mayhurst, and last for about thirty minutes. You will have the opportunity to talk about your experience as a gardener. The panel will also ask you a range of questions designed to test your ability to create eye-catching displays with plants and to ensure that they are well looked after.

Kind regards

Susie Smythe

Managing Director

Preserving the Past Ltd

Text D

From: Susie Smythe
To: Maryam Hussein, Jack Thomas
Subject: Gardener at Southfield Castle

Jack, Maryam

Thanks for your input. I've thought about what you've both said and I've decided to go for Sara. Jack, I understand your **concerns**, but remember we're looking for someone who can really make a career with us. Andrei was a great candidate, but I get the impression he will never want to move out of the garden, whereas Sara has the drive to go far with our organisation.

I'm going to give her a chance.

Susie

From: Jack Thomas
To: Susie Smythe, Maryam Hussein
Subject: Gardener at Southfield Castle

Susie and Maryam

I understand where you're both coming from, but I wasn't convinced by Sara. I'd have been more inclined to support her if she had arrived on time. Plus I know this is a gardening job, but I still think candidates should make an effort with their appearance.

I wondered how much commitment there really is under all that enthusiasm. How do you think she'll cope when it's freezing cold and she's got a couple of **grumpy** visitors moaning that there aren't any flowers out in January?

I know Andrei was a bit quiet compared to Sara, but I felt his experience spoke for itself. And look at his references! I don't see how we can turn him down.

Jack

From: Maryam Hussein
To: Susie Smythe, Jack Thomas
Subject: Gardener at Southfield Castle

Hello both!

Yes – I'm with Susie! Didn't you just love her ideas for the new rose garden? Sara gets my vote.

Maryam

From: Susie Smythe
To: Maryam Hussein, Jack Thomas
Subject: Gardener at Southfield Castle

Maryam and Jack

We need to get on with this. I'm in Paris next week and I want us to have made a decision before I leave.

I'm still on the side of Sara. I know she lacks experience but her enthusiasm and imagination really shone through.

Let me know your thoughts asap.

Susie

Turn over page

Text E

Preserving the Past Ltd, 8 Church Street, Mayhurst MA1 2BC

Andrei Grigorescu
23 Church Road
Newtown
N20 3TP

5 July 2017

Dear Mr Grigorescu,

I regret to inform you that on this occasion we are unable to offer you the position of gardener at Southfield Castle.

Although the panel was very impressed with your performance and qualifications, competition for this job was particularly fierce. We would welcome another application from you in the future if you see another post that interests you.

Thank you for your interest in Preserving the Past Ltd.

Yours sincerely,

Susie Smythe

Susie Smythe
Managing Director

End of exam

Skills for Life Level 2 Reading – Sample paper 3

Answers

1. B
2. E
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. F
8. E
9. C
10. B
11. C
12. B
13. B
14. B
15. A
16. A
17. E
18. C
19. B
20. A
21. A
22. C
23. E
24. F
25. C
26. C
27. A
28. B
29. A
30. C