

ESOL Skills for Life

Level 1 – Reading

Sample Paper 1

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.
- ▶ This exam paper has **three** tasks. Answer **all** questions.
- ▶ You may highlight parts of the texts or questions with a highlighter pen.
- ▶ Use only blue or black pen for your answers.
- ▶ Circle your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

1. What is this text about?

- A books
- B television
- C cinemas



Question	Answer
1.	A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C
2.	A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C
3.	A <input type="radio"/> B <input type="radio"/> C

- ▶ You must not use pencil, erasable pen or correction fluid.
- ▶ You must not use a dictionary in this exam.
- ▶ You must not take this exam paper out of the exam room.

Task 1

Read the text about Barcelona Blues and answer questions 1-10.



Allen Woodsley

Director



Caroline Sorkin

'Susan'



Guillermo Vivas

'Pepe'



Pamela Fruns

'Aricelli'

Barcelona Blues

Genre: **Comedy / Crime**

Release date (cinemas): **15 Sept**

Release date (TV release): **15 Nov**

Runtime: **2 hrs 10 mins**

Age classification: **12+**

Star rating: ★★★★★

Paragraph 1

Barcelona Blues is the latest film from award-winning director Allen Woodsley, known for his complicated plots and witty dialogue. After a few years of mediocre work, Allen has had a run of more successful films, and rumours in the film industry suggest that this film was set to continue this run. For a Woodsley fan like me, it was not one to miss. The film starts out as a romantic comedy. As with so many Woodsley films, however, just when the viewer is starting to get comfortable, the plot takes a wild turn, in this case from romance to crime (and then back again).

Paragraph 2

The story centres on a young American woman, Susan, apparently enjoying life as a university lecturer in a foreign city. Susan, played by Caroline Sorkin, impresses students and colleagues alike with her elegance and education. In truth, however, she is bored by the successful but predictable life she has built for herself.

Paragraph 3

Her attempts to find adventure land her in trouble, through which she becomes acquainted with the streetwise detective, Pepe, played by Guillermo Vivas. At first their relationship is bad-tempered. But later it blooms into something like romance as they work together to solve a complex crime – but not without a few quarrels and embarrassments along the way.

Paragraph 4

Woodsley's film is not perfect: the plot, though well drawn, is somewhat absurd, and the characters, for all their wit, are fairly stereotypical. The film sometimes feels a bit silly. But, **if** not serious, it is at least seriously entertaining. And the actors are superb. Both lead actors put in high energy performances. Sorkin's fans will agree that this is one of her best films. And Vivas, more commonly known for action roles, is hilarious in his comedy debut.

Paragraph 5

The final star of the film is the city of Barcelona itself, with its handsome buildings and streets, and the medieval villages and rolling hills of its surrounding countryside. The cinematographers deserve praise for their work in filming this landscape so beautifully. If you're looking for an entertaining, intelligent film, with a bit of beautiful scenery thrown in, then Barcelona Blues is a safe bet. It would not be surprising at all if it helped its director add another set of awards to his shelves.

Questions 1-10

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the writer's opinion of Barcelona Blues?
 - A People will enjoy this film.
 - B The actors perform poorly.
 - C This is a disappointing film.

2. When will the film be available to watch at home?
 - A August
 - B September
 - C November

3. How long does the film last?
 - A around one and a half hours
 - B around two hours
 - C around three hours

4. According to paragraph 1, why was the writer looking forward to this film?
 - A The writer heard that the director has improved.
 - B It includes the writer's favourite actors.
 - C The writer wanted to see a film set in Barcelona.

5. According to paragraph 1, what is unusual about this film?
 - A It changes genres in the middle.
 - B It is set in the wilderness.
 - C It includes scenes in different languages.

6. According to paragraph 3, how do the two main characters meet?
 - A through work at a university
 - B in a police investigation
 - C by committing a crime together

7. In paragraph 4, what is the writer's criticism of the plot?
 - A It is unbelievable.
 - B It is gloomy.
 - C It is complicated.

8. According to paragraph 4, why is Vivas's performance surprising?
 - A He plays a character with little energy.
 - B He does a lot of action in this film.
 - C He usually acts in a different kind of film.

Turn over page

9. Which word is most similar to the meaning of **'if'** in paragraph 4?
- A although
 - B when
 - C unless
10. What is the purpose of the images included with this review?
- A to show scenes from the film
 - B to help readers recognise the cast
 - C to show the good things about the film

Task 2

Read the text about Richmond Park and answer questions 11-20.

Paragraph 1

Is it possible to be in a huge city, while also simultaneously walking for miles in seemingly open countryside? Well, it is if you make a trip to Richmond Park, located in South West London. Famous for being the largest city park in Europe, the park is a national nature reserve, a site of great scientific interest and a special area of conservation. In addition, the **picturesque** grounds have inspired famous artists and, in more recent times, have been the location for several films.

Paragraph 2

However, Richmond Park was not always a city park. In the 1200s, the area, called the 'Manor of Sheen', was a collection of farms and grassy fields used by the public to graze sheep and cattle. 200 hundred years later, Henry VII, formerly the Earl of Richmond, built a palace there. The palace was named Richmond Palace and the King used to hunt on the public land surrounding the new palace.

Paragraph 3

..... **11.**..... He, therefore, had a huge wall constructed, eight miles long around the land to keep people out. He called the land Richmond Royal Park and introduced 2,000 deer to the park for his own amusement. Charles I could not long ignore the public outcry. In an attempt to pacify enraged citizens, he installed ladders on the walls so that people could access the park.

Paragraph 4

..... **12.**..... However, when Charles II was crowned, all the grounds were once again decreed a royal park. Despite numerous protests, it remained a royal park for several centuries. Though some parts were made accessible to the public, it was only relatively recently, at the beginning of the 20th century, that Edward VII made the last private areas public. Since then, it has been a public park.

Paragraph 5

Over the last few centuries, the landscape of the park was developed with the installation of the famous Pen Ponds lake and the landscaped gardens known as The Isabella Plantation. However, one thing that has remained the same is the deer population. There are now over 630 red and fallow deer **wandering** freely within the park grounds. Their presence in the park has changed the landscape over time. The deer feed on young trees called saplings, preventing the park from becoming a forest. The branches of the grown trees are often cut three metres from the ground, just out of reach of the hungry deer.

Paragraph 6

..... **13.**..... It has attracted global scientific interest for its ancient trees – some were planted back in Charles I's reign – as well as its birds and other small animals. It is particularly notable for its wide variety of insects, including some rare beetles. No doubt Richmond Park will continue to be a fascinating oasis of calm within the bustling capital city for years to come.

Turn over page

Questions 11-13

Choose the best first sentence (A-D) for each paragraph. There is one first sentence you don't need.

11. Paragraph 3
12. Paragraph 4
13. Paragraph 6

- A** Today the park is a site of both national and international importance for wildlife conservation.
- B** It is no surprise then that Richmond Park is the most visited park outside central London.
- C** In 1625, Charles I took up residence in Richmond Palace and decided he did not want to share the land with the common people.
- D** For about a decade after the King died, Richmond Park was given back to the public.

Questions 14-18

Choose the correct answer.

14. According to paragraph 2, what was the land now known as Richmond Park used for in the 1200s?
- A It was a large city park.
- B It was an area for farming.
- C It was a private royal park.
15. According to paragraph 3, why did the king build a wall around the grounds?
- A to keep the park's wildlife safe
- B to stop people using the land
- C to establish a new public park
16. According to paragraph 5, why are the tree branches in Richmond Park cut?
- A to protect the trees from deer
- B to reduce the size of the trees
- C to create a beautiful shape
17. In paragraph 6, how does the writer feel about the park's future?
- A optimistic
- B uncertain
- C concerned
18. In paragraph 4, what is implied by Charles II decreeing Richmond Park a royal park?
- A Most of the land had already been used to create a public park.
- B The public were no longer interested in visiting Richmond Park.
- C He failed to listen to his citizens' wishes to access the park.

Questions 19-20

Choose the word or phrase with the same meaning as the word or phrase in **bold**.

19. picturesque (paragraph 1)

- A beautiful
- B influential
- C modern

20. wandering (paragraph 5)

- A eating
- B walking
- C growing

Turn over page

Task 3

Read the five texts and answer questions 21-30.

Text 1

The inspirational Freddy Simpson				
What's On	News	Travel Packages	Contact Us	Festival Forum
<p>The hugely successful Harrogate Crime Writing Festival returns this summer. It's a friendly, fun-filled festival located in and around Agatha Christie's old haunt: the luxurious Old Swan Hotel.</p> <p>Held between 18 to 21 July, this year's festival offers a thrilling mix of comedy, heated debate and stimulating conversation. International bestselling novelist Jude Warbeck takes charge as Festival Programming Chair joined by a host of giants of the genre, including Freddy Simpson, Sajita Khan and Freya Cooper. Keep an eye out for gameshow host turned crime fiction writer Ozzy Richardson!</p> <p>Click on What's On to download the festival brochure.</p>				

Text 2

<p>Friday 19 July</p> <p>8:30pm – Cygnet Meeting Room, Old Swan Hotel</p> <p>Special Guest: Freddy Simpson</p> <p>Fan favourite crime fiction author Freddy Simpson celebrates an important milestone this summer as the 20th book in his bestselling, much-loved Tony Green series will be published. The long-awaited novel, <i>Playing with Fire</i>, is the latest in a long line of award-winning novels following sleuth Green's determined hunt for the truth in gritty inner-city Glasgow.</p> <p>With a fascinating background in journalism, taking him all over the world, Simpson has a vast repertoire of amusing tales to tell and the talent to tell them. Learn more about Simpson, his life and his works at this entertaining presentation.</p>
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Text 3

The inspirational Freddy Simpson	
Joe	Hey everyone! Loving the festival. Did anyone else check out Freddy Simpson's slot last night? For me, it was a stand-out highlight of the festival.
Suzy	Yeah, I was there with my hubby. He's such an interesting guy, isn't he? And so witty and charismatic!
Nahal	Great to get some insight into the Tony Green character. There are so many iconic fictional detectives that it must be tough to create a crimefighter that really stands out, but Freddy Simpson's done this with Tony Green.
Joe	As a budding writer myself, it's tempting to just follow a set of clichés. All good writing requires research. It sounds like Freddy Simpson did shedloads in Glasgow prior to putting pen to paper.
Suzy	I couldn't agree with you more, Joe. On another note, there's a competition to win the latest book. They're gonna open the link later today. Can't wait to get my nose stuck in it whether I win or not.
Joe	Hey, thanks for the reminder, Suzy. I'll look out for the link and enter too.
Nahal	Yeah, me too. Thanks Suzy.

Text 4**Fancy a copy of *Playing with Fire* personally signed by Freddy Simpson?**

If so, enter our competition by answering the following question:

What is the name of PI Tony Green's long-suffering personal assistant?

Competition ends midnight Saturday 20 July, and winners will be posted online by 10am the following day.

Freddy Simpson will present copies to winning applicants in the closing session.

To enter, click on the Competition Entry link below. Good luck!

[Competition Entry](#)

Text 5

Hey Suzy, Thanks for the heads up about the competition! You'll never guess – I won. And to be presented a copy by the legend himself – well, that's just the cherry on the cake. By all accounts *Playing with Fire* sounds like a real page-turner, so I guess that's my evenings and weekends sorted for the next couple of weeks! See ya at the closing session if not before. Take care, Joe

Turn over page

Questions 21-23

Match each text to its text purpose (A-D). There is one text purpose you don't need.

21. Text 1
22. Text 3
23. Text 4

- A to discuss a recent shared experience
- B to explain how to do something
- C to provide biographical information
- D to persuade people to attend an event

Questions 24-28

Choose the correct answer.

24. Which text is the most informal?
- A Text 2
- B Text 3
- C Text 4
25. In Text 1, which crime writer is best known for their previous career?
- A Jude Warbeck
- B Freya Cooper
- C Ozzy Richardson
26. In Text 2, what can attendees expect to hear in Freddy Simpson's talk?
- A some stories from his travels
- B some advice about writing novels
- C some details about his awards for writing
27. In Text 3, what does Joe like most about Freddy Simpson's writing?
- A His novels are well-planned.
- B His principal character is unique.
- C His style of writing is entertaining.
28. In Text 5, how will Joe probably spend next weekend?
- A enjoying another festival
- B reading at home
- C eating at a restaurant

Questions 29-30

Choose the word or phrase with the same meaning as the word or phrase in **bold**.

29. takes charge (Text 1)

- A is in control
- B gives a talk
- C teaches writing

30. determined (Text 2)

- A popular
- B keen
- C realistic

Important

Remember to circle your answers on the answer sheet.

1. What is this text about?

- A books
- B television
- C cinemas



Question	Answer
1.	A B C
2.	A B C
3.	A B C

End of exam

Skills for Life Level 1 Reading — Sample paper 1 Answers

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