ESOL Skills for Life

Level 1 – Reading

Past Paper A

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON

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?

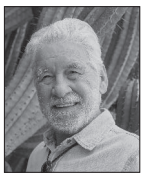
A books
B television
C cinemas

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

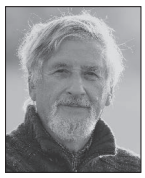
Read the text about William Tell and answer questions 1–10.



Nick Barmer
Director



Kasper Hansen
William Tell



Michael Pringle
King Albert



Yaretzi Alizadeh
Suna



Elsa McCloud
Bertha

William Tell

Genre: **Historical Drama/ Adventure**

Release date (cinemas): **22 Sep**

Release date (TV): **22 Nov**

Runtime: **2 hrs 35 mins**

Age classification: **12+**

Star rating: ★★★★

Paragraph 1

Nick Barmer is known for his work in historical cinema, and many people have been looking forward to his newest film. Looking to take a place next to great historical dramas such as Braveheart and Gladiator, this film is about the great Swiss hero who resisted Austrian rule in the 14th century. It will not let fans down because it tells a fine story with an impressive cast.

Paragraph 2

Kasper Hansen plays William Tell, a skilled hunter and family man. Tell's peaceful life is disturbed by the Habsburgs, the powerful royal family who rule Austria and much of Europe at the time. Tell begins the film as a regular Swiss citizen, who loves his family and his freedom. At first, he chooses not to get involved in the fighting against the Habsburgs. But when the cruel King, played by Michael Pringle, puts his family in danger, he decides to act.

Paragraph 3

The film shows how Tell changes from someone who doesn't want to be a hero into the leader of the Swiss. Defying the king, he encourages the different Swiss areas to unite against their common enemy. Barmer skilfully shows the challenges of this fight, focusing on the problems inside the group and what people must do to win freedom. Hansen is an excellent hero, while Yaretzi Alizadeh, Michael Pringle and Elsa McCloud's good performances add interest to the story.

Paragraph 4

While *William Tell* is excellent in its moments of high drama, it can sometimes be slow. The film is long, and some parts feel unnecessary. There is a lot of talking and a lot of horse-riding. These scenes feel dull compared to the action-packed battle scenes. Even then, however, Steve Price's emotional music helps to keep the viewers involved. The battle scenes, though not graphic, look realistic and show how tough battles were in the Middle Ages.

Paragraph 5

I should mention the amazing camera work used in the film. Barmer's camera captures the beauty of the mountains and lakes of Switzerland, which provides background to the story. *William Tell* is an exciting, sometimes moving film that tells an important episode in Swiss history. While not perfect, it is a well-made and interesting historical drama that a wide audience can enjoy. It makes you think about themes of courage and the struggle for freedom.

Questions 1–10

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the writer's opinion of the film *William Tell*?

A It is a disappointing film.
B It is an unoriginal film.
C It is a successful film.

2. When will the film be available to watch at home?

A in September
B in November
C in December

3. How long does the film last?

A around one and a half hours
B around two and a half hours
C around three hours

4. According to paragraph 2, what is Tell's initial position towards the Austrian Habsburgs?

A He decides to lead the people against them.
B He prefers to avoid conflict with them.
C He shows support and loyalty to them.

5. According to paragraph 3, what is a key aspect of Tell's transformation in the film?

A He negotiates with enemies.
B He learns various skills.
C He brings people together.

6. According to paragraph 4, what is a noted weakness in the film's presentation?

A The pacing of the film is inconsistent.
B The battle scenes are unrealistic.
C The musical score is uninteresting.

7. What is the message of the film?

A People need to stay away from politics.
B People need to act to make things right.
C People need to accept a bad situation.

8. What is the likely impact of the film's visual scenery on viewers?

A It distracts from the plot.
B It has little effect on the viewer.
C It deepens the story's impact.

Turn over page

9. Why does the writer use the word '**While**' in paragraph 4?

A to add information
B to show contrast
C to give examples

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 good things about the film

Task 2

Read the text about the Royal Albert Hall and answer questions 11–20.

Paragraph 1

The Royal Albert Hall is a world-renowned concert hall located in London. It was built as a tribute to Prince Albert, beloved husband of Queen Victoria, who passed away in 1861. With the help of architects and artists, the hall was completed and opened by the Queen in an **official** ceremony in 1871. She wanted the hall to promote music and the arts, and, since then, it has hosted countless important and historic events. The hall can accommodate over 5,200 people and is renowned for its exceptional acoustics.

Paragraph 2

The hall is modelled on the shape of Roman amphitheatres, and is topped with a large dome made with the wrought iron and glass so common in Victorian engineering. It was a feat of engineering, as it was constructed without any central support and is secured by girders and curved trusses. Construction of the hall was completed in just under eight years, using over 6 million bricks and 80,000 tonnes of concrete.

Paragraph 3

11. . Commissioned for the opening of the hall, this instrument is known for its power and versatility. It was constructed by Henry Willis and was first employed during a performance of Handel's Messiah in 1871. It has since been used by some of the greatest musicians of all time, including The Beatles and Elton John. It is still used regularly today.

Paragraph 4

12. . In 1951, it became the first concert hall in the world to broadcast a live television show, The Festival of Britain, celebrating achievements in science, technology and the arts. In 1971, it was the venue for the first concert of legendary rock band Pink Floyd's The Dark Side of the Moon tour. In 2000, it was home to the first ever rock concert for the Teenage Cancer Trust, in which a host of famous musicians played for free to raise money for charity. The hall continues to host unique and memorable events to this day.

Paragraph 5

Perhaps the most well-known event that takes place at the Royal Albert Hall is the annual Proms. This is an eight-week summer festival featuring an impressive **assortment** of musical performances, from major symphonies to comedic pieces, talks by experts and fun performances with interactive elements for children. The iconic Last Night of the Proms is a highlight, with the audience joining in to sing old English songs. It is a celebration of music and British culture, and the Royal Albert Hall is the perfect setting for this grand event.

Paragraph 6

13. . In the early 20th century, additional seating and a new stage were added, and in the 2000s, facilities were modernised and improved. However, the hall has remained true to its original purpose of promoting the arts and sciences, and it continues to be a beloved venue for performances and events of all kinds.

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 The Royal Albert Hall has a long history of hosting groundbreaking events.

B A range of design elements contribute to the hall's superb acoustics.

C Over the years, the Royal Albert Hall has undergone many changes.

D One of the most impressive features of the hall is its organ, which has over 9,000 pipes.

Questions 14–18

Choose the correct answer.

14. According to paragraph 1, why was the Royal Albert Hall built?

A to host a famous concert

B to remember Prince Albert

C to entertain people in London

15. According to paragraph 2, what is remarkable about the dome?

A the way it was built

B the materials it was made from

C the design it is based on

16. According to paragraph 6, how does the present-day hall compare with the past?

A It has adopted a new set of aims for 21st century audiences.

B It has increased the number of places where people can sit.

C It has limited itself to performances of classical music only.

17. In paragraph 5, how does the writer describe the Last Night of the Proms?

A as a serious event focusing on well-known musicians

B as a fun event focusing on English traditional songs

C as an interesting event celebrating international music

18. In paragraph 4, what is suggested about the Royal Albert Hall?

A It is still a popular venue today.

B It is only used for music events.

C It only hosts commercial events.

Questions 19–20

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

19. **official** (paragraph 1)

A fun
B strange
C formal

20. **assortment** (paragraph 5)

A variety
B organisation
C ability

Turn over page

Task 3

Read the five texts and answer questions 21–30.

Text 1

To	All Presenters
From	moxley@cwc.com
Subject	Presentations at the Creative Writing Convention

Dear Presenter

This email provides **key** information regarding your participation in the upcoming Creative Writing Convention. Please note that all participants are required to submit their abstracts and presentation outlines by the specified deadline of 31 July.

A participant handbook is attached to this email with details of workshop schedules and presentation guidelines. We strongly advise you to thoroughly review this document.

Please note that networking events are primarily aimed at attendees. However, you are welcome to go to these events if you want to.

Should you require any further information, please direct your inquiries to the Participant Assistance Department at pad@cwc.com.

We look forward to a successful event.

Sincerely

Mary Oxley
Secretary for the Creative Writing Convention Organising Committee

Text 2

The Creative Writing Convention

About	Visit	Agenda	Registration	Help

On 1 September, the Creative Writing Convention will take place at The Sage International Conference Centre in Newcastle. This event caters to both emerging and experienced writers, offering useful insights and practical guidance.

The convention programme includes a range of workshops, designed to refine writing skills, as well as networking sessions, facilitating connections among writers and industry professionals.

Join us at the Creative Writing Convention to broaden your knowledge and connect with a community of dedicated writers.

Text 3

How to get the most out of your Creative Writing Convention experience

- Download the Online Conference Programme to book workshops that suit your needs.
- Use the Online Conference Directory to find speakers and attendees you want to meet. Arrange meetings if possible.
- Join networking events to talk to like-minded people during breaks and share contact details.
- Make time to explore all resources available, like author talks and publisher presentations.

Text 4

Finding My Focus at the Creative Writing Convention

Yesterday, I joined the 'Writer's Hour: Guided Journaling Session' at the Creative Writing Convention. Matt Bavistin, who started the Newcastle Writers' Lounge, led the session. He explained that successful writing isn't all about crafting perfect sentences. Instead, it's about slowing down, connecting with your thoughts and clarifying them before writing them down. I really liked the quiet space, helpful prompts and shared experience. It created a sense of community. It was great for all writers, even experienced ones like me.

Text 5

Matt Bavistin – Book signing event

Suzy Jones	Hi there. Did anyone go to Matt Bavistin's session yesterday? It was fantastic! I gathered numerous valuable tips. I believe his new book – *Creative Writing* – will be incredibly useful!
Jack Burman	Yeah, I was there. Matt Bavistin's session was outstanding, a definite **highlight** of the convention for me as well. I've been a big fan of Matt for many years. His book, *Creative Writing*, should provide some fascinating information about his unique writing style.
Cat Williams	I'm also eagerly anticipating this event. I hope we have the opportunity for a brief question-and-answer session too. I'd like to ask him a bit more about how to get inspiration for new ideas. Staring at a blank page is the worst part of writing, don't you agree?
Adam Blacksmith	Absolutely. I hope his book helps me enhance my creative writing skills too. I haven't been writing for very long, so I need all the help I can get.

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 2 .....

22. Text 3 .....

23. Text 5 .....

A	to share opinions about a writer
B	to give advice to people attending an event
C	to advertise an event to the public
D	to remind presenters of important information

Questions 24–28

Choose the correct answer.

24. Which text is the most formal?

A Text 1
B Text 3
C Text 4

25. According to Text 3, what is the Online Conference Programme most useful for?

A to search for workshops of interest to you
B to arrange discussions with important people
C to find attendees with shared interests

26. According to Text 4, what was the main focus of Matt Bavistin's session?

A to help attendees develop their writing ideas
B to encourage people to write more quickly
C to teach participants the correct way to write

27. How do the participants in Text 5 feel about Matt Bavistin's book signing event?

A uninterested
B concerned
C hopeful

28. In Text 1, what is Mary Oxley's priority at the Creative Writing Convention?

A ensuring the event is well-organised
B allowing presenters creative freedom
C encouraging presenters to network

Questions 29–30

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

29. **key** (Text 1)

A trivial
B important
C secondary

30. **highlight** (Text 5)

A boring period
B uncomfortable moment
C best part

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

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Skills for Life Level 1 Reading — Past Paper A Answers

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