

ESOL Skills for Life

Level 2 – Reading

Sample Paper 2

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 Chester and answer questions 1-10.

Paragraph 1

Chester is a popular tourist destination situated 40 miles southwest of Manchester in the county of Cheshire. It is particularly notable for the two miles of Roman- and Anglo-Saxon-era city walls that encircle the city and the charming covered walkways above the first storey of some of its handsome black and white timbered shopping streets, known as The Rows.

Paragraph 2

These attractive features reflect Chester's significant part in English history. In AD 79, the Romans constructed Castra Deva, the Latin for military camp, on the River Dee, which was the largest fortress in all of Britain. Erected at this location due to its strategic geographical importance near the River Dee estuary, the military base soon grew a town around it, and Roman Chester, rather than London, nearly became the capital of the Roman province of Britannia Superior. Its facilities matched its importance, including the largest amphitheatre in Britain, with capacity for up to 10,000 people.

Paragraph 3

After a three-century occupation, the Romans withdrew from Chester, and from Britain, at the commencement of the 5th century. Incoming Anglo-Saxons went on to extend and strengthen the city walls against Viking raids from the north. The walls were further fortified in the 13th century. For over 500 years from 1307, the repair of the walls was the responsibility of the Murengers, who would collect a special tax called the murage, which was raised from goods coming through the Port of Chester.

Paragraph 4

Chester's position as a port was of vital significance to its economy. It was the head port and administrative centre for a large stretch of the coastline from Wales up to north-west England, bringing in considerable tax revenues. By the late 17th century, however, the River Dee estuary had begun to silt up, with huge consequences for the once-proud port. From the 16th century, Liverpool had started to take trade from Ireland away from Chester. With the advantage of a wide-open estuary with a good natural harbour, and closer proximity to the rapidly expanding textile industry growing around Manchester, Liverpool displaced its neighbour as the main regional port.

Paragraph 5

During the 18th century, Chester, long a noted centre of craft-makers and artisans, turned instead towards leisure, attracting visitors to its theatres and racecourse. During the industrial revolution, it fell behind fast-growing industrial cities like Manchester and Liverpool. **Nonetheless**, the city did acquire some heavy industry related to the construction of the canal network and the later railway networks, and it retained middling importance as a regional trading centre. One building that is a testament to these times is the Victorian Gothic Town Hall which opened in 1869. It is open to visitors and occasionally hired out for weddings, including, in 2024, that of the 7th Duke of Westminster, a member of Chester's pre-eminent family, the Grosvenors.

Paragraph 6

Chester has long held a close connection to the Grosvenor family. They are one of the foremost families in Britain and there are numerous landmarks bearing the family name in Chester. The Grosvenor Hotel is prominent in the centre of the city as is the Grosvenor Museum. This museum houses an abundance of exhibits from Roman Chester, giving visitors a better understanding of the city's history. There is also a more interactive museum which helps illustrate the significance of Roman Chester. At the Deva Discovery Centre, visitors experience actor-led performances and special effects of the sights, sounds and smells along a Roman street. Visitors can also appreciate how an archaeological dig is conducted as well as being able to view a model amphitheatre giving visitors a sense of Chester's history. The city has impressed travellers in bygone days and will doubtless continue to do so.

**Questions 1-10**

Choose the correct answer.

1. What is the overall purpose of this text?
 - A to talk about Chester's Roman history
 - B to explain Chester's previous importance
 - C to attract tourists to Chester Castle

2. According to paragraph 2, what was Castra Deva?
 - A a fortress
 - B a river
 - C an amphitheatre

3. According to paragraph 3, why were the walls strengthened after the 5th century?
 - A to protect the inhabitants from Romans
 - B to protect the inhabitants from Anglo-Saxons
 - C to protect the inhabitants from Vikings

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4. According to paragraph 3, why were the Murengers important?
 - A They fought against intruders.
 - B They helped Chester's finances.
 - C They traded products from outside.

5. According to paragraph 6, why is the Grosvenor Museum important?
 - A It provides important income to the city.
 - B It clarifies aspects of Chester's history.
 - C It is owned by The Royal Family.

6. According to paragraph 6, what does the Deva Discovery Centre allow visitors to do?
 - A visit a Roman amphitheatre
 - B discover Roman treasure
 - C see a show about Romans

7. Which paragraph tells you the most about Chester's downturn in fortune?
 - A paragraph 2
 - B paragraph 3
 - C paragraph 4

8. According to paragraph 5, what can be inferred about Chester's economy?
 - A Tourism is more important than trade.
 - B Heavy industry is of prime importance.
 - C People's wages have decreased.

9. In paragraph 5, what is the purpose of the word '**nonetheless**'?
 - A It adds emphasis to a previous point.
 - B It provides an example of something.
 - C It is a contrast to what was said before.

10. Looking at the map, what information is given about Chester?
 - A It is situated inland.
 - B It is in Wales.
 - C It is next to Liverpool.

Task 2

Read the text about New Lanark and answer questions 11-20.

Paragraph 1

New Lanark, an 18th-century cotton mill village nestled in the heart of Central Scotland, lies approximately an hour's journey from both Glasgow and Edinburgh and has metamorphosed into a significant tourist destination. Established in 1785, the village thrived as a textile manufacturing epicentre from 1786 until 1968. It is now **under the tutelage of** the New Lanark Trust, who initially restored the buildings and now ensure they are well-maintained. Today, visitor numbers have burgeoned to 400,000 annually, and it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Paragraph 2

The village's strategic placement on the banks of the River Clyde, adjacent to a series of waterfalls, was not pure coincidence. It was, in fact, a conscious decision made by founder, David Dale, and his business partner, the English inventor and pioneer of industrial cotton spinning Richard Arkwright, to utilise this ideal location to install a water-powered mill to generate power to run the mills' machinery. Water-powered mills were energy-efficient, cost-effective and environmentally friendly. However, they depended on a vigorous water flow to animate the mill wheels.

Paragraph 3

.....**11.**..... With his utopian vision to improve the **lot** of the downtrodden working classes, Dale laid the foundation for the village's philanthropic and industrial legacy. This innovative approach to worker welfare led to him not only providing sanitary living conditions for his workers but also the provision of ample, wholesome sustenance, including a substantial breakfast of porridge and a balanced, hearty, nutritious evening meal.

Paragraph 4

.....**12.**..... Owen's name is now synonymous with the New Lanark site. During his stewardship from 1800 to 1825, he instituted a plethora of radical workplace, social and educational reforms. However, Owen, a savvy businessman, did not neglect the pragmatic aspect of generating revenue from his enterprise. On the contrary, he implemented efficient working methodologies, such as stock control and production recording. As a result of augmented production, the mills generated significant profits, a generous portion of which was reinvested into reforms to enhance the wellbeing of the employees.

Paragraph 5

.....**13.**..... Owen believed that education was the inalienable right of every child. An infants' school catered to children aged three to six, followed by a junior school for those aged seven to 10. Pupils were inculcated with the value of human kindness and engaged in a curriculum that encompassed music, dancing, nature studies and art alongside core subjects. Parents were encouraged to keep their children in school until the age of 12, but educational opportunities continued beyond this age, with evening classes available for children over 12 and even for adult workers.

Paragraph 6

Simultaneously, enhancements in village life were instituted to promote harmonious living. Rules for behaviour were stringent yet reasonable, and neighbourhoods were organised into

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divisions, each with an elected leader, forming a community council that regularly convened with Owen to deliberate on village matters and resolve disputes. A village doctor was engaged, and inhabitants contributed to a 'sickness fund' for use during illness, although Owen believed that the key to good health was access to fresh air and nutritious food. Owen provided allotments for residents to cultivate fresh produce and established a village shop that stocked nutritious food at reasonable prices.

Paragraph 7

With Owen as benefactor, New Lanark became a beacon of light in an otherwise sombre industrial landscape, demonstrating that an industry could flourish while treating its workers with dignity, respect and providing opportunities for them to thrive both physically and intellectually. New Lanark's salubrious, well-ordered environment and contented workforce were anomalous for an industrial site and attracted many notable visitors, such as the romantic poet Wordsworth and the esteemed landscape artist J. M. W. Turner. New Lanark's legacy of progressive labour practices and social welfare set a benchmark, inspiring modern workplaces to prioritise employee wellbeing.

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 5

- A** It was fortuitous that the founder's daughter wed Robert Owen, the subsequent owner, who was eager to adopt the same ethos as his father-in-law.
- B** In 1825, Owen sold New Lanark and moved to the United States to start another experimental community.
- C** Despite the Dale-Arkwright business partnership dissolving in under a year, Dale continued to develop the New Lanark mills for an additional 15 years.
- D** In addition to workplace reforms, such as a reduction in working hours, Owen's most significant contribution was in providing educational opportunities.

Questions 14-18

Choose the correct answer.

14. According to paragraph 2, why was New Lanark built in its current location?
- A to ship goods easily to other places
- B to relocate workers to the countryside
- C to generate power from waterfalls
15. According to paragraph 4, why did Owen bring in more efficient ways of working?
- A to fund the construction of additional mills
- B to generate more money to finance reforms
- C to promote himself as a successful businessman

16. According to paragraph 7, how has New Lanark influenced modern workplaces?
- A by promoting sustainable business practices
 - B by introducing employee surveys into factories
 - C by ensuring that workers are healthy and happy
17. According to paragraph 6, how did Owen ensure that the community in New Lanark lived together peacefully?
- A by holding regular meetings
 - B by having a reward system
 - C by using a police force
18. In paragraph 5, what does Owen's school curriculum suggest about his character?
- A He encouraged children to develop their creativity.
 - B He wanted students to focus on improving literacy skills.
 - C He felt it was important to discipline badly-behaved pupils.

Questions 19-20

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

19. **under the tutelage of** (paragraph 1)

- A cared for by
- B a business premises of
- C being sold by

20. **lot** (paragraph 3)

- A quality
- B situation
- C intellect

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Task 3

Read the five texts and answer questions 21-30.

Text 1

To	t_jones@welfords_lettings.com
From	ginarovira@sdf1.com
Subject	Notice to vacate 24 Chatsworth Gardens

Dear Mr Jones

I am writing to formally notify you of my intention to terminate the tenancy at 24 Chatsworth Gardens, which I currently occupy under a monthly assured shorthold tenancy agreement.

In accordance with the contractual obligations stipulated in the tenancy agreement, and adhering to the requisite notice period, I intend to vacate the premises on 31 July, one calendar month from the date of this correspondence.

Please advise whether you wish to arrange a final inspection or if there are any procedural formalities I should observe prior to my departure.

Thank you for your assistance throughout the duration of my tenancy.

Yours sincerely

Gina Rovira

Text 2

Stenbourne Resident Group	
Gina	Hello everyone. I'm seeking rental accommodation in the vicinity of Stenbourne. With three kids, my budget is somewhat constrained. That said, I require sufficient space for storage, so a poky property simply wouldn't be viable. I'd be immensely grateful for your advice.
Ansa	We managed to secure an ideal family residence through Town House. We provided them with a detailed brief, and they presented us with a varied selection of properties. Pricing was fairly competitive, though do remain vigilant for any ancillary charges - they can add up quickly.
Davide	Personally, I'd steer clear of Town House. They appear to cater predominantly to affluent clients seeking premium listings. Bifford's, on the other hand, offer a broader spectrum - from bedsits to family homes.
Orhan	If I were in your shoes, I'd consider renting directly from a landlord. It circumvents the bureaucracy and commission fees typically associated with agencies. Eliminating the intermediary might get you a better deal.
Gina	Thanks so much!

Text 3

www.townhouse.com

Town House Letting Agency

Established in 1996, Town House has cultivated a reputation for excellent service for both landlords and tenants.

For Landlords:

Letting a residential property can be a complex undertaking, particularly for those unfamiliar with the intricacies of the housing market. With legislation evolving rapidly, selecting a reputable and proactive agency is essential. At Town House, we provide comprehensive marketing strategies, source reliable tenants and oversee all aspects of property management - ensuring a seamless experience and a dependable income stream.

For Tenants:

We offer an extensive range of high-quality properties tailored to suit diverse budgets and lifestyle requirements. Our experienced consultants will assist you in identifying a residence that aligns with your preferences. Should any unforeseen issues arise during your tenancy, our team is readily available to mediate and resolve matters efficiently and equitably.

Text 4**Client Testimonial - Gina Rovira**

"Relocating to Stenbourne was a significant step for our family and finding the right home was paramount. We were fortunate to secure a beautifully refurbished three-bedroom semi-detached property near Fenhurst Park - a location that offers both tranquillity and convenience, particularly for families with school-aged children.

The neighbourhood exudes charm, with its relaxed pace of life and abundance of independent shops that give it a distinctive character. Our children immediately felt at home and described the house as having a 'cool vibe', which speaks volumes about its welcoming atmosphere.

We found the property through Town House. Despite hearing mixed reviews, we found that the team demonstrated professionalism and efficiency throughout. When we encountered a minor issue with the heating system, it was resolved within 24 hours - an impressive turnaround that reinforced our confidence in their service.

I would wholeheartedly recommend Town House to anyone seeking a reliable and responsive letting agency."

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Text 5

Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement

BETWEEN

Robert Dunk (the 'Landlord')

AND

Gina Rovira (the 'Tenant')

BACKGROUND:

- This is an agreement to create an Assured Shorthold Tenancy as defined in Section 19 of the Housing Act 1988.

LET PROPERTY:

- The landlord agrees to let to the tenant, and the tenant agrees to take a tenancy of the house for use as residential premises only.

TERM:

- The term of the tenancy is an Assured Shorthold Tenancy commencing on 1 August and continuing until the Landlord or the Tenant terminates the tenancy.

RENT:

- Subject to the provisions of the agreement, the rent for the property is £1,200 per month to be paid on or before the 1st of each month.

GENERAL:

- All tenants are jointly liable for each other's acts, omissions and liabilities **pursuant to** this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF Robert Dunk and Gina Rovira have duly affixed their signatures on 20 July.

	Signature	Date
Landlord (Robert Dunk)		
Tenant (Gina Rovira)		

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 4

- A to highlight benefits of letting agencies to landlords
- B to persuade future tenants to use Town House
- C to formally end a legal agreement
- D to survey local opinion about renting properties

Questions 24-28

Choose the correct answer.

24. Why is Text 5 written in a formal register?
- A to express dissatisfaction with a service
 - B to ensure the text is clear and precise
 - C to be polite and respectful to the recipient
25. In Text 3, how do the letting agents at Town House help renters?
- A They match suitable properties to future tenants.
 - B They provide legal advice to prospective tenants.
 - C They offer the cheapest rental fees in the area.
26. In Text 5, how long does the tenancy agreement last?
- A for a fixed number of months
 - B as long as the tenant wishes to stay
 - C until the landlord or tenant ends it
27. In Text 4, why does Gina mention the heating system?
- A to show how modern the facilities in her new home are
 - B to explain how the house has a welcoming feel
 - C to exemplify how quickly letting agents fix problems
28. In Text 2, what does Orhan imply about letting agencies?
- A Their communication skills are useful.
 - B Their processes are straightforward.
 - C Their service fees are excessive.

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Questions 29-30

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

29. poky (Text 2)

- A remote
- B cramped
- C expensive

30. pursuant to (Text 5)

- A counter to
- B in addition to
- C according to

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 2 Reading — Sample paper 2

Answers

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