

# ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)

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## Level 2 – Reading

### Past paper 6



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 introduce the theme of the text*

..... A .....

1. to explain about a modern alternative anyone can use  
.....
2. to explain about some occasions in life where most people might use their signature  
.....
3. to describe a kind of signature people like to collect  
.....
4. to describe a device that gives a perfect signature every time  
.....

**Questions 5-6**

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

5. Signatures often look different to usual handwriting. This is because they
  - A reflect people's personality
  - B need to be done quickly
  - C get boring after some time
6. Signatures are not a foolproof way to check for artistic forgeries because they
  - A are easy to copy
  - B often change a little
  - C always look identical

## The Meaning of Signatures

### Paragraph A

Your signature is unique: only you have that exact one. For almost two thousand years, literate people in a number of cultures have been using handwritten signatures to prove their identity and to keep records accurately. Most people's signatures don't look like their normal writing, and some experts say that this is because your name is special to you; the way you write it is therefore a kind of reflection of your personality.

### Paragraph B

You can use your signature to get married; signing the register shows your consent. You can also use it to agree to a new job, by signing a contract or job description. You can even use it to prove your identity, for example when you visit the bank to withdraw cash.

### Paragraph C

Signatures are also used to prove that famous or valuable artworks are genuine. One of the most difficult things for a forger to copy is the artist's signature. But if you think about your own signature, it probably does look a little different from time to time. The same goes for artists, which means that this method of identifying forgeries is not completely reliable.

### Paragraph D

In some professions, signing paperwork can become a nuisance when it becomes time-consuming. Managing directors, for example, often use autopens to sign official documents. These are mechanical devices which can reproduce a signature perfectly and save valuable time.

### Paragraph E

These days even outside the world of business, many people's signatures are no longer only handwritten. You can now use a mobile signature, which is generated by your mobile phone or the SIM card, to prove your identity. Many people who are against this idea say that it's because this system is not secure, and can be hacked. Supporters say that they are extremely convenient.

### Paragraph F

Autographs are a particular kind of signature, used by people in the public eye to sign memorabilia for fans. They are very collectable. Football fans, for instance, may try to get an autograph from each player in the team they support. Clearly, this can become tiresome for celebrities, so some of them have two autopens: one for their autograph and one for their private signature.

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) ~~There are a number of different types of waterfall.~~  
 B Waterfalls have a number of uses.  
 C However, not all waterfalls have uses.  
 D Another issue is that by their nature, waterfalls change over time.  
 E In addition, the world's grandest waterfalls encourage tourism.  
 F There are certain difficulties posed by waterfalls though.

**Questions 11-13**

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

11. In paragraph four, '**Their**' refers to  
 A the geologists  
 B the waterfalls  
 C the layers of earth
12. In paragraph five, the writer uses brackets '( )' to  
 A highlight important information  
 B give a personal opinion  
 C emphasise an interesting fact
13. According to paragraph six,  
 A canals were built to help companies overcome a transport problem  
 B it is safe for boats and ships to cross waterfalls  
 C canals cause difficulties for local businesses

**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. **eroded** (paragraph one)  
 A kept safe  
 B built up  
 C washed away
15. **exposing** (paragraph four)  
 A showing  
 B cleaning  
 C opening
16. **accessible** (paragraph five)  
 A easy to see  
 B easy to reach  
 C easy to touch

## Waterfalls

### Paragraph one

Some of the world's most famous and visited sites are waterfalls, with good reason. These natural phenomena are spectacular and varied in their shape and size. Waterfalls are formed when water flows down hills and mountains. The rock is **eroded** over centuries by the water's flow, exposing the composition of the local rock structure and causing a multitude of impressive sights along rivers around the world.

### Paragraph two

          **A (Example)**          . Some of them are block falls, which occur when a wide stream descends in one solid-looking motion. Another is a cascade, which has the appearance of water flowing down a series of steps, or a flight of stairs. A chute waterfall can be seen when a narrow opening in the rock forces the water through at very high pressure. The opposite of this could be a fan waterfall, where the water spreads wider as it falls.

### Paragraph three

There are also less common kinds of waterfall in existence. One of these is the frozen waterfall. Frozen falls are seen as a challenge by climbers because a single pillar of ice can be as tall as 30 metres. Another is the cataract. These are considered dangerous due to the power and speed of the water's fall.

### Paragraph four

          **7.**          . As mentioned above, waterfalls help geologists with their understanding of how the earth is formed, by **exposing** its layers. **Their** energy can also be harnessed to create hydroelectric power. Families and businesses can benefit from this process, as it is a low-cost, renewable source of energy.

### Paragraph five

          **8.**          . These sights increase visitor numbers to certain countries and areas. Over 20 million people visit Niagara Falls every year, a number which can only have positive results for the local economy. Despite being much less **accessible**, Victoria Falls (to my mind the most spectacular) has an impressive one million visitors every year.

### Paragraph six

          **9.**          . They act as barriers to transport, as boats and ships cannot traverse them safely. This can cause difficulties for businesses. Since the nineteenth century, building canals has been used as a solution to this problem. They are often built as a bypass to waterfalls where it will be useful for local companies.

### Paragraph seven

          **10.**          . As more rock is washed away, more water can flow along the route, in turn washing away more rock in new patterns and directions. In cases where the falls provide income through tourism, or hydroelectric energy, engineers monitor these changes so that they can plan for the future.

Turn over page

**Task 3**

Texts A-E on pages 8-11 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 describe an organisation's publicity rules **and** to give instructions about dealing with media inquiries*

..... A

17. to answer questions about work **and** to entertain newspaper readers

.....

18. to offer careers advice **and** to extend an invitation

.....

19. to respond to an interview request **and** to put two people in touch with each other

.....

**Questions 20-22**

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

20. Text A tells us, staff

A should never talk to journalists

B need permission to talk to journalists

C may only talk to journalists about positive news stories

21. Text C is

A a balanced evaluation of life as a nature reserve manager

B a newspaper reporter's personal opinion about nature reserve work

C one person's account of the work of nature reserve management

22. It is clear from all the texts that

A Mayfield Conservation Trust gets a lot of interest from the public

B working on a nature reserve is a poor career option for young people

C the *Mayfield Sentinel* frequently publishes articles about nature reserves

**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: *Why do we need a media relations policy?*     A    

**23.** Getting our facts right                     

**24.** Can you spot a good news story?                     

**25.** What should I do if a journalist contacts me?                     

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

**26.** According to Ben Simpson, if Krista wants to work on a nature reserve she must

- A concentrate on her education first
- B concentrate on gaining work experience first
- C aim for a combination of qualifications and experience

**27.** If she wants to contact Ben Simpson again, Krista must

- A send an email to Sally Smithson
- B get in touch with Iram Sarwar
- C telephone the nature reserve

**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 interested
- B hard-working
- C experienced

**29. on hand** (text C)

- A available
- B keen
- C unable

**30. downsides** (text C)

- A alternatives
- B disadvantages
- C differences

Turn over page

## Text A

## MAYFIELD CONSERVATION TRUST MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY

### A (Example)

We are a charitable organisation that manages areas of natural beauty in the local area. Our activities are of great interest to the general public. Good media exposure is therefore vital to our work: the better the publicity we receive, the more likely the public are to support our work. One of the best ways that we can communicate with the public is through the media, especially local radio and television, and our local newspaper, the *Mayfield Sentinel*.

### B

It is of utmost importance that we maintain the highest standards of professionalism in our relationships with the media. Information communicated by this organisation must be accurate, balanced and clear. In order to achieve this, it is essential that employees follow this policy at all times.

### C

There are a variety of reasons why the media might contact our organisation. For example, they might want a comment on a national issue relating to wildlife and nature conservation. Or they might wish to feature our nature reserves in an item about activities for the school holidays.

### D

Unfortunately, there are also occasions when the media receives negative information about our work or a member of our staff, and then they get in touch because they want our side of the story.

### E

It is vitally important that all requests for interviews or comments from journalists or researchers are passed to our public relations office. On no account should any member of staff talk about their work or about the trust to a media outlet without the prior authorisation of the head of public relations, Sally Smithson. If Sally is not available, the request should be passed to her deputy, Bibi Singh. If neither of these people is available, then the member of staff who has received the enquiry must say that they are unable to comment.

### F

We welcome positive engagement with the media. Staff should be alert to opportunities for helpful publicity. These could include an unusual animal or bird visiting one of our reserves, a special achievement by a member of staff, or a successful community event. Please pass all ideas for news stories to Sally or Bibi.



**Text B**

**From:** Sally Smithson  
**To:** Iram Sarwar  
**CC:** Ben Simpson  
**Subject:** Why I Love My Job

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Hi Iram

Thank you for your interest in interviewing one of our members of staff for your regular 'Why I Love My Job' slot in the *Mayfield Sentinel*. I would like to recommend Ben Simpson (copied here), the manager of our nature reserve at Green Ings. Ben is **dedicated** and enthusiastic and has a wealth of experience at Green Ings and other Mayfield Conservation Trust reserves.

I suggest you get in touch with Ben directly and arrange a mutually convenient time for the interview.

Kind regards

Sally

**Turn over page**

## Text C

**WHY I LOVE MY JOB**

*This week, Iram Sarwar talks to **Ben Simpson** of the Mayfield Conservation Trust*

Name: Ben Simpson

Age: 48

Job title: Reserve Manager

Location: Green Ings Nature Reserve

Usual hours: Variable. Usually around 8am until it gets dark!

*What are your main responsibilities?*

I'm responsible for wildlife surveys such as when we count the number of seabirds visiting Green Ings from Africa every year. I manage our fantastic group of volunteers, without whom this reserve simply could not function. I also have to ensure that our land and buildings are maintained to a high standard, and of course I'm always **on hand** to answer questions from members of the public.

*Can you describe a typical day?*

Really there's no such thing! It depends on the season of the year and the needs of the people, animals and birds that visit our reserve. One day I might be outside from morning till night, fitting web cameras to nests. Another day, I might be visiting a local school to talk to children about the importance of looking after the natural world. The variety is one of the things I love most!

*What makes it worth coming to work each day?*

Oh, lots of things! The beautiful surroundings, the knowledge that my work is really important for future generations, the members of the public who ask such interesting questions – I could go on for ever!

*Are there any **downsides**?*

Not really. I'll admit it can be hard to get out of bed when it's pouring with rain and I know I've got to be outside in the wet and the cold. But once I get going, I forget about all that and just focus on the task in front of me.

**Text D**

Ben Simpson  
Reserve Manager  
Green Ings Nature Reserve  
Mayfield  
MY6 5DB

18 May

Dear Mr Simpson

My mum showed me your interview in the local paper and I thought it was brilliant! I'd like to do a job like yours one day. Have you got any tips for me? At the moment I'm studying for my GCSEs. I was wondering if there was a subject I could study at university that would help me get into nature reserve work.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours sincerely

Krista Lauva

**Text E**

Green Ings Nature Reserve, Mayfield MY6 5DB

Telephone: 0123 445566

Dear Krista,

Thank you very much for your letter. I am delighted that you are interested in working on a nature reserve.

It is a good idea to go to university: a degree in Environmental Sciences would be particularly beneficial. The work is quite competitive, so aim for the best A-level results you can achieve! I would also recommend that you get practical experience by volunteering for a conservation organisation. Quite a lot of wildlife charities run residential volunteer programmes for students. You could apply to spend one or two summers with them.

In the meantime, why not volunteer at Green Ings? We are always looking for extra help, especially at weekends. If you like, you and your mother could come and have a look around and we could talk some more about my work. You can contact me via the number at the top of this letter.

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Simpson  
Reserve Manager

**End of exam**

