

ESOL Skills for Life

Level 2 – 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.
- ▶ 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 introduce the theme of the text

A

1. to highlight the most attractive feature of staying in the boat
2. to present differing views about the boat project
3. to explain the main purpose of the boat
4. to explain what the restrictions for staying in the boat are

.....

.....

.....

.....

Questions 5–6

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

5. Which sentence is correct?

- A The 'Room for London' is actually an old riverboat.
- B There were five hundred different ideas for the 'Room for London'.
- C The architects took their ideas from the description of a boat.

6. The boat has been of cultural value because

- A every guest that has stayed there has published a book
- B musicians from all over the world have held public concerts in the room
- C the thoughts of famous writers have been put together to make a book

A Boat on a Building

Paragraph A

Stand on the north bank of the River Thames in central London and look up. You may be surprised to see a boat perched right at the top of the concert hall on the other side of the river. It might look as if the boat has been washed up there in a flood – but you will soon realise the impossibility of that and wonder what it is doing there.

Paragraph B

In fact, it is a very unusual, single-room hotel in the shape of a boat, called 'A Room for London' after a competition it won. Its design was one of five hundred submitted for the competition, the point of which was to create a room on one of London's landmarks. The designers were inspired by a novel based on a river voyage.

Paragraph C

Only the lucky few are able to stay in this most unusual rented room. You must enter a ballot and have your name picked out to stay there. A maximum of two people can stay for just one night and they are not permitted to invite any guests.

Paragraph D

The interior is perhaps not the most appealing part of the stay. Guests may rightly expect luxury, but although the accommodation is quite spacious, the decoration and furnishing are fairly basic. It is the 360-degree view of London and the river, enabled by the number of windows, that holds the attention.

Paragraph E

Although many have seen this as an amusing addition to the London landscape, not everyone approves of the project. Some people have been puzzled by it, claiming that most people will not even notice it. Others have seen it as a waste of money, which could have been spent on projects of social value.

Paragraph F

However, one benefit has been the inspiration drawn from the boat's unique location. Every guest who stays there is asked to write in a journal. Reflective essays by thirteen leading novelists on the experience of staying there have been published in a book. International musicians have played in the main living area, and their performances can be watched on the web. What was planned as a temporary structure is still very much alive.

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) ~~What are the criteria for getting a school place for your child?~~
 B Out of the five criteria for awarding a school place, the distance that you live from a school is given the lowest priority.
 C Local action groups have been set up to campaign for fairer systems.
 D Some schools have additional criteria.
 E In the past, living near your local primary school was all that was needed to be sure of a place.
 F Another top criterion is the 'sibling rule'.

Questions 11-13

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

11. In paragraph one, what does the '1' signify in '66 million'?
 A that the writer has used a mathematical formula to calculate the population
 B it directs the reader to information at the end of the article
 C that the writer has made an error when typing up the report
12. According to paragraph four, the primary school allocation system
 A now uses an electronic system and specific information
 B disadvantages children with particular educational needs
 C only uses a child's home address to decide their school place
13. According to paragraph five, children in a family
 A need to change schools when they move house
 B can go to the same school as the oldest child
 C have to go to their nearest primary school

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. **conditions** (paragraph two)
 A places
 B tensions
 C requirements
15. **considerable** (paragraph three)
 A likely
 B small
 C great
16. **regulate** (paragraph seven)
 A prevent
 B control
 C extend

A Right to a Local Education

Paragraph one

As the population of the United Kingdom continues to grow – 66 million¹ at the last count – so too does the demand for schools, hospitals and housing. This has an impact on the government, local authorities and schools, which have to develop fair processes for distributing school places, and means that families have to understand how to apply for school places for their children.

Paragraph two

 A (Example) . Most local authorities follow a prescribed list of ranked criteria but there may be extra **conditions** if you wish your child to go to a faith school or specialist academy. The process can be complicated for parents to understand.

Paragraph three

 7. . Applications were made directly to the headteacher. However, nowadays, parents may find that their child is offered a place a **considerable** distance away from home. So why does this happen?

Paragraph four

Applying for a school place is now centralised – either within a city or county – and is usually done online. Once all the applications are received, the local education authority uses a set list of criteria to distribute primary school places. The first priority for awarding primary school places is to children who have Special Educational Needs, which affect their ability to learn and need to be addressed through additional help or support.

Paragraph five

 8. . This means that if an applicant has a brother or sister already attending the school, they will automatically receive a place too. Even in cases where families have moved to another area, their children will be given a place at the school that the oldest child attends.

Paragraph six

 9. . This can be very stressful during the application process because the catchment area (the area that pupils come from) of a school may be very small. It is claimed that some schools in London have a catchment area of less than 200 metres. Uncertainty about the size of the catchment area can cause concern to parents.

Paragraph seven

 10. . For instance, some faith schools require children applying for school to attend a place of worship with their family. Other schools are aware that the sibling rule is unfair when people have moved districts. All in all, as the population keeps growing, so too will the debate about how authorities should **regulate** the allocation of primary school places.

¹ Office for National Statistics: 2016

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 introduce a new project **and** explain the reasons for it **A**

17. to announce a new source of funding **and** provide contact details for interested parties

18. to announce a proposed new group activity **and** explain how to find out more

19. to describe a new project **and** apply to get funding for it

Questions 20-22

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

20. What can you learn from texts A, B and C?

A Newchester residents take less physical exercise than people in most other cities

B the CityFit programme is designed to give everyone an equal chance to be active

C most people in Newchester find it too expensive to take part in physical activity

21. According to texts C and D, the Exeter Road Runners project

A has a good chance of winning a small grant

B meets all the criteria for a CityFit small grant

C is unlikely to succeed in getting a small grant

22. In text C, how does Zahra argue for her project to be awarded a grant?

A she describes the Couch to 5k programme and praises the quality of Exeter Road Park

B she gives information about the baby and toddler group and explains why the childcare workers have to be qualified

C she explains why it is difficult for the people in her group to take exercise and gives additional information about the problem of accessing local leisure centres

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: Introducing the CityFit project

A

23. Not just better health

24. A culture of sitting

25. Healthier and happier

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

26. Which text is only for people who attend Exeter Road Baby and Toddler Group?

A text E

B text D

C text B

27. When does the Exeter Road Baby and Toddler Group meet?

A when the organiser is available

B only on Tuesdays

C twice a week

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. sedentary (text A)

A uninformed

B uncertain

C inactive

29. attainment (text A)

A enjoyment

B achievement

C disappointment

30. make it (text E)

A come

B decide

C understand

Turn over page

Text A

INTRODUCING CITYFIT

Our plan for a happier, healthier city

A (Example)

CityFit is a brand-new project run jointly by Newchester City Council, Newchester University and Newchester Primary Care Trust. Our aim is to make Newchester a city where everyone can engage equally in physical activity. Evidence shows that this will make Newchester not just healthier, but happier and wealthier too.

B

It is well-documented that physical activity can play a role in the prevention of a variety of health conditions, and that physically active people of all ages and backgrounds report higher levels of happiness compared to those who are more **sedentary**.

C

Our research has shown us that the benefits do not stop with health. A culture of physical activity in a town can increase children's educational **attainment**, help to reduce anti-social behaviour, increase work productivity, and build self-esteem. In addition, if people engage in more physical activity, there is likely to be a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions across the city and a decrease in traffic congestion.

D

Unfortunately, despite all these benefits, modern life presents many barriers to people who want to become more physically active. Our lives are so busy that we rely on **sedentary** forms of transport in order to get around quickly. Furthermore, the types of leisure activity we choose are likely to involve sitting down, rather than moving around. What this means is that physical activity is no longer a part of how we live.

E

Recent research has uncovered multiple additional barriers to participation, from lack of time and money to low confidence and limited opportunity. A number of social and economic factors often result in the people who are least well off finding it hardest to be active.

F

CityFit aims to change all this by creating a culture of physical activity across all areas of Newchester. We have developed a framework that will result in everyone in our city having an equal opportunity to reap the health and economic benefits of increased physical activity, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or social background.

Text B**CITYFIT**
Small grants available!

As part of the Newchester-wide CityFit initiative, Newchester Council plans to make a series of small grant awards to groups or individuals wanting to start a project that they can demonstrate will lead to increased levels of physical activity in their local area. Priority will be given to schemes that benefit people currently facing increased barriers to participation in physical activity, for example parents with young children, elderly people, people living with long-term health problems, etc.

For more details and an application form, please email tomas.wojick@CityFit.org.uk

Turn over page

Text C

CITYFIT SMALL GRANT SCHEME

Name of applicant
Zahra Uddin
Organisation
Exeter Road Baby and Toddler Group
Name of proposed project
Exeter Road Runners
Please describe the project you want to set up. How will it increase physical activity in your area?
<p>We are a group of parents and carers who meet twice a week at Exeter Road Community Centre. Our baby and toddler group is a well-established and highly valued resource that allows adults and children space to socialise together. Many of our adult members have told us how difficult it is for them to take regular exercise because of the demands of caring for small children.</p> <p>We propose to set up a running group. We would use our grant to pay some qualified childcare workers to supervise the babies and toddlers while the adults go out running in Exeter Road Park. We plan to follow the popular Couch to 5k programme, set up by the NHS to enable people with no experience of running to gain the ability to run for five kilometres over nine weeks.</p>
CityFit small grants are intended to benefit people in Newchester who face increased barriers to participation in physical activity. Please explain why you think your group should qualify for a grant.
<p>People who care for young children often find it difficult to take exercise because of the multiple demands on their time and the fact that their children cannot be left on their own. In addition, the Exeter Road Community Centre, where our group meets, is situated on the edge of a large housing estate with poor public transport links, so it is not realistic to expect people to travel to one of the city's leisure centres. Our running group would enable members to take advantage of the wonderful surroundings of Exeter Road Park, which is completely free of charge.</p>
CityFit grants are aimed at funding the short-term costs of getting a group established. Please indicate how you will ensure that your project will continue after the grant has been spent.
<p>In order to get started, we need a grant to pay childcare workers so that every adult has a chance to participate in the Couch to 5K programme. After that, we plan to set up a rota so that people take it in turns to supervise the children while the other adults are out running.</p>

Text D

To: Amanda Simpson
From: Tomas Wojick
Subject: Exeter Road Runners
Date: 11 June, 14:02

Hmm – good point. I don't have kids so I'm not really sure. I'll ask Zahra Uddin to come in so that we can talk to her about it in detail.

Best
 Tomas


To: Tomas Wojick
From: Amanda Simpson
Subject: Exeter Road Runners
Date: 11 June, 11:31

Hi Tomas

Yes, it does look good. But I'm worried about the plans for keeping it going. How realistic is it to expect people to volunteer to look after each other's children?

Kind regards
 Mandy

Amanda Simpson
 CityFit Funding Supervisor

To: Amanda Simpson
From: Tomas Wojick
Subject: Exeter Road Runners
Date: 11 June, 09:47 

Hi Mandy

I'm attaching the latest application. It looks good to me and I think it ticks all our boxes. I'd be up for giving them one of the grants.

Best wishes
 Tomas

Tomas Wojick
 CityFit Grants Co-ordinator

Text E

EXETER ROAD RUNNERS!

Our brilliant organiser, Zahra, is hoping to set up a running group. If she's successful, there'll be no more excuses – we'll all be able to keep fit! We'll be giving out details at the end of Tuesday's Baby and Toddler group. If you can't **make it** then, just talk to Stefan or Zahra.

End of exam

Skills for Life Level 2 Reading – Sample paper 1

Answers

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