English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.

Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)

Paper Time
60 minutes

Booking Number					Candidate Number						
Surname											
Other Names											
Date											
Centre Name											

Please read the text below before attempting any of the paper

- Please complete the paper in blue or black ink, do not use pencil
- Questions may be attempted in any order
- Read each question carefully and answer as many questions as you can
- You must not use a dictionary
- At the end of the test, please close your paper and hand all materials to the Supervisor/Invigilator
- Do not open this paper until you are told to do so by the Supervisor/Invigilator

Marker's Use					
Marker Initials			**Moderator Initials**		
1	1.1		1	1.1	
2	3.1		2	3.1	
3	1.2		3	1.2	
4	1.3		4	1.3	
5	1.4		5	1.4	
6	2.1		6	2.1	
7	3.2		7	3.2	
8	3.2		8	3.2	
9	3.2		9	3.2	
10	1.1		10	1.1	
11	1.2		11	1.2	
12	3.1		12	3.1	
13	1.3		13	1.3	
14	1.4		14	1.4	
15	2.1		15	2.1	
16	1.2		16	1.2	
17	1.3		17	1.3	
18	1.4		18	1.4	
19	2.1		19	2.1	
20	3.1		20	3.1	
21	1.1		21	1.1	
Overall Grade			**Overall Grade**		

Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.

Para	**George Stephenson**
1	George Stephenson, the pioneer of passenger trains, is known as the "Father of the Railways". He was born in 1791 near Newcastle upon Tyne, in the north-east of England. His parents could not read or write and, because the family was poor, George was not able to go to school. When he was 17, he became an "engineman" – a man who looks after an engine in a coal mine. He knew how important it was to get an education and so he paid to study at night school. He learned to read and write and to do arithmetic. George was very good at fixing machines and eventually he became responsible for maintaining and repairing all the engines in the mine. In this role, he learnt a lot about steam engines.
2	In 1814, George Stephenson designed his first locomotive or steam engine; the engine was used to haul coal trucks. He went on to build a number of similar engines. Soon he was employed to build an 8 mile stretch of railway to Hetton coal mine. It opened in 1822 and was the first railway not to use animal power. **Before then**, horses had been used to pull the coal carts along metal rails.
3	Together with his son Robert, George Stephenson then built the Stockton and Darlington Railway, which opened in 1825. It was 25 miles long and connected two coal mines. The first coach for passengers was attached to the coal carts and carried local dignitaries on its first journey. This was the first time that passengers had ever ridden on a steam locomotive railway.
4	The gauge, or distance between the rails, which Stephenson used was 4 feet and 8½inches (1.435mm). He realised that, if different railways were to link up, the same gauge must be used everywhere. His gauge became **standard** across Britain and in most of the rest of the world.
5	George Stephenson went on to work on many other railways, such as the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. His locomotive, "Rocket", won a competition in 1829. He was married three times and had two children. His son, Robert, developed the work of his father and became an important railway engineer too.
6	George Stephenson died in 1848 at the age of 67.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. George Stephenson was known as the "Father of the Railways" because

    A he knew a lot about steam engines

    B his father was very poor

    C his railway carried the first passengers

    D his locomotive won a competition

2. Where did George Stephenson learn a lot about steam engines?

    A In school

    B In a coal mine

    C At night school

    D In Liverpool

3. Put the following events into chronological order. The first one is done for you.

Event	Number
A He designed his first steam engine.	
B He worked on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.	
C George Stephenson was born to a poor family.	1
D He built a railway to Hetton Coalmine.	

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

4. In paragraph 2, *Before then* refers to before

    A 1814

    B 1822

    C 1825

    D 1848

5. Which is closest in meaning to *standard* in paragraph 4?

   A distant

   B unusual

   C disputed

   D normal

6. The purpose of the text is to

   A inform the reader

   B argue a point

   C amuse the reader

   D introduce a novel

Task 2

Read the texts about recycling and answer questions 7 – 15.

Text A

Recycling waste uses twice as much energy as using raw materials. It also produces twice as much pollution from the lorries and factories needed to recycle it. In addition, manufacturing products from recycled material uses more energy and creates as much waste as using raw, new materials. For example, a bottle, which contained lemonade, has to be rinsed and this uses water. Then the bottle is put into a plastic bin; the bin has to be manufactured. After that, the bottle has to be collected from the house by a special lorry and taken to the recycling centre; the lorry uses fuel and emits exhaust fumes.

Factories have machines which sort out recyclable items and **they** are then taken to another factory where **they** are turned into new products. All these processes use electricity, produce waste and need special machinery, which in turn has to be manufactured.

So don't bother to recycle, re-use!

Text B

There are many reasons to recycle.

Our planet has a limited supply of raw materials and, as we continue to harvest materials such as trees, rocks and oil, our reserves are reducing rapidly. In addition, these operations have a significant impact on vast areas of many countries.

Recycling reduces the amount of energy needed to produce new products. If we didn't recycle paper, we would have to chop down many more trees and transport them to the factories. This also applies to other products such as plastic and metal. If we recycle, we cut out the energy which is needed to mine or harvest new materials. Saving energy brings a reduction in pollution. Much of the manufacturing in the world is done using fossil fuels, such as oil. This not only contributes to global warming but also pollutes the air we breathe.

Text C

Britain currently only recycles about 34.5% of household waste, whereas Germany manages to recycle 64%. On average, we throw away about 7.5 times our body weight every year. An average person throws away about 6 trees worth of paper each year. Up to 60% of the rubbish we put in the dustbin could be recycled. If we recycled everything we could, we could save 58 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2) a year; this is equivalent to the amount which would be **absorbed** by over 64 thousand miles of forest.

Some items we throw away take an extremely long time to decompose or break down: for example, a disposable baby's nappy thrown away today would decompose by the year 2560, a plastic bag by 3010 and a plastic jug by the year 1,002,010! This, of course, is extremely bad for our environment.

Recycling is an excellent way of both saving energy and protecting the environment: one recycled tin could save enough energy to run a television for three hours and one glass bottle could save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes. Recycling paper uses 70% less energy than making it from new trees. It takes about 24 trees to make a tonne of newspaper and the average person in the UK gets through about 38 kilograms of newspaper in a year.

So recycling is crucial if we are to protect the environment and keep our planet a safe and healthy place for future generations.

7. Which **two** texts give the reasons why we should recycle? _____

8. Which text tells us how much rubbish each person produces? _____

9. Which **two** texts talk about pollution from factories and transport? _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

10. Text A argues that recycling

    A helps the economy

    B produces less pollution

    C uses more energy

    D uses less energy

11. Text A describes how a plastic bottle is recycled. Put the following events into chronological order.

    The first one is done for you.

Event	Number
A The bottle is put in a bin.	
B The bottle is washed.	1
C The bottle is made into a new product.	
D The bottle is taken to a recycling centre	
E The bottle and other rubbish is sorted out.	

12. According to Text C, how much of our rubbish could be recycled?

    _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

13. In Text A, **'*they*'** refers to

    A machines

    B dustbins

    C waste products

    D recyclable items

14. Which is closest in meaning to '**_absorbed_**' in Text C?

    A Soaked up

    B Wasted

    C Produced

    D Protected

15. What is the main purpose of Text C?

    _____

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 16 – 21.

Para	Edinburgh International Festival
1	The Edinburgh International Festival was started in 1947 and has become a world-famous arts festival. It was intended to raise the people's spirits after the hardship of the war. Since then it has grown and grown and it is now an umbrella organisation for many different festivals which come to Edinburgh from all over the world.
2	A famous part of the festival is the Military Tattoo. (This has nothing to do with designs on the skin!) It was originally a musical call for soldiers to return to their **barracks** for the night but then it gradually developed into an evening of musical entertainment. It is now a central part of the festival. On average each year over 217,000 people see the Tattoo from the area around Edinburgh Castle. About 30% of the spectators are from Scotland, about 35% from the rest of the UK and the other 35% are tourists from abroad.
3	Military bands from over 30 countries have taken part, including bands from Africa and all across Europe. The performers play their instruments and even dance. The highlight of each Tattoo is when pipes and drums from regiments of the British Army and from many other countries play together. This is followed by the British National Anthem **(God Save the Queen)** and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". (The words of "Auld Lang Syne" are a poem which was written by the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, in 1788. It is well-known in many countries and is often sung by the audience at the end of concerts and other events, especially at New Year.) The performances end with a single bagpipe player, who is floodlit high up on the walls of the castle, playing a lament or a sad piece of music.
4	The Tattoo takes place every weekday evening and twice on Saturdays throughout August. It has never once been cancelled because of bad weather, in spite of the Scottish climate! The second performance on Saturday evening ends with a spectacular firework display.
5	The Tattoo raises money for charity. It has given over £5 million to various military and civilian organisations. It also contributes about £88 million to the economy of the city of Edinburgh. The patron of the event is Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, and it is supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

16. Look at what happens at the Military Tattoo. Put the events into chronological order.

    The first one is done for you.

Event	Number
A. People sing "God Save the Queen".	
B. One man plays the bagpipes alone.	
C. People sing "Auld Lang Syne".	
D. The performers play and sing.	1

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

17. In paragraph 3, there are brackets round *(God Save the Queen)* because it

    A shows respect for the Queen and Royal Family

    B is a quotation from Robert Burns, the Scottish poet

    C gives information not necessary to the meaning of the text

    D is well-known in many countries around the world

18. In paragraph 2, *barracks* means

    A accommodation for soldiers

    B night clubs

    C the hospital

    D Edinburgh Castle

19. The main purpose of the text is to tell the reader about

    A Edinburgh Castle

    B the Military Tattoo

    C Robert Burns

    D the Scottish climate

20. What percentage (%) of the spectators at the Tattoo are from outside the UK?

    Write your answer on the line below.

    _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

21. Which of the following is correct?

    A The Edinburgh International Festival is held at New Year.

    B The audience at the Tattoo are mostly soldiers.

    C Each performance ends with a firework display.

    D The Military Tattoo is an important part of the festival.

End of assessment