



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	1.2		2	1.2	
3	1.4		3	1.4	
4	3.1		4	3.1	
5	1.3		5	1.3	
6	2.1		6	2.1	
7	1.1		7	1.1	
8	3.1		8	3.1	
9	1.3		9	1.3	
10	1.2		10	1.2	
11	1.4		11	1.4	
12	3.2		12	3.2	
13	3.2		13	3.2	
14	3.2		14	3.2	
15	2.1		15	2.1	
16	1.1		16	1.1	
17	1.2		17	1.2	
18	3.1		18	3.1	
19	1.3		19	1.3	
20	1.4		20	1.4	
21	2.1		21	2.1	
Overall Grade			Overall Grade		

Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.



Shopping on the Internet

1. Our two sons are both six feet five inches tall and they eat huge quantities of food. Extraordinary amounts of food come into our house and disappear in a flash. I've got one of those big fridges with double doors. At regular intervals, a great son will march in, pull open the doors, rest his arms along the top and rock backwards and forwards like a giant vulture, whilst staring into the depths of the fridge with an expression of acute disappointment because there's never anything in there. This is because I go out and do a big shop, they come home and do a big eat, and then it's all gone.

2. One day, I gave myself a talking to. Why, I wondered, was it that I was still prepared to run around the supermarket doing all this shopping, struggling home and up the path weighed down and exhausted? Surely nowadays, thinking people order it all on the internet and watch someone else struggle with it into the house? I asked myself if I was prepared to be left behind, to ignore the new technology and to become stuck in the past. No, I said, I wasn't.

3. Admittedly, I was nervous but I set about ordering a weekly shop on the unfamiliar internet. I decided to buy the basics: coffee, bread, tea, milk, all the stuff we ran out of. The only unusual item was a weekly tub of a particular salad which my sons liked, a mixture of mozzarella, sun-dried tomatoes, pine nuts and pesto. I included it as a small treat from their fond mother.

4. When I'd finished ordering my groceries, I went back to the beginning and glanced down just to check that everything looked right. I was shocked to see one item priced at £7,000! I had a closer look and could see what had happened. Not only am I not very **knowledgeable** about computers, I'm not very good with metric measures either. It was the salad. I thought I had ordered 400 grams, whereas in fact I had actually asked for 400 kilos! **Had I not noticed the mistake**, I could have taken delivery of a whole lorry-load.

5. Don't let my small mistake put you off. I can now order a weekly internet shop with cool confidence. I have cracked it, but annoyingly, our two sons have found jobs and left home. Now my husband and I can carry our small weekly requirements home in one bag.



Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The writer started shopping online because

- A her sons ate a lot
- B her sons left home
- C she likes using a computer
- D she wanted to buy a special salad

2. Put the following events in the correct order. The first one is done for you.

Event	Number
A She ordered tea, coffee, bread and milk.	
B The writer decided to shop online.	1
C She ordered a special salad.	
D She checked her order.	

3. 'Knowledgeable' in paragraph 4 means adventurous.

Is this true or false? Tick (✓) the correct box.

True ☐

False ☐

4. Why was one item of shopping £7,000? Write your answer below.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

5. In paragraph 4, ***Had I not noticed the mistake*** means that the writer

- A noticed the mistake
- B didn't notice the mistake
- C could have noticed the mistake
- D might have noticed the mistake

6. The purpose of the text is to

- A direct
- B inform
- C amuse
- D influence

Task 2

A

Boris Johnson, when mayor of London, was about the only politician in Britain to stand up for the rich. He pointed out that although they may be annoying, they tend to create jobs and prosperity and having plenty of that is no bad thing. The Mayor stated at the time that, *“London is attracting huge amounts of international investment... London is to billionaires what the jungles of Sumatra are to the orang-utan. It is their natural habitat.”*

The top 3,000 payers of tax in Britain pay more income tax than the lowest-paid **9 million**. In fact, the best-paid 1% pays more income tax than the lower-paid 50%. These statistics should warm the heart of the most ardent redistributionist, who is a person who promotes the redistribution of wealth from the rich to the poor. If more highly-paid people come to Britain to live and work and they pay a lot of tax, then lower-paid workers will have to pay less tax.

B

There is a Chinese saying which states:

“If you are investing for a year, sow rice; if you are investing for a decade, plant trees; if you are investing for a lifetime, educate people.”

Probably the most important investment that a country can make is in universal public education. The second is probably in supplying enough nutritious food to those who cannot pay for it. A hungry child finds it difficult to concentrate in lessons.

Having a good education can increase children’s expectations of their own lives and this has a positive impact from generation to generation. As adults they will be less likely to suffer ill- health. They will have better jobs and homes and will be less likely to be involved in offending or drug and alcohol abuse.

C

The UK needs a clear and long-term strategy to reduce poverty and ensure everyone is able to afford to meet their basic needs. While economic growth has a contribution to make to poverty reduction, reducing poverty will also help the UK fulfil its economic potential. Not only does poverty scar people's life chances and leave their potential unused, the **consequences** of poverty are very expensive. Tax revenues fall and welfare spending actually increases because it has to meet the needs of a growing number of poor people. Child poverty alone costs the UK £29 billion a year. £5.9 billion is spent on benefits and lost in tax income and £15 billion on public services dealing with the **consequences** of poverty. This is money which would be better spent on growing the economy and on investing in education. A job should provide a way out of poverty for most people. However, the UK has a high proportion of low-paid, low-skilled jobs which do not offer adequate pay or hours of work. Now, more than half the people living in poverty in the UK live in working households.

Read the texts and answer questions 7 – 15.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

7. In Text **A**, Boris Johnson says that
- A** rich people are a bad thing for Britain
 - B** lower-paid workers should pay less tax
 - C** Britain needs more highly-paid people
 - D** billionaires should help to save the orang-utan
8. In Text **A**, the number **9 million** refers to
- A** jobs
 - B** billionaires
 - C** rich people
 - D** people paying tax
9. In Text **B** the words “If you are investing for a year, sow rice; if you are investing for a decade, plant trees; if you are investing for a lifetime, educate people.” are in quotation marks because
- A** it is a book
 - B** someone is speaking
 - C** it is a special programme
 - D** they are well-known words
10. Why does the writer of text **B** say that food is important? Write your answer below.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

11. Which phrase is closest in meaning to **consequences** in Text C?

- A origins
- B significance
- C results
- D importance

Write the letter of the correct answer.

12. Which text argues in favour of very wealthy people? _____

13. Which text talks about the financial consequences of poverty? _____

14. Which text talks about the social benefits of education? _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

15. The writer of Text C believes that the best way to reduce poverty is to spend more on

- A income tax
- B benefits
- C public services
- D education

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 16 – 21.



Florence Nightingale

ARTICLE

MEDIA

INFO

PRINT

CITE

FEEDBACK

SHARE

Search

Florence Nightingale was the daughter of the wealthy landowner, William Nightingale of Embly Park, Hampshire. She was born on 12th May, 1820 and as a child, Florence was very close to her father. He took responsibility for her education and taught her many languages and subjects.

In spite of being a rich, attractive and popular young woman, Florence was not happy. She did not marry and suffered from periods of depression. She questioned the purpose of life for the wealthy classes and felt that she must do something useful with her life. At the age of twenty-five, Florence told her parents she wanted to become a nurse. Her parents were totally opposed to the idea but in 1851, Florence's father finally gave her permission to train as a nurse. At the age of thirty-one, Florence went to Germany where she studied to become a nurse.

In March, 1853, Russia invaded Turkey, and Britain and France went to Turkey's aid. This war became known as the Crimean War. Soon after British soldiers arrived in Turkey, they began to be ill with cholera and malaria which are diseases linked to bad drinking water. Within a few weeks, an estimated 8,000 men were suffering from these two diseases.

Florence Nightingale heard about the suffering of the soldiers and offered to go to Crimea to help to look after the sick men. There was a lot of prejudice against women working in medicine and her offer was refused. Eventually, because so many soldiers were dying, Florence was allowed to go to Turkey. She took 38 nurses with her.

Florence Nightingale found that the conditions in the army hospital were terrible. The men were kept in rooms without blankets or decent food. They were not washed and many were still wearing their filthy army uniforms. In these conditions, it was not surprising that only one death in six was due to war wounds. Diseases were the main reasons why the death rate was so high amongst wounded soldiers.

After all the doctors had gone to bed, Florence would tour the wards to check on her patients. She carried a small lamp and so the men called her the "Lady of the Lamp".

The war ended in March 1856. Out of 94,000 men sent to the war, 4,000 died of wounds but 19,000 died of disease. When Florence Nightingale returned to England she was famous for her bravery. She had been deeply shocked by the lack of hygiene and basic care that the men received in the British Army. She insisted on clean wards in the hospital and so was able to reduce the death rate of her patients **dramatically**. For the rest of her life, Florence Nightingale campaigned to improve the way nurses worked in military hospitals.

Florence Nightingale died in London on 13th August, 1910.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

16. The text is

- A** part of a medical text book
- B** a short life history of a nurse
- C** a history of the Crimean war
- D** part of a novel about a nurse

17. Put the following events in order. The first one has been done for you.

	Chronological numbers
A She went to Germany to train to be a nurse.	
B She went to Crimea with 38 nurses.	
C She campaigned to improve hospitals for soldiers.	
D Florence wanted to do something useful with her life.	1

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

18. Many thousands of soldiers died because

- A** the doctors went to bed
- B** they didn't want to fight
- C** they were not kept clean
- D** there were not enough nurses

19. There are inverted commas (" ") round "Lady of the Lamp" in paragraph 6 to show that

- A** this is a joke
- B** this is her real name
- C** this is what she called herself
- D** these are the actual words used by the men

20. What does “**dramatically**” mean in paragraph 7?

- A dangerously
- B significantly
- C expertly
- D finally

21. What is the purpose of this text?

- A. To encourage wounded soldiers
- B. To explain how to become a nurse
- C. To describe the effects of a person’s career
- D. To compare nursing around the world

End of assessment