



English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.
Level 1 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	1.4		2	1.4	
3	1.3		3	1.3	
4	3.1		4	3.1	
5	1.2		5	1.2	
6	2.1		6	2.1	
7	1.1		7	1.1	
8	1.4		8	1.4	
9	1.2		9	1.2	
10	2.1		10	2.1	
11	1.3		11	1.3	
12	3.1		12	3.1	
13	1.1		13	1.1	
14	1.2		14	1.2	
15	1.4		15	1.4	
16	3.1		16	3.1	
17	1.3		17	1.3	
18	2.1		18	2.1	
Overall Grade			Overall Grade		

Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 - 6.

Paragraph 1

At the end of 2015 a group of Manchester residents developed an original scheme called 'The City of Trees Project' to restore the land of Greater Manchester. This project aims to plant three million trees around the Greater Manchester area over the next few decades. The project has so far planted more than an impressive 450,000 trees.

Paragraph 2

Project director Tony Hothersall explained that the **primary** aim was to plant 3 million trees, which means "a tree for every man, woman and child (in Manchester)". He also said that the project aims to educate the public about the benefits of trees and woods. The project is working on planting trees all over the area, as well as on streets and in private gardens and parks. He explained, "What is really important is finding the right tree for the right place." Apart from trees being pleasant to look at, studies show that having trees and plants in cities can help general health. They also have cooling benefits and the ability to reduce air pollution.

Paragraph 3

Academics and researchers are working with the City of Trees Project to look into the use of trees in reducing surface water flooding. This exciting research is led by Dr James Rothwell, who explains: "Traditionally, water falling on roads and pavements goes straight down into the rainwater system. It costs a lot to treat it, especially in such a big city like Manchester. The system can become too full so water remains on the streets and then floods the area." **His** research is exploring how trees reduce flooding in towns. This study is the first of its kind in the UK and the results so far have been very positive, showing that tree planting schemes in towns and cities can be really effective in reducing urban flooding.

Paragraph 4

So we can see that trees bring a whole range of benefits, which make them an essential part of the future of any city. They create healthier, happier communities and help tackle climate change by making cities cooler. They also link our children and ourselves to the natural world and provide essential homes for wildlife. So readers, let's support this scheme and show that our community and the world needs this!

By FT Thomas

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Choose the best title for the text.
 - A Students start a tree-planting project
 - B Researchers need your help
 - C A plan with many benefits
 - D Let's improve our parks

2. **Primary**, as used in the second paragraph, means
 - A previous
 - B principal
 - C final
 - D only

3. In Paragraph 3, "**His** research..." refers to research by
 - A Greater Manchester University
 - B The City of Trees Project
 - C Dr James Rothwell
 - D Tony Hothersall

Write your answer on the line.

4. What do the results of the research project show?

5. Put the following events in chronological order (1 - 4). The first one is done for you.

	Events	Order
A	450,000 trees placed in the ground	
B	Residents started the City of Trees project	1
C	three million trees to be planted	
D	positive research produced that trees lower flooding	

6. What is the main purpose of this text? To
- A** demonstrate how to plant trees
 - B** advise against the project
 - C** criticise the research
 - D** influence the reader

SAMPLE

Task 2

Read the texts and answer questions 7 - 12.

A

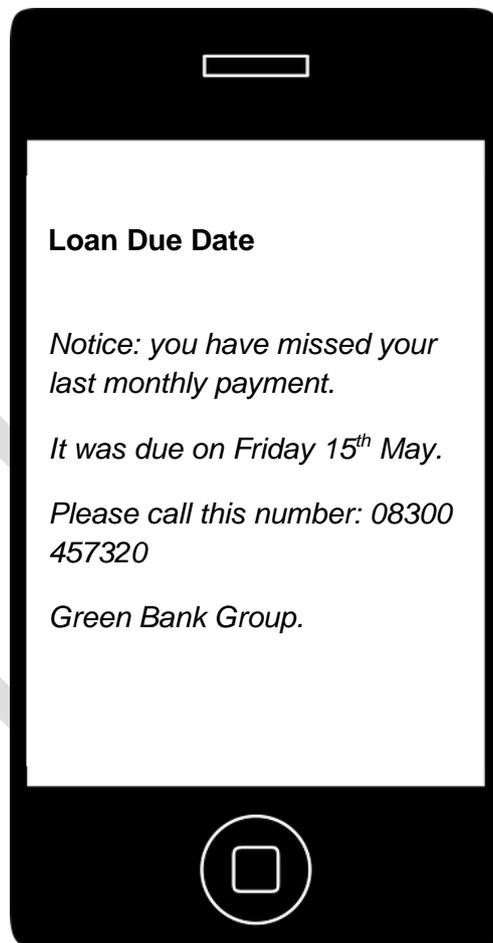
Did you know?

Scientists have recently studied one of the most **peculiar** animals in the sea: the seahorse.

Seahorses started to get their unusual shape about 100 million years ago, when they began to look like the head of a horse. The scientific name for a seahorse is Hippocampus, from the Greek words for 'horse' and 'sea monster'. The word 'seahorse' can also be written as two separate words (sea horse), or with a dash (sea-horse).

Little is known about this fascinating creature. Scientists have recently studied Southeast Asian tiger tail seahorses. They have this name because of their yellow-and-black striped tails and they only grow to a maximum of 4 inches. Southeast Asian tiger tail seahorses, just like other types of seahorse, have no teeth, but their special noses can draw in food and they can move their eyes both forwards and backwards. Seahorses don't have fins like fish do – they have tiny fins on their back and near the back of their head that move the animal up and down. Finally, most unusual of all, male seahorses carry the babies in a large pocket.

B



C

Do you suffer from “ringxiety”? Do you look for your phone to answer it and find that it had never rung? Two researchers studied a group of volunteers, some of whom were worried about their friendships or were avoiding their partners or friends. Almost half said they had ‘heard’ ringing or thought their phone had received a message. Assistant professor Robert Rosenberger said some of the volunteers described the feeling or sound they heard. **They** thought it was their mobile phone receiving a text message or a call but the phone was on silent. He said that he found that many people say, ‘This happens to me, but I thought I was the only one, I thought I was weird.’ Dr Rosenberger continued, ‘We think it has something to do with nervous energy. People are ready to experience a call, so we feel something and we think, OK, that could be a call.’ Another study in 2010, by Michael Rothberg, found that nearly 70 per cent of doctors at a hospital in Massachusetts experienced these false calls.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

7.	Which text is about sounds?	A B C
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Circle the letter of the correct answer.

8. 'Peculiar' as used in the Text **A** means

- A** strange
- B** ordinary
- C** sensitive
- D** imperfect

9. In Text **A**, circle the letters of the **two** correct answers.

- A** Seahorses started to get their shape a thousand years ago.
- B** Sea-horse and sea horse are correct spellings.
- C** Seahorses use their noses to catch their food.
- D** Seahorses and fish swim in the same way.

10. The purpose of Text **B** is to

- A** describe prices
- B** instruct and remind the reader
- C** inform the reader about investments
- D** advertise ways to have a bank account

11. In Text **C**, who does 'They' refer to in the sentence, 'They thought it was their mobile phone receiving a text message or a call but the phone was on silent.'

- A** Robert Rosenberger and Michael Rothberg
- B** A group of volunteers
- C** two researchers
- D** doctors

Write your answer on the line.

12. In Text C, what did Michael Rothberg find out about a group of doctors?

SAMPLE

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 13 - 18.

THE DAILY NEWS

Paragraph 1

Spiders are small 8-legged animals that make webs out of silk. You may love or hate these creatures, but spider silk is one of the great wonders of the animal world. This small animal can make a substance that we humans cannot repeat, even with all our technology. These tiny strings of silk that spiders ‘spin’ or make for their webs is tougher and stronger than anything we can make and scientists have been trying to copy it since the 1960s.

Paragraph 2

All spiders can make silk - they use it for making a tough shell for their eggs, to cover their homes and to **trap** flies. They also use it to fly. When spiders release strings of silk, the breeze catches them and lifts them up and then the piece of silk gets longer. Spiders can travel huge distances and can live without food and water for long periods of time. A volcano on the island of Krakatoa erupted or burst open in September 1983 and nothing could live on the island. In May 1984, the first scientist to visit the island found a live spider which must have travelled in the wind. Amazingly, Krakatoa is 37 km (23 miles) from any other land.

Paragraph 3

Spiders are difficult to keep in one place when they are spinning or making the silk. Therefore, if a lot of spider silk is needed, scientists will have to make an artificial silk and copy the way the spider spins. Researchers are doing this to produce threads, like a long piece of string, that look like real spider silk. Spider silk is an attractive material - it is light but very strong and it can be recycled.

Paragraph 4

Many scientists have dreamed of producing spider silk, but in the 1980s and 1990s they had to use strong chemicals and this did not produce good results. Now, a team of researchers from a Swedish University have developed a method using common materials (mainly water, silica and cellulose) that actually works. In January 2017, Anna Rising, lead researcher, described how they could produce long threads that for the first time looked like real spider silk. ‘We have designed a process that copies many of the complex ways of spider silk spinning. In the future, this will mean we can produce spider silk to manufacture high quality cloth.’

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

13. The text is about

- A capturing a creature
- B examining an animal
- C how spiders can travel
- D manufacturing something.

14. Put the years for the events. The first one has been done for you.

		Year/s
A	Scientists have been trying to copy spider silk	1960s
B	A volcano blew up on Krakatoa	
C	A spider was discovered on Krakatoa	
D	A scientist announced a successful result	

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

15. Which word is closest in meaning to “**trap**” as in the second paragraph?

- A catch
- B deceive
- C let loose
- D transport

16. in the fourth paragraph, a team of researchers from a Swedish University have developed a method to copy spider silk using

- A powerful chemicals
- B artificial materials
- C everyday supplies
- D tough substances.

17. Why are there brackets in paragraph 4? (*mainly water, silica and cellulose*)

- A This is extra information for the reader.
- B They show the information is important.
- C The writer finds this information surprising.
- D These are the words that someone has said.

18. The main purpose of this text is to

- A inform and warn
- B influence the reader
- C bring the reader up to date
- D give instructions and orders

End of assessment