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	1.3		4	1.3	
5	3.1		5	3.1	
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	3.1		10	3.1	
11	1.3		11	1.3	
12	1.2		12	1.2	
13	1.1		13	1.1	
14	1.4		14	1.4	
15	2.1		15	2.1	
16	1.1		16	1.1	
17	1.3		17	1.3	
18	1.4		18	1.4	
19	1.2		19	1.2	
20	2.1		20	2.1	
21	3.1		21	3.1	
Overall Grade			**Overall Grade**		

Task 1

Read the text. Answer questions 1 – 6.

Para	
1	Human beings have used devices to help them to count and calculate for many thousands of years. The earliest type of device was probably a "tally stick", which was a stick onto which people made marks to help them to keep count of their animals. Later, people used the 'abacus', which is a frame with rows of wires, along which beads are moved to make calculations. It was in use in Babylon as early as 2400 BC and it is still used by young children in primary schools today. Nowadays, we have computers, which have become increasingly sophisticated during the early part of the 21st century. Even very young children are able to use a mouse and a touch screen with amazing efficiency.
2	In the early 19th century the first mechanical computer was invented by Charles Babbage, who was an English mathematician and engineer. Programmes and data were put into the machine via punched cards. But the machine was about a century ahead of its time: all the parts had to be made by hand and there were thousands of them! The project ended when the British government withdrew the funding. Although the development came to an end mainly for political and financial reasons, Babbage had wanted to develop an increasingly complicated computer very rapidly and people at that time could not follow or understand his thinking. However, his son, Henry, developed a simplified version and was able to demonstrate it in 1906.
3	During the first part of the 20th century, many more mechanical types of computers were invented. In 1936, a man called Alan Turing proposed a simple device which he called the "Universal Computing Machine". The main advantage of Turing's machine was that it had programmes on tape, where all the instructions for doing calculations were stored. During World War 2 (1939-1945), computers were developed to interpret the codes used in messages sent by military personnel. A well-known film was made about Alan Turing in 2014.
4	These early computers were huge and took up whole rooms! Today, we have much more computing power in the small phone in our pocket than in the computer which took Apollo 11 to the moon for the first human landing in 1969. We have computer chips in many devices in daily use: for example cars, fridges and even hairdryers. In a washing machine, the management of the washing programmes (the amount and temperature of the water and the spin speeds) is all computer controlled.
5	As computing resources became smaller and the life of **portable** batteries became longer, there was a growth in the use of laptop computers. This in turn led to the development of smartphones and tablets. In 2018, it was estimated that there were about 400 million of **these devices**. We have come a long way from the tally stick!

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The main point of the text is to describe

    A the development of calculating

    B how a washing machine works

    C how Apollo 11 got to the moon

    D life in Babylon over 4000 years ago.

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

	Event	Number
A	People used tally sticks.	1
B	Apollo 11 went to the moon.	
C	A film was made about Alan Turing.	
D	Henry Babbage demonstrated an early computer.	

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

3. The word "**portable**" in paragraph 5 means

    A useful

    B bendy

    C convenient

    D transportable.

4. In paragraph 5, '**these devices**' refers to

    E laptops

    F tally sticks

    G portable batteries

    H smartphones and tablets.

5. Before World War 2, a man invented a useful machine. He was

    A the first man to land on the moon

    B Charles Babbage

    C Henry Babbage

    D Alan Turing.

6. The purpose of this text for the reader is to

    A educate about the development of computers

    B persuade people to operate computers

    C amuse with stories of the tally stick

    D warn against the use of computers.

Task 2

Read these texts and answer questions 7 - 15.

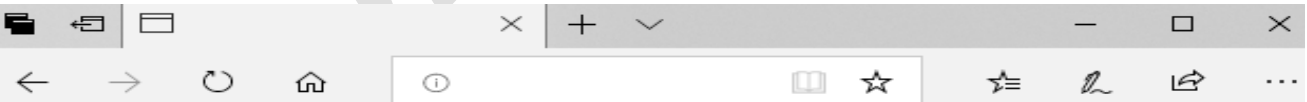| Text A	Text B
Mark Zuckerberg was a psychology student at Harvard University. He was also an enthusiastic computer programmer. In 2004, when he was just 23 years old, he launched Facebook. Initially, it was just for students at Harvard and within 24 hours 1200 students had signed up. A month later, half of the student population had a profile on the website. The network was then extended to other universities in Boston and eventually to all the universities in the United States of America. The following year, American high schools could sign up and shortly after that Facebook reached universities in the UK. By 2006, the network was available to anyone over the age of 13 with a registered email address. The site is free to join and makes its money through advertising. By 2008, Facebook had about 100 million users, and at the end of 2021, Facebook had 2.9 billion monthly users!	Dear Paula, I've been studying social networks as part of my college course. These sites are very useful for keeping in touch with friends and arranging and sharing information. We know how popular these sites can be, but I'm wondering whether we need to think carefully about their effects. Do you know that on average, Facebook users spend about one hour a day on the networking site? If people spend their time checking Facebook instead of talking to their friends and family face to face then it can prevent people from having real communication with each other. It can also put you in contact with people you do not wish to be in contact with, so you can end up sharing information publicly that you'd rather keep private. Facebook also enables targeted advertising. For example, when I told my friend that I had a bad back, I suddenly received a lot of information from advertisers about remedies for my back! Facebook can also lead to other types of problem. In 2016, a massive water fight in the park that people in my town had organised through Facebook got so big that the police had to get involved. And in September 2012, an invitation to a birthday party in a Dutch town was **publicly** distributed on Facebook by accident. In the end, more than 5000 people came and there was quite a lot of damage. I've found looking at some of the effects of social media very interesting. What do you think about it? Do you use social media a lot? Regards, Miguel

Text C

It is claimed that using Facebook can help people to relax and that it can even decrease heart rate and stress levels. They say it helps people to keep in touch, to be involved in the lives of their friends and family and to develop social skills. World and personal news is spread very quickly via Facebook so that appeals for help can be made almost immediately. It's true that you can waste valuable time on Facebook but it is probably here to stay because it is a great way to stay in contact with friends and family and to build and manage friendship groups. Furthermore, it has an enormous amount of cash to spend on research and development. This means it can afford to develop new ideas all the time, so no-one knows what it will actually look like in the next 10 years.

Write the correct letters of the texts on the line.

7. Which **TWO** texts talk about the advantages and disadvantages of Facebook?

_____ and _____

8. Which text talks about <u>why</u> Facebook is so successful? _____ .

9. Which text talks about the rapid growth of Facebook? _____ .

Write your answer on the line.

10. According to Text **A**, where did Facebook begin?

_____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

11. Text **A** ends with an exclamation mark (… at the end of 2021, Facebook had 2.9 billion monthly users!) to show that this fact is

    A untrue

    B amusing

    C surprising

    D predictable.

Write the year in the table.

12. From Text **A** and **B** write the year in which each of these events happened. The first one is done for you.

	Event	Year
A	Mark Zuckerberg launched Facebook.	2004
B	American high schools could join.	
C	A private party went wrong.	
D	A large number of people attended an outdoor event.	

Circle the letters of the **TWO** correct answers.

13. According to the texts, some of the <u>negative</u> effects of Facebook are that it

    A can stop people from talking directly to each other

    B helps family and friends to keep in touch

    C tells a lot of people news in a short time

    D is easy to share private information.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

14. In Text B, in the sentence "..... an invitation to a birthday party in a Dutch town was **publicly** distributed on Facebook by accident, " **publicly** means

    A generously

    B silently

    C secretly

    D freely.

15. The purpose of Text **C** is to

    A warn against using Facebook

    B compare social media sites

    C advertise using Facebook

    D explore some concerns.

Task 3

Read the text. Answer questions 16 – 21.

THE DAILY NEWS

Paragraph 1

Michael Fish is a British weather forecaster. He is best known for his presentations on BBC television, although he actually worked for the Met Office. (The Met Office is the government organisation which provides weather forecasts and severe weather warnings for the whole of the UK.)

Paragraph 2

Michael Fish was born in 1944 in Eastbourne, Sussex. He studied at City University, London. He joined the Met Office in1962 and started working on BBC radio in 1971. He took up his post on television in 1974, which was about the same time as the first ever female weather presenter, Barbara Edwards.

Paragraph 3

In 2004, the Queen gave Fish the award "Member of the Order of the British Empire" for his "services to broadcasting". He was also given an award called "TV Weather Presenter of the Year" and the Sunday Times newspaper called him a **"National Treasure".** He made his final forecast on October 6th 2004 on the BBC Ten O'Clock News. In a specially extended report, his fellow forecaster, Ian McCaskill, praised Michael Fish, saying "Michael is the last of the true weathermen you will ever see. Michael can actually **interpret** the skies – he can do the weather forecast the hard way: the old way that people don't do anymore because nowadays most of the decisions are made by computer." With two colleagues, Michael Fish wrote a book called "Britain's Wildest Weather", which was published in 2007.

Paragraph 4

However, Michael Fish became best known for his forecast before the "Great Storm of 1987". A few hours before the storm began, he said during a forecast: "Earlier on today, apparently, a woman rang the BBC and said she'd heard there was a hurricane on the way ….well, if you're watching, don't worry, there isn't!" That evening, the worst storm to hit the south east of England for three centuries caused record damage and killed 19 people. He had warned of high winds for the UK and, although the storm was much stronger than he had predicted, it wasn't technically a hurricane (which must have winds of over 74 miles per hour). Fifteen years later, Michael Fish commented that if he had one penny for every mention of that forecast, he would be a millionaire! In 2012, a piece of his forecast was even shown as part of a video sequence in the London 2012 Summer Olympics opening ceremony.

Paragraph 5

Following on from this famous mistake, the term "the Michael effect" entered the English language: it means that British weather forecasters are now likely to predict the worst possible weather to avoid making a serious error like Michael Fish. The term a "Michael Fish moment" is also used about public forecasts, on any topic, which turn out to be embarrassingly wrong!

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

16. The text is about

    A the Met Office

    B the Great Storm

    C weather forecasting

    D a famous weather forecaster.

17. In paragraph 3, **"National Treasure"** is in inverted commas because

    A it is not true

    B it's another name for the weather forecast

    C they are the actual words the newspaper used

    D Michael Fish used these words in his broadcasts.

18. In paragraph 3, **interpret** means to

    A study the sky

    B decide what something means

    C understand when a storm is coming

    D translate something into another language.

Circle the letter of the **TWO** correct answers.

19. Michael Fish

    A was a millionaire

    B studied in London

    C warned about a hurricane

    D became famous for a mistake.

20. The text

    A reveals that the Met Office has to follow government guidance

    B instructs the reader about weather forecasting

    C illustrates the problems of making an error

    D compares diverse ways of forecasting.

Write your answer on the line.

21   What do British weather forecasters do because of the 'Michael effect.'?

_____

End of assessment