



**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	1.3		3	1.3	
4	1.4		4	1.4	
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	1.1		10	1.1	
11	1.3		11	1.3	
12	1.2		12	1.2	
13	1.4		13	1.4	
14	3.1		14	3.1	
15	2.1		15	2.1	
16	1.1		16	1.1	
17	1.2		17	1.2	
18	1.3		18	1.3	
19	3.1		19	3.1	
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.

# *The Legend of Robin Hood*

Search

1. The story of Robin Hood is one of the most famous English legends. Many books, songs and poems have been written about him. There have also been many films made about Robin Hood, including one cartoon film. It is thought that he may have been a real person who lived in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, but no one can prove this, or who he actually was.

2. The story tells us that Robin Hood lived near the city of Nottingham. In those days, the officer whose job it was to enforce the law was called the "Sheriff". It is said that Robin Hood had been a wealthy man whose land and castle had been stolen by the Sheriff of Nottingham. The Sheriff said that Robin was a criminal and wanted to imprison him. Robin Hood escaped to the forest, where he lived with a group of other men who had broken the law. These men wore green clothing to make them difficult to see in the forest. They became known as Robin's "Merry Men". The deer in the forest belonged to the king, but Robin and his men shot **them** with bows and arrows to feed themselves. According to the legend, they robbed rich people travelling through the forest and gave the money to the poor.

3. The rich people were frightened of going through the forest because of Robin and they begged the Sheriff to capture him. Finally, the Sheriff thought of a clever plan. He decided to hold a competition to see who was the most skilful with a bow and arrow in the whole county. He knew that Robin took pride in being the best and thought that Robin would not be able to resist entering the competition. Robin's men **urged** him to stay away. "This competition is being held because the sheriff knows you will want to enter. It would be foolish to walk into his trap," they said. But Robin was determined to go.

4. The day of the contest arrived. The Sheriff whispered to one of his guards "Has Robin Hood come?" The guard replied "No, Sir. Robin has red hair and none of these contestants have red hair. He must be too scared." The contest began and in the final, there were just two men. One was called William and he was the Sheriff's man. The other was a dark-haired man, dressed in green. William shot first and it was a good shot, but the other man's shot was better and went into the exact centre of the target. As the crowd cheered, the man in green shot two more arrows which landed on each side of the Sheriff's chair. The Sheriff was shocked. Before he had recovered, the man in green pulled off the false, black hair he was wearing, jumped over a wall and rode away on his waiting horse.

5. "Go after him, you idiots. That is Robin Hood!" shouted the furious Sheriff. But it was too late. Robin had disappeared back into the forest, laughing all the way!

- According to the text, Robin Hood
  - became the Sheriff of Nottingham
  - was a man who really existed
  - still lives in Sherwood Forest
  - is probably a made-up story.
- Put the following events into chronological order. The first one is done for you.

	Event	Number
A	The Sheriff held a competition.	
B	The Merry Men took money from wealthy people.	1
C	Robin Hood escaped back into the forest.	
D	The Sheriff was told that Robin wasn't there.	

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- In paragraph 2, "**them**" refers to the
  - deer
  - Merry Men
  - rich people
  - poor people.
- In paragraph 3, "**urged**" means
  - to be frightened of something
  - to forbid someone to do something
  - to encourage someone to do something
  - to try and persuade someone to do something.
- In paragraph 5, why was the Sheriff angry? Write your answer on the line.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

6. The purpose of the text is to

- A** instruct readers
- B** report facts
- C** tell a story
- D** request action.

SAMPLE

## Task 2

Read the texts and answer questions 7 – 15.

**A**

### Heyworth Estate Agents

#### **2 bedroom flat to rent in Millbank Park Road**

*£950 per calendar month*

We are proud to offer this delightful 2 bedroom flat in a great location. This property is newly decorated throughout. It has a fitted kitchen which is large enough to accommodate a dining table and four chairs. The sitting room is large with a beautiful view over the park. The flat is close to the station, which has regular trains and trams into the city centre. Buses run along Millbank Park Road into the city centre every 10 minutes. There are good primary and secondary schools nearby. There is a supermarket just around the corner.

An early viewing is recommended as this lovely property will be taken quickly!

Smoking is not allowed in this property.

To arrange to see the flat, please ring  
Salma on 0160 425 6132

**B**

### **Room to Rent in a shared house in Longton**

*We are looking for a housemate.*

A good sized, furnished bedroom is available for the right person, in our **spacious** and quiet property. We are both students at the university and are looking for someone who is clean, tidy and honest to share our house. You must be a non-smoker.

The house has gas central heating. It also has new windows which reduce heat loss and exclude noise. There is a shared bathroom, sitting room and kitchen. It is situated within walking distance of the train station and is on a convenient bus route to the university.

The rent is £110 per week plus a share of the gas and electricity bills and council tax.

We would like to have a meeting to decide if we would all get on well together, so please ring Alex or Naveed on 07762 543791 to arrange a day and time.

**C**

### Davidson and Daughter Estate Agents

#### **1 bedroom flat to rent    £650 per month**

A third floor, fully furnished flat with one double bedroom, in a quiet, residential area.

The flat has been furnished and recently decorated to a very high standard. The carpets are brand new. The bedroom has a large built-in wardrobe. There is a modern, fully fitted kitchen, with a fridge freezer and electric hot plate and oven. The property has new windows to reduce heat loss, electric heating and a telephone entry system. There is a resident's parking space. It has excellent transport links into the city centre, to the universities and to the hospital and so would suit a young professional person, a student or a hospital worker.

We recommend an early viewing as this desirable property will not remain empty for long.

*To book a viewing, please ring Pawel on 0161 345 8723 between 9.00am and 5.30pm Monday to Saturday.*

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

7. Which **TWO** properties are likely to have new residents very soon?

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
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8. Which **TWO** properties have just been painted?

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
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Circle the letter of the correct answer.

9. Which property has people living there already?

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
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10. Look at text A. The main selling point of the flat is its

- A** price
- B** location
- C** neighbours
- D** period features.

Write the answer on the line

11. Look at Text **A**. "**We** are proud to offer this delightful 2 bedroom flat ..." Who is "**We**"?

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12. Look at text **B**. What do Alex and Naveed want to do before someone moves into the house?

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Circle the letter of the correct answer.

13. In Text B, **spacious** means

- A large
- B special
- C beautiful
- D comfortable.

14. Look at text C. Why is the flat recommended for a young professional person, a student or a hospital worker? Because

- A it has a parking space
- B it is a desirable property
- C there is a modern kitchen
- D it is easy to travel to many places.

15. The purpose of all three texts is to

- A entertain
- B inform
- C instruct
- D advertise.

### Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 16 – 21.

1

British people often think that they were the first to build a canal. However, the Chinese were really the first great builders of canals. The Grand Canal of China, which is nearly 1800 kilometres long, was built in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The first canal on British soil was the “Fosdyke”, which is only about 18 kilometres long! It was built by the Romans in the East Midlands during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and was used for transport. The Exeter Canal, in the south-west of England, was built in 1566 and is a mere 6 kilometres in length.

2

In Britain, serious construction of canals only began in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Manufacturing had begun to change from local men and women working in their cottages to people working in industrial mills and factories. A good transport system was needed to move the goods around the country and even abroad. Roads were being built and improved but they could not easily handle heavy and bulky materials like coal or steel or delicate goods like pottery. **At this time**, there were over 1600 kilometres of rivers which were deep and wide enough for boats. The problem was that they didn't go to the right places anymore. Transport was needed from the industrial north and centre of the country to the south and to the big ports so that the goods could be exported.

3

Around this time, the wealthy Duke of Bridgewater had been travelling across Europe and in the south of France he had seen the “Canal du Midi”. This canal had been completed in 1681 and was about 250 kilometres long. The Duke returned to England full of enthusiasm for canals. In 1759, he decided to build a canal to take coal from his mines to the rapidly growing city of Manchester. Manchester needed a lot of coal for its industries and to keep its many workers warm in the winter. An engineer called Brindley was employed to manage the project. The canal was completed in 1776 and began half a century of canal building.

4

Brindley was now **in great demand** and went on to build even longer canals across the whole country. He was given the credit for the building of over 3000 kilometres of canals, linking the four great rivers of England: the Severn, the Mersey, the Humber and the Thames. By 1815, most of the British canals were completed.

5

However, with the coming of the railways, the use of the canals began to decline. The canals were neglected and by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many were no longer working. Then in the 1950s and 1960s people began to see that the canals could be used for leisure and many were rescued. Nowadays, they are full of private pleasure boats, hired boats, hotel boats and day trip boats. It has been calculated that there are now more boats on the canals in Britain than there were during the height of the system's industrial use.



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

16. The text tells us about

- A** coal mining in Manchester
- B** how canals are used today
- C** why the canals were built
- D** the development of the railway system.

17. Put the following events from the text into chronological order. The first one is done for you.

Event	Number
A The canals are used for leisure.	
B The Exeter canal was built.	
C The Manchester canal was built.	
D A canal was built in China.	1

18. In paragraph 2, what period of time does **“At this time”** refer to? Write your answer on the line.

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19. Write **TWO** reasons why the Duke of Bridgewater wanted to take coal to the city of Manchester.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

20. In paragraph 4, **“in great demand”** could be replaced with which words and keep the meaning the same?

- A getting old
- B very popular
- C learning new skills
- D making lots of money

21. The purpose of this text is to

- A argue that canals are bad for wildlife
- B illustrate the rise and decline of canals
- C encourage the reader to hire a canal boat
- D examine different ways of transporting goods.

**End of assessment**