

**ESB Level 1 Award in
ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)
601/5473/1**



Reading

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Updates

Version	Change made	Page
4	References to Wales removed	5
	Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment updated to CCEA Regulation	
3	Punctuation descriptor added	13
2	Introduction page updated	4
	Reasonable adjustment information updated	5
	Qualification framework information updated – credits removed	7
	Assessment overview – T/F and Yes/No questions removed; types of text updated – articles on websites, in newspapers/magazines; CVs, forms and personal documents added	8
	Lists of topics, functions and grammatical structures added	9-13
	Assessment, moderation and quality assurance updated	14
	Contact details updated	Back cover

Introduction

English Speaking Board (International) Ltd. (ESB International) offers high-quality Speech and Language qualifications in the UK and internationally.

We aim to support learners to possess the oracy and English language skills they need to achieve their aspirations. ESB International has a full range of qualifications for learners of all ages and backgrounds which are designed to stretch the most able, support the least confident and realise the potential of all. Do contact ESB International via our website www.esbuk.org if you wish to find out more about our qualifications and how learners can progress.

Our assessments are marked and administered externally by ESB International. ESB International carries out moderation and standardisation of all its assessors to ensure their assessment of your learners is consistent and of the highest quality.

When you choose to be a centre of ESB International and prepare your learners for our assessments, we offer you support via our website and your centre's online booking hub, along with training and guidance for all of your staff involved with the learning experience. We are here to support you so that your learners achieve and enjoy the experience of assessment with ESB International.



ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)

These specifications are designed to assist tutors in preparing learners for the ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading). The document is intended to support both tutors and learners and describes the content and assessment of the qualification.

Qualification Objective

The ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) is part of the portfolio of ESB ESOL Skills for Life qualifications from Entry 1 to Level 2 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). ESOL Skills for Life learners are diverse and may be members of settled minority communities, refugees or asylum seekers, migrant workers, or partners or spouses of UK residents. ESB ESOL Skills for Life assessments are designed to assess real-life English language skills for work, further learning and everyday life, encourage progression into further and higher education and employment, support learners' integration into the community and equip learners with the confidence to use English language skills in the real world. They are suitable for learners from the age of 16 upwards and are available in England and Northern Ireland.

ESB ESOL Skills for Life qualifications are based on the National Standards for Adult Literacy and aligned to the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum. They are regulated by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) in England and CCEA Regulation in Northern Ireland. At Level 1, adults can read and understand straightforward texts of varying lengths on a variety of topics accurately and independently and read and obtain information from different sources (National Standards for Adult Literacy).

Prior Knowledge, Skills and Understanding

There are no prior learning or formal qualification requirements for ESB ESOL Skills for Life qualifications. Learners can be entered for the Speaking and Listening, Reading or Writing Awards appropriate for their ability and needs. Learners must have the skills, knowledge and understanding to meet the specified learning outcomes for Level 1 by the assessment date. Learners who have achieved the three Awards at the same level can be awarded an ESB Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life.

Reasonable Adjustments

We believe that assessment should be a fair test of learners' skills and knowledge. For some learners the usual format of assessment may not be suitable or accessible, and we recognise that disabilities can be physical or invisible. Some learners may need an access arrangement (also known as a special accommodation or reasonable adjustment) to access the assessment and show what they know and can do without changing the demands of the assessment, i.e. the learning outcomes and assessment criteria. We refer to these as Reasonable Adjustments and centres need to apply for a reasonable adjustment before their learners' assessment. Please visit <https://esbuk.org/web/support/equality-diversity-inclusion-safeguarding/> for examples of reasonable adjustments, how to apply for them and further guidance. For more information on access arrangements, please see our Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy [here](#).

Qualification Profile

ESB LEVEL 1 AWARD IN ESOL SKILLS FOR LIFE (READING)	
Assessment method	Assessment by external assessors and markers
Grading	Pass / Unsuccessful
Accreditation start date	1 st February 2015
Guided learning hours (GLH)*	60
Total Qualification Time (TQT)*	70
Ofqual Qualification number	601/5473/1
Age range	16-19,19+
An ESOL Skills for Life learner may be anyone who speaks English as an acquired language, for example:	• Learners at further education colleges and adult education centres • Learners attending private training organisations • Learners attending community based ESOL providers and educational charities • Learners referred from Jobcentre Plus • Young learners (16-18) on ESOL courses • Learners from settled minority communities • Refugees or asylum seekers • Migrant workers • Partners or spouses of UK residents

Learners' educational and employment backgrounds are often highly diverse. ESB ESOL Skills for Life assessments are designed to reflect this diversity. Learners' real-life circumstances are taken into account when assessments are designed and topics include such themes as employability.

*GLH (Guided Learning Hours) is an estimate of the time allocated to teach, instruct, assess and support learners. Learner-initiated private study, preparation and marking of formative assessment is not taken into account. TQT (Total Qualification Time) includes both the number of hours which an awarding organisation has assigned to a qualification for Guided Learning, and an estimate of the number of hours a learner will reasonably be likely to spend in preparation, study or any other form of participation in education or training, including assessment, directed by but not under the supervision of a lecturer, supervisor or tutor. Both GLH and TQT are estimates as all learners are unique and will take different times to prepare for and achieve qualifications.

Qualification Framework

Qualification Option
3 Awards • ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading) • ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) • ESB Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)
ESB Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life

Learners are entered for each individual Award and may take Awards at different levels. Once three Awards have been achieved, learners can apply for an ESB Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life. Please see <https://esbuk.org/web/support/policies-and-procedures/>.

Speaking and Listening assessments are conducted on site at approved ESB International centres by a team of trained assessors. All assessors are independent of the centres they visit and subject to moderation following Ofqual guidelines. Assessment takes place in pairs; learner interaction is an integral part of the assessment. Each learner is assessed according to the qualification learning outcomes and assessment criteria. All learners receive a report form with their grade and personalised feedback. Successful learners receive a certificate with the qualification title and level. Results are issued within 5 working days (10 days at peak times) and qualification certificates are issued to centres within 10 working days.

Reading and Writing assessments are set by ESB International and papers are shared securely with centres. Assessments are completed on site at approved centres and subject to ESB International regulations (see Centre Handbook <https://esbuk.org/web/app/uploads/2022/09/ESB-HBK-C29-ESB-Handbook-for-Skills-for-Life-Centres-in-the-UK-v1.pdf>). Invigilation is undertaken by the centre and monitored by ESB International. Papers are marked by ESB ESOL Skills for Life markers and results are issued within 5 working days (10 days at peak times). Qualification certificates are sent to centres within 10 working days.

Resources and Support for Tutors

Sample papers and resources are available on our website <https://esbuk.org/web/our-tutor-resources/esol-skills-for-life-resources/esol-skills-for-life-level-1/>

For questions about the content and conduct of assessments, contact product@esbuk.org. To find out more about the type of training available for your centre and to arrange bespoke face-to-face or remote training for tutors, contact business@esbuk.org.

Assessment Overview

To pass the assessment, learners are required to achieve all the assessment criteria. Learners have three opportunities to meet each criterion over the three tasks in the assessment.

1. Assessment Format

Length	60 minutes
Number of tasks	3
Length of texts	Text 1 350-400 words Text 2 350-400 words Text 3 350-400 words Total across the paper 1050-1200 words
Types of text	narratives articles on websites, in newspapers or in magazines web pages advertisements/adverts emails leaflets and posters CVs, forms and personal documents
Number of questions	18
Question types	multiple-choice table completion gap fill short answer

2. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

Adult ESOL Core Curriculum Reference	Learning Outcomes <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria <i>The learner can:</i>
Rt/L1.3a Rt/L1.5a Rs/L1.1a Rs/L1.2a Rw/L1.2a Rw/L1.3a	1. Be able to gain meaning from text	1.1 Identify the main points in straightforward text
		1.2 Identify the main events in straightforward text
		1.3 Use language features to identify meaning in straightforward text
		1.4 Identify the meaning of words in straightforward text
Rt/L1.2a	2. Be able to distinguish the purpose of text	2.1 Identify the purpose of straightforward text
Rt/L1.1a Rt/L1.3a Rt/L1.4a Rt/L1.5a	3. Be able to find information in text	3.1 Obtain relevant specific information from straightforward text

Pages 10-13 list the topic areas, functions and grammatical structures expected of learners by the time they have completed their course of study and undertake the assessments for the ESB ESOL Skills for Life awards at this level. The topics, functions and structures are from the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum <https://esbuk.org/web/support/policies-and-procedures/>. In addition to those listed here, learners should already be confident with the topic areas, functions and grammatical structures of Entry 3.

3. List of Topic Areas

Area and community
Aspirations
Cultural variations
Daily interactions
Describing people, places, friends and things
Describing processes
Education systems, studying and courses
Environment e.g. recycling, water, power
Events, celebrations, festivals and special occasions
Food and diet
Health and fitness
Historical places, stories
Hobbies and leisure/free time – sport, TV, books, films, music
Home and home life
Instructions
Known country/town/country of origin
Language and communication
Shopping
Social roles
Special places
Technology e.g. mobile phones, computers, tablets, games
Training and professional development
Travel and transport
Trips, visits and days out
Weather and climate
Work, careers and voluntary work

4. List of Functions

Ask about past events
Ask about people's feelings, opinions, interests, wishes, hopes
Ask about processes
Ask for advice and suggestions, make suggestions and give advice
Ask for confirmation
Ask for definitions
Check back
Compare people, places, things in detail
Complain
Describe places and things and ask for descriptions of things, places
Describe self/others and ask for descriptions of people
Explain, and give reasons
Express absence of obligation
Express feeling, likes and dislikes, hopes
Express obligation and reasons
Generalise
Give examples
Give factual accounts – classify
Give factual accounts – define
Give factual accounts – describe a simple process
Give and ask for personal information
Give views and opinions
Hypothesise
Interrupt
Introduce others
Make recommendations
Make requests in informal and formal situations – ask for something, ask someone to do something for you, ask for permission
Narrate events in the past
Persuade
Praise and compliment
Report information
Respond to request for confirmation
Respond to request for instructions
Show contrast, reason, purpose, consequence, result
Take leave
Warn and prohibit

5. Grammatical Structures

Simple, compound and complex sentences, with more than one subordinate clause
Word order in sentences with more than one subordinate clause: <i>I will tell you the story at work tomorrow because I don't have time now.</i>
There had been: <i>There had been a farm on the land before the storm.</i>
A range of conjunctions to express contrast, reason, purpose, consequence, result, condition, concession Contrast: <i>although, however</i> ; reason: <i>because, due to</i> ; purpose: <i>in order to, so that</i> ; result: <i>therefore, for this reason</i> ; concession: <i>but, yet</i> . Conditional forms, using <i>if</i> and <i>unless</i> with past and use of <i>would</i> Non-defining relative clauses Defining relative clauses with <i>where</i> or <i>whose</i> : <i>This is a person whose interest in the past led to digging up ancient cities.</i> Participial clauses to describe accompanying actions with <i>-ing</i> : <i>The baby, crying loudly and continuously, kept her parents up all night.</i> Clause as subject or object
Reported speech with a range of tenses including use of <i>would</i> and <i>had</i>
A range of embedded questions using <i>if</i> and <i>whether</i> : <i>Could you tell me whether or not she has gone out?</i> <i>Reported questions</i> with <i>if</i> and <i>whether</i> Use of <i>had</i> and <i>would</i> in reported questions Reported requests: <i>They asked me to help them on Saturday.</i> Reported instructions: <i>The tutor told them not to play in there.</i>
Statements with question tags, using Level 1 tenses: <i>The shop had shut down a long time ago, hadn't it?</i>

Noun phrases
More complex noun phrases with pre- and post-modification: <i>The girl sitting on the left is waiting for me.</i> Word order of determiners: <i>the, my, this, twenty, each, any</i> Use of definite, indefinite and zero article with a wide range of nouns in a range of uses Range of expressions to indicate possession

Verb forms and time markers in statements, interrogatives, negatives and short forms
Present perfect continuous Past perfect Present and past simple passive Use of <i>would</i> in conditional sentences Causative use of <i>have</i> and <i>got</i> Modals: <i>ought</i> to express obligation; negative of <i>need</i> and <i>have to</i> to express absence of obligation; <i>would</i> to express hypotheses; use of forms, e.g. <i>be able to</i> to refer to the future; <i>would like</i> + object + infinitive, e.g. <i>would like you to</i> ; <i>be supposed to</i> , <i>be meant to</i> , <i>appear to</i> and <i>tend to</i> Use of simple modal adverbs: <i>possibly, probably, perhaps</i> A range of phrasal verbs

Adjectives

Comparisons using *fewer* and *less*

Collocation of adjective + preposition: *She was enthusiastic about the idea.*

Adverbs and prepositional phrases

Prepositions to express concession

Collocations of verbs + prepositions; nouns + prepositions

A range of adverbial phrases of time, manner, degree, extent, place, frequency, probability: *anyway, well, right, now, OK, so*

Comparative and superlative forms of adverbs

A wide range of intensifiers

Discourse

A range of discourse markers expressing: addition, cause and effect, contrast, sequence and time

Markers to structure spoken discourse: *accordingly, therefore, subsequently*

Use of ellipsis in informal speech and writing: *sounds good, spoken to Jim today, nice idea*

Punctuation

Full stops, exclamation marks, question marks

Commas: *Listing items in connected prose, between clauses in complex sentences, after connectives*

Semi-colons, colons

Bullet points, dashes, brackets

Apostrophes: *for omission and possession*

Inverted commas/speech marks: *for direct speech, quotations, to indicate attitude*

Assessment, Moderation and Quality Assurance

All Reading and Writing scripts are marked and moderated by ESB International's team of ESOL Skills for Life markers and moderators according to ESB International policies.

Our markers are standardised and grade all written papers according to the ESB International mark scheme which is based on the National Standards for Adult Literacy and aligned to the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum.

To ensure additional quality assurance throughout the process, all markers are moderated within each marking session and a proportion of all written scripts are second marked to maintain standardisation levels.

Speaking and Listening assessments are carried out by trained assessors according to our policies. Speaking assessments are marked as they happen, based on the ESB ESOL Skills for Life mark scheme linked to the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum.

All ESOL Skills for Life Speaking and Listening assessors are trained and standardised by our Chief and Senior Assessors. In addition to this, ESB International conducts live moderations of a proportion of assessors every year.

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