



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	2.1		5	2.1	
6	3.1		6	3.1	
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	1.2		11	1.2	
12	1.3		12	1.3	
13	1.4		13	1.4	
14	2.1		14	2.1	
15	3.1		15	3.1	
16	1.1		16	1.1	
17	1.2		17	1.2	
18	1.4		18	1.4	
19	1.3		19	1.3	
20	3.1		20	3.1	
21	2.1		21	2.1	
Overall Grade			Overall Grade		

Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.

Para	
	<h3>Hot Air Balloons</h3>
1	<p>In 1783, a scientist called De Rozier launched the first hot air balloon. In the balloon's basket were a sheep, a duck and a chicken. The balloon stayed in the air for 15 minutes before landing on the ground. Two months later, the first balloon flight with people on board took place. The balloon was built by two brothers called Montgolfier. The balloon took off from the centre of Paris and stayed in the air for 20 minutes.</p>
2	<p>Two years later, another Frenchman, called Blanchard, flew across the English Channel. Blanchard later became the first man to fly a hot air balloon in America. The take-off was watched by the American president, George Washington.</p>
3	<p>Over 100 years later, in 1932, a Swiss scientist, called Piccard, set a new record by flying at a height, or altitude, of 52,498 feet. Since then balloons have flown to almost double that height.</p>
4	<p>In 1978, "Double Eagle II" became the first balloon to cross the Atlantic Ocean. It carried three passengers and took 137 hours to make the crossing. Three years later, a balloon flew across the Pacific Ocean and in 1999 the first balloon flight around the world was completed. It took 19 days, 21 hours and 55 minutes.</p>
5	<p>A hot air balloon has three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the envelope which holds the hot air• the burner which heats the air• the basket where the pilot and the passengers stand. <p>Balloons work because hot air rises. Air is heated by the burner and moves upwards into the envelope. When there is enough hot air in the envelope, the balloon rises. When the pilot wants to come down again, some of the hot air is let out. The balloon then slowly descends back to earth. It is steered by using the wind, which blows in different directions at different heights.</p>
6	<p>Nowadays, the most popular use for hot air balloons is for leisure activities. If you search on the internet, you can find many companies in the United Kingdom which offer flights in hot air balloons. A balloon flight can be a very exciting and enjoyable experience. Some balloons fly over areas of natural beauty, such as the Lake District, while others fly over interesting cities such as London or Edinburgh. Balloon flights are subject to weather conditions: there must be wind speeds of less than 12 miles per hour, good visibility, a stable atmosphere and no rain or snow. People are sometimes given a present of a balloon flight for a special birthday or for a wedding present. It certainly makes a memorable gift!</p>

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Paragraph 5 is about

- A how to build a hot air balloon.
- B the problems with hot air balloons.
- C how to fix a hot air balloon.
- D how a hot air balloon works.

2. A hot air balloon flew in America before one flew in England.

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

True

☐

False

☐

3. In paragraph 4, what does 'it' refer to?

_____.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

4. Which is nearest in meaning to **let out** in paragraph 5?

- A cooled
- B reheated
- C trapped
- D released

5. The purpose of the text is to

- A advise
- B inform
- C persuade
- D praise.

6. Hot air balloon flights can take place when it is

- A rainy
- B misty
- C calm
- D windy.

Task 2

Read these texts and answer questions 7 – 15.

Plastic Bags

Text A

In 2015, British people took home 8.5 billion single-use plastic carrier bags from supermarkets. In October of that year, the government introduced a 5p charge on plastic carrier bags to try and reduce their use. When Ireland began to charge for plastic bags at the checkout, the use of bags dropped by a **staggering 93.5%**! To put it more simply, this is a drop from 328 to 21 bags a year for every person in Ireland. Many carrier bags end up in the street or in the countryside as litter. Clearing up carrier bags costs the taxpayers in England about £10 million every year. Even when the bags are thrown away into dustbins, they still cause problems. Every year in the UK, about 16,000 tonnes of rubbish from bins is taken to rubbish dumps and buried. This includes plastic bags which can take up to 1000 years to decay.

Text B

Plastic bags can kill fish, animals and birds. Birds can mistake bags for fish or nesting material. If their heads or legs get caught in the bag, they can die. Many plastic bags end up in the sea and so marine animals are especially at risk. If sea birds, sea mammals or fish eat a bag, perhaps mistaking it for food, it can cause serious problems with their digestion and can be fatal. In addition, many of the chemicals used to make the bags can affect every system in the bodies of humans as well as animals. There is an organisation in Mexico which has produced a video called "Silent Killers". It shows a sick turtle which was found starving to death. She had eaten a plastic bag which was blocking her digestion. For this turtle, there was a happy ending. A vet operated on her, removed the bag and she was released back into the ocean.

Text C

Many countries, cities and towns have introduced bans on plastic bags. Shoppers are encouraged to bring reusable bags with them when shopping. This ban is often reported as being a great success. Banning plastic bags seems such a sensible solution. However, many environmentalists are against banning plastic bags. They believe it is better to educate people to change their habits. They think that people may feel that they are helping the environment by not using plastic bags and then forget about bigger issues. Many environmentalists do not want campaigns to focus on just one issue, but to consider the bigger picture. However, although plastic bags may be a **relatively** small problem, reducing their use is something we can all do easily.

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

7. According to Text **C**, many environmentalists want

- A** to ban plastic bags.
- B** to teach people to change their behaviour.
- C** people to think about the whole issue.
- D** people to focus on one issue.

8. Which text talks about a financial responsibility? _____.

9. Which text talks about the disadvantages of banning plastic bags? _____.

10. According to Text **A**, what problem is caused when bags are thrown into dustbins?

_____.

11. In which month and year did the government introduce the charge?

_____.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

12. In Text **A**, there is an exclamation mark after “**a staggering 93.5%!**” to show that this is

- A** untrue
- B** amusing
- C** normal
- D** surprising

13. Which is closest in meaning to **relatively** in Text **C**?

- A** comparatively
- B** totally
- C** desperately
- D** repeatedly

14. The purpose of both Texts **A** and **B** is to

- A** advertise
- B** advise
- C** educate
- D** entertain

15. In Text **B**, how can plastic bags affect feeding?

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 16 – 21.

1	<p>Jamie Oliver is a famous television chef. In 2005, Channel 4 put out a series of programmes about Jamie Oliver's attempts to improve the quality of school dinners at Kidbrook School. This led to a campaign to improve school dinners throughout Britain. It was called "Feed Me Better".</p>
2	<p>At Kidbrook, the daily budget for school dinners was just 37p per child. In addition, the students were so used to eating processed junk food, such as deep fried meat products and chips, that there was a student rebellion when Jamie banned chips from the menu. Another problem was that his menu ideas increased the work of the dinner ladies, who cooked and served the food, and they also exceeded the budget. Jamie Oliver produced an education pack, convinced children to help in the kitchen and taught them to identify vegetables. He showed them some of the awful ingredients that go into some junk food.</p>
3	<p>Following the programmes, a petition was signed by over a quarter of a million people, asking the government to improve school meals. As the campaign gained support from people all across the country, Jamie approached members of the government to ask for more money for healthier meals. The British Government promised to improve the food. Some junk foods are now banned from schools altogether and other fried foods are only allowed twice a week. Drinks full of sugar are now not available in schools. The government also set up a budget of £60 million to work on the standard of school meals.</p>
4	<p>In 2006, Jamie went back to Kidbrook School, where there were serious problems. The catering department was losing money, because the shop selling fast food had been closed and the staff were not being paid for the extra work they were doing. The new menus were becoming less popular and the children were again starting to eat junk food.</p>
5	<p>Jamie then went to campaign in Lincolnshire where many schools had closed their kitchens completely. He demonstrated to parents how much junk food children were eating in one school term by laying it all out on a mat. There were two dustbins full of nothing but chips! He organised events for parents, schools and business people from the food and catering industry. Eventually, Jamie Oliver had a meeting with Tony Blair, who was the Prime Minister at the time. He agreed to provide an extra £280 million for three years to improve school meals.</p>
6	<p>In 2009, a report was published which showed that, after Jamie's school meals campaign, the test scores of 11 year olds in English and Science improved. However, in the same year, a newspaper article reported that the number of students eating their lunch at school had decreased by as much as 400,000. A government spokesperson said that more investment was needed to ensure that it became normal for children to sit down for a proper meal at lunchtime.</p>

16. Jamie Oliver wanted to change school meals because they were too expensive.

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

True

☐

False

☐

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

A Jamie Oliver went to Lincolnshire.	
B Jamie Oliver banned chips from the school menu.	1
C A newspaper article was published.	
D Jamie Oliver returned to Kidbrook School.	

18. In paragraph 2, what phrase means the same as 'spent too much money'?

19. In paragraph 2, who does "**them**" refer to?

20. What did the Prime Minister promise to do?

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

21. The main purpose of the text is to

- A** describe education changes in schools.
- B** discuss government spending in schools.
- C** describe improvements in school diets.
- D** compare meals in schools.

End of assessment