



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

Task 1

Read the text and answer questions 1 – 6.

FORAGING FOR FOOD

Paragraph 1

To “forage” means to go searching for wild food. Foods which are **commonly** foraged include fruits such as blackberries and wild raspberries, mushrooms, nuts and many different sorts of leaves and roots. Poorer people have always foraged and during difficult times, people have foraged to add to their diet. Nowadays, foraging is again becoming more popular in Britain and you can even go on courses run by experts to learn all about it. You are taught about the law and, more importantly, which plants are safe to eat and which are harmful. You should try to do this before starting to forage, if at all possible.

Paragraph 2

In the UK, it is legal to forage for food on public land if it's for personal use. However, it is illegal to do it for commercial purposes. If you want to forage for wild food on private land, you must first get the permission of the person who owns the land. Many people who own land will allow it if they are asked politely. It is illegal to dig up the whole plant so scissors should be used to collect the plant without damaging the roots and thus killing the plant. You should not collect any more than you need and you should never take all the plants of any one kind in one area. You should only collect plants in areas where the species grows in large numbers. After picking in one area, give the plants time to recover before returning there.

Paragraph 3

Obviously, you should never eat any wild food unless you are absolutely certain what it is and that it is not harmful. Being able to identify the most common poisonous plants and mushrooms is essential if you are to stay safe. Only a small number of mushrooms are likely to cause death if eaten, although others may cause mild or more serious stomach upsets. The mushroom in the UK, which is easiest to recognise, is called “fly agaric”. It has a red cap with white spots and grows in many parts of the world. While **it** can be dangerous for the very young or the very old, it would not cause death if eaten by a healthy adult.

Paragraph 4

You should avoid picking plants from the roadside as they may be polluted by fumes from traffic. You should also avoid places where farmers may have sprayed their crops with chemicals. When harvesting plants from the sea, make sure that the sea water quality is good and not polluted with domestic or industrial waste products.

By Jean Freeman

1. Circle the letter of the **TWO** correct sentences.
 - A Farmers often go foraging.
 - B Some wild mushrooms are poisonous.
 - C Foraging is illegal everywhere in Britain.
 - D Foraging has become popular in Britain.
2. What **TWO** things does the writer advise you to do before going foraging?
 - A Study the plants you can eat.
 - B Consume some wild berries.
 - C Try eating some nuts.
 - D Learn about the law.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

3. **Commonly**, as used in the first paragraph, means
 - A rarely
 - B coarsely
 - C privately
 - D generally.
4. What must you do before foraging on private land?
 - A Ask a specialist to come with you.
 - B Get permission from the owner.
 - C Get a commercial licence.
 - D Check all the bylaws.

Write your answer on the line.

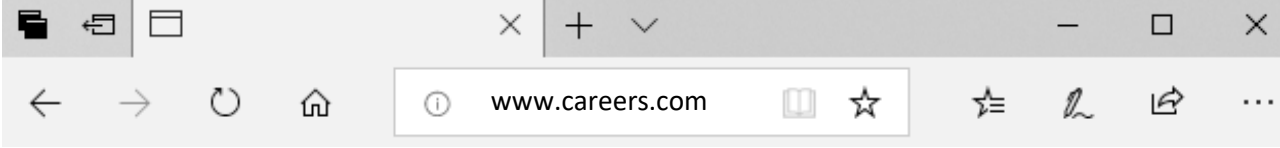
5. In paragraph 3, "While **it** can be dangerous...." What is **it**?

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

6. The purpose of the text is to
- A** give details of all foods to forage
 - B** entertain the reader
 - C** warn us not to do it
 - D** make suggestions.

Task 2

Read these texts and answer questions 7 – 15.



Search

➤ **Text A - Teachers**

Great teachers are passionate about teaching and working with children. They are excited about influencing their students' lives and understand the impact they have. They have a thorough knowledge of the curriculum and of their teaching subject and establish clear objectives for each lesson. They are enthusiastic about what they are teaching and are prepared to answer questions. They can hold the attention of their students.

Great teachers must have effective discipline techniques and be able to ensure good student behaviour, good study skills and an overall sense of respect for others in the classroom. They have high expectations of their students and encourage them all to work to the best of their ability.

Great teachers maintain communication with parents and keep them informed about what is going on in the classroom, in terms of the curriculum, discipline and any other issues.

➤ **Text B - Politicians**

A politician should be honest. It is not always easy to be honest because it exposes any mistakes and allows others to be critical. However, it will give people confidence in their politicians. Politicians should also have the ability both to know and to do what is morally right. Having strong moral beliefs is a vital characteristic of political leaders as it means that they will never forget their values, even if it might benefit **them** to do so.

Politicians should also be able to understand the suffering of others and want to do something about it. Good political leaders see the needs of those they lead and then select a course of action which is of the greatest benefit to all those involved.

A good politician has flexibility and must listen carefully to the views of all sides in order to understand and then to try and find a solution which is acceptable to all parties.

Great political leaders must have all of these qualities and more. They must be able to respect the different views of others, analyse problems and identify the best solutions. The solutions should be based on what is best for the nation and on what is good and right, not based on loyalty to a particular political party or belief system.

➤ **Text C – Doctors**

A good doctor is understanding and kind. Doctors should care about the patients, try to understand how they are feeling and have respect for them. They are interested in the person and they interact with them. Good doctors have a great deal of medical knowledge, are confident and inspire confidence in the patients. They are able to explain illnesses and treatments in plain language which the patients can understand. They are also **good listeners** and take seriously what the patients say. Doctors in general practice have completed many years of study. They have usually studied advanced level science subjects at school for two years in the sixth form, followed by five years at medical school to get a degree in medicine. Then they do a two-year foundation course of general training and another three years training in general practice.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

7. Which **two** texts talk about needing knowledge of their subject?

- A Texts A and B
- B Texts B and C
- C Texts A and C

Write your answer on the line.

8. What sort of attitude to other people do **all three** texts mention? _____ .

9. Which text talks about influencing what other people do? _____ .

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

According to Text **B**, a good politician should

- A know what is right and good
- B be able to persuade people s/he is right
- C be able to identify with the suffering of others
- D be able to do things which benefit her/himself.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

11. In Text **B** 'even if it might benefit **them** to do so', **them** refers to

- A their values
- B other people
- C critical people
- D political leaders.

Write your answer on the line.

12. According to Text **B**, why can it be difficult to be honest?

13. According to Text **C**, how long must a doctor in general practice study for each part of their training course? The first one is done for you.

	Course	Number of years
A	Advanced level science subjects	2
B	Medical degree	
C	A course of general training	
D	Specialist training in general practice	

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

14. In Text **C** 'they are also **good listeners**' means they

- A** are in two minds
- B** allow their attention to wander
- C** focus on one piece of information
- D** concentrate on what someone says.

15. The purpose of the three texts is to

- A** question the effect these people have
- B** suggest the problems of these occupations
- C** identify the qualities influential people should have
- D** examine the problems that these professionals experience.

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 16 – 21.

The National Health Service

NHS

1. On July 5th 1948, the health secretary, Aneurin Bevan, launched the NHS (National Health Service) in Britain. The announcement was made in Manchester at Park Hospital, which is now known as Trafford General Hospital. It was the final stage of an extremely ambitious scheme to provide good healthcare for everyone in the country. For the first time, hospitals, doctors, nurses, pharmacists, opticians and dentists would work together under an **umbrella organisation** – the NHS. This organisation would provide healthcare services, free at the point of delivery, for all. The organisation was to be funded through tax which meant that people would pay into it according to their income. It was based on the idea that healthcare should be available for all, regardless of wealth.

2. In 1948, the NHS was based on three important principles, which remain in place today. The principles are that the NHS:

- meets the needs of everyone
- is provided free
- is based on medical need, not the ability to pay.

3. Prescriptions were originally free but in 1952 charges were introduced and a prescription cost 5p. Charges were abolished in 1965 but reintroduced in 1968, when a prescription was 20p. In the 1970s charges became 45p per item. In 2019 a prescription cost £9.00. In 2023 the charge is £9.65. However, certain groups of people don't have to pay (people over 60, pregnant women, children under 16, people with a long-term illness, etc.).

4. Below are some of the services available to you on the NHS.

- You can call NHS 111 if you urgently need medical help or advice but when it's not a life-threatening situation.
- You can call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.
- You can visit a walk-in centre, a minor injuries unit or urgent care centre if you have a minor illness or injury, such as a cut, and it can't wait until your GP's surgery is open.
- You can ask your pharmacist for advice. S/he can advise about common illnesses such as minor infections or sore throats. S/he can also give travel advice.
- You can make an appointment with your GP (or General Practitioner) if you are feeling unwell and it is not an emergency.

Today the NHS is under increasing pressure because of a growing population who are living longer and therefore require more medical care. Politicians from different parties are unable to agree on how we can continue to fund this much-loved institution.

16. Circle the letters of the **TWO** correct sentences.

- A The NHS is paid for out of taxes.
- B Prescriptions have always had a charge.
- C Patients must pay when they see a doctor.
- D The NHS must meet the needs of rich and poor.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

17. In paragraph 1, an “**umbrella organisation**” is an organisation which

- A forecasts the weather
- B is funded through charity
- C includes many different parts
- D is based in one building/centre.

18. Write the year or years next to the event. The first one has been done for you

	Event	Year/years
A	The NHS was launched.	1948
B	A prescription cost 5p.	
C	A prescription cost 45p per item.	
D	A prescription cost £9.00.	

Write your answer on the line.

19. Write two groups of people who don't have to pay for their prescriptions.

_____ and _____.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

20. In paragraph 4, the writer uses bullet points •

- A to show a list of what the NHS offers
- B to emphasise the principles of the NHS
- C because it is not a complete list of services
- D because it tells you what the NHS is not responsible for.

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

21. The purpose of the text is to

- A describe the services offered by the NHS
- B instruct the reader about how the NHS began
- C persuade the reader to use the NHS more often
- D warn the reader about the rising cost of prescriptions.

End of assessment