



English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.
Level 2 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Reading)

Paper Time
 60 minutes

ERF 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	1.4		2	1.4	
3	3.1		3	3.1	
4	1.2		4	1.2	
5	1.3		5	1.3	
6	2.1		6	2.1	
7	1.4		7	1.4	
8	1.1		8	1.1	
9	3.1		9	3.1	
10	1.2		10	1.2	
11	1.3		11	1.3	
12	3.2		12	3.2	
13	3.2		13	3.2	
14	3.2		14	3.2	
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.

Para	<h3>Grass</h3> 
1	<p>Over 30% of our planet is covered with grass. Grass is found all across the world, but the largest areas are in Africa, where 50% of the land is grass. Grass can be found on the tops of mountains, on the edges of deserts and even on the coast, where the high tide covers it twice every day. It is estimated that there are about ten thousand species of grass worldwide, found in many different habitats.</p>
2	<p>Grass started to grow on planet Earth about 8 million years ago, when the climate changed and the forests started to dry out. It is mainly found where the annual rainfall is between 600 and 1500 millimetres and the average annual temperature is between minus 5 and 20 degrees Celsius. However, grass can survive through fire, floods, rain and snow; it can live under the heat of the tropical sun in Central America and in the freezing temperatures of parts of Russia. Grass is able to grow in very poor soil where trees and other vegetation cannot live. Grass can be very short but can also be taller than an elephant. It has fed farm animals and provided us with building materials and fuel for thousands of years.</p>
3	<p>The world's tallest grass is called "Elephant Grass", and it can grow to more than 6 metres in height. The place to see this magnificent plant is in the Kaziranga National Park in the north-east of India. Because there is so much grass, populations of many endangered species, such as elephants and tigers, are thriving. The grass in this park grows so well because of the annual spring flooding of its four rivers. This prevents trees and bushes from developing here and thus maintains a reliable crop of grass for grass-eating animals such as elephants and deer. In the autumn, after the floods have gone, the new grass provides plenty of food for the animals and they arrive in their thousands.</p>
4	<p>Huge numbers of animals and birds eat grass, from camels and sheep to rabbits and geese. Although indigestible for human beings, we too depend on grass for food because many of us eat the animals which eat the grass, or we use their milk and eggs in our diet. In addition, the root systems of the grass hold the soil in place and prevent it from blowing away. In this way, grass helps us to grow our fruit and vegetables.</p>
5	<p>So, next time you are in a park or in the countryside, walking on some green grass, remember to look at it with renewed respect, knowing how important it is for our survival and that of the animals, birds and plants on our planet.</p>

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. This text is about
 - A where animals live
 - B an adaptable plant
 - C changing climate
 - D growing food.

2. Which word is nearest in meaning to **habitats** in paragraph 1?
 - A environments
 - B accommodations
 - C countries
 - D routines

3. Grass has been a useful resource for humans. According to paragraph 2, what are **TWO** ways that humans use grass? Write your answers on the lines.

1. _____

2. _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

4. According to the text, the floods in the Kaziranga National Park
 - A put large animals in danger
 - B encourage tree growth
 - C stop large plants from growing
 - D take place in the autumn.



5. In paragraph 4, what does **it** refer to? Write your answer on the line.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

6. The purpose of the text is to
- A** amuse the reader with an entertaining story
 - B** invite you to consider the risks of extreme weather
 - C** instruct readers about how to grow a useful crop
 - D** encourage us to appreciate something we see every day.

Task 2

Read the texts and answer questions 7 – 15.

<p>A</p> <p>Paint Pots</p> <p>Professional Painter and Decorator</p> <p>Is your living room looking shabby? Are you sick of the colour of your bedroom? I can transform your home with beautiful fresh paint and paper!</p> <p>Interior decorating Exterior painting Fence and wall painting</p> <p>Houses and flats Care homes Hotels and restaurants</p> <p>Small jobs are welcome too.</p> <p>I have an NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Painting and Decorating and 20 years' experience. Fully insured References on request 10% discount for pensioners</p> <p>Call Peter Pots on 07893 736253 for a free advice visit and a quotation. Evening and weekend appointments available.</p> <p> Find us on Facebook</p> <p>Paint Pots Painter and Decorator</p>	<p>B</p> <p>Sara White</p> <p>Emergency Domestic Plumber</p> <p>(Manchester area)</p> <p>Is your shower leaking? Has your central heating stopped working? Do you have a burst pipe? Is your sink or toilet blocked? Does your central heating need a service?</p> <p>I will solve your plumbing problems with a smile.</p> <p>I have a genuine 24-hour call out service. You can call me day or night, 7 days a week.</p> <p>I have a City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Domestic Plumbing and Heating and 15 years' experience.</p> <p>Competitive prices – ask me for an estimate.</p> <p>Fully insured</p> <p>Ring 0874 374859</p> <p></p>
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C


Do you need help with your computer, tablet or phone?

Ahmed Sharma Computer Consultant

Affordable support for home users and small businesses

I can repair your computer, protect it from viruses, upgrade your tablet, make your phone run like new again and even build you a new PC! I have 23 years' experience of building and repairing computers. I undertake all aspects of IT work in your own home. I can offer a speedy service (usually the same or next day). If you feel that your skills are out of date, I also offer training in using new technologies and can set up your broadband and Wi-Fi. 15% discount for the over sixties!

Please ring me on 07837 374859



Circle the letter of the correct answer.

7. Look at text **A**. **Exterior** means the same as
- A** outside
 - B** central
 - C** secondary
 - D** additional.
8. The worker in text **B** offers urgent repairs for
- A** gas leaks
 - B** electrical goods
 - C** water blockages
 - D** technological items.
9. Which sentence is correct?
- A** Sara is experienced but has no plumbing qualifications.
 - B** Sara can help you if your plumbing problem is urgent.
 - C** You can contact Sara by email and telephone.
 - D** You should contact Sara if you have a hotel or business.

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

10. In text **C**, Ahmed Sharma can
- A** train you to build computers
 - B** construct and safeguard your computer
 - C** sort out your internet connection
 - D** carry out repairs in his shop.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

11. In text **C**, why are the words (usually the same or next day) in brackets ()?

- A** Somebody said these words.
- B** To give additional information.
- C** To make the text clearer.
- D** These details are not important.

12. Which **TWO** texts offer a reduction for older people?

- A** Text **A** and Text **B**
- B** Text **A** and Text **C**
- C** Text **B** and Text **C**

13. Which **TWO** texts state that the people can tell you what the work will probably cost before they start?

- A** Text **A** and Text **B**
- B** Text **A** and Text **C**
- C** Text **B** and Text **C**

14. Which text offers an opportunity to become more competent?

A	B	C
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15. The purpose of all three texts is to

- A** persuade you to set up your own business
- B** emphasise the benefits of having qualifications
- C** instruct you how to carry out repairs in your home
- D** influence your decision about which worker to choose.

Task 3

Read the text and answer questions 16 – 21.

[ARTICLE](#) [MEDIA](#) [INFO](#) [PRINT](#) [CITE](#) [FEEDBACK](#) [SHARE](#)



The Post Office

Originally, the Post Office was called the “Royal Mail”. This was because it was established to carry only private royal correspondence. In 1635, King Charles I made it legal for the post to be used for the letters of the general public. A network of post offices was established. The post was sent from the post office to a sorting station and then delivered to the receiver of the post. Initially, it was the person receiving the post who had to pay the fee and they could refuse to accept the item if they didn’t want to pay. The charge was based on the distance the letter had travelled and so careful records had to be kept to calculate the correct price.

In 1765, Parliament authorised the creation of “Penny Posts” in any town or city in the UK. The single postage rate of 1 penny was charged within the area around the town or city. The person sending the letter paid the postage. In 1835, Rowland Hill published a booklet called “Post Office Reform” and this led to the introduction of the first postage stamp. From May of that year, postage could be paid in advance. The first stamp which could be stuck onto a letter was known as the “**Penny Black**”. It wasn’t until 1853 that the first post boxes were erected in Britain. It is estimated that there are now well over 116,000! These two innovations meant that you could keep a supply of stamps in your home or business, attach one to your letter and put it into a post box at your own convenience without the need to visit a post office every time you wanted to send a letter.

The local postman or woman used to be given an area to which they delivered regularly and they would know the people who lived there. They provided an informal social service too; they knew that if an elderly person lived alone and their curtains stayed closed, that person might need some help. From 1880, bicycles were **commonly** used for delivery for over 130 years. There used to be two deliveries each day, one in the early morning and one later in the day, but this was stopped in 2004.

The village post office is a very important part of life in many rural areas. Often the post office is in the only shop. Local residents can buy milk, newspapers and some groceries as well as getting information about events in the village. In the post office, residents can pay their council tax and other bills, collect their pensions, renew their driving licences, use the banking service and much more, as well as buying stamps and posting parcels. In some villages, the post office has been closed and this is a great loss to the local community. In other villages, the post office is now run by volunteers who recognise the value of the local post office and give their time to help it continue.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

16. The text tells us about

- A** the design of stamps
- B** buying groceries
- C** the supply of post boxes
- D** the development of the Post Office.

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

Event	Number
Bicycles were used for delivering the post.	
The first post boxes were built.	
Postage stamps were introduced.	
The Penny Post was established.	1

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

18. In paragraph 2, “**Penny Black**” is in inverted commas to show that

- A** it is a joke
- B** this is the colour of post boxes
- C** this is the phrase being discussed
- D** they are the words spoken by Rowland Hill.

19. What are the two innovations discussed in paragraph 2?

Write your answers on the lines.

1 _____

2 _____

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

20. Which word is nearest in meaning to **commonly** in paragraph 3?

- A rarely
- B usually
- C quickly
- D surprisingly

21. The text is

- A an amusing tale
- B an advertisement
- C an informative account
- D a revealing comparison.

End of Assessment