

# ESOL Skills for Life

## Level 2 – Reading

### Sample Paper 3

Time allowed: 60 minutes

- ▶ Write your name, candidate number, centre number and exam date on your answer sheet.
- ▶ You must not open this exam paper until instructed to do so.
- ▶ This exam paper has **three** tasks. Answer **all** questions.
- ▶ You may highlight parts of the texts or questions with a highlighter pen.
- ▶ Use only blue or black pen for your answers.
- ▶ Circle your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

1. What is this text about?

- A books
- B television
- C cinemas



Question	Answer
1.	A <input checked="" type="radio"/> B C
2.	A B C
3.	A B C

- ▶ You must not use pencil, erasable pen or correction fluid.
- ▶ You must not use a dictionary in this exam.
- ▶ You must not take this exam paper out of the exam room.

**Task 1**

Read the text on page 3 and answer questions 1-6.

**Questions 1-4**

The text on page 3 has six paragraphs. Match the correct paragraph (A-F) to the descriptions below. There is one paragraph you don't need and one example.

*Example: to conclude the article with a final opinion*

..... *F* .....

1. to give some background information on the photographer
2. to explain the public's response to the artwork
3. to detail the layout of the exhibition
4. to outline the symbolism of the photographs

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**Questions 5-6**

Choose the correct answer.

5. Allan's new exhibition is different because
  - A it shows landmarks in popular cities
  - B the pictures are very fashionable
  - C buildings are not the focus
6. What is the reviewer's opinion of the exhibition?
  - A the space in Allan's house is ideal to show his pictures
  - B the photographs would be better presented in a public arena
  - C Allan should focus on photographing famous places and buildings

## New photography exhibition

### Paragraph A

A new exhibition has opened in town. However, it is not in a gallery or a museum – it is in the kitchen of a local photographer, Fergus Allan. *Transport in my lifetime* is his latest work after his successful stint at the Royal Academy of Photography. He has decided to display this set of photographs in his home.

### Paragraph B

Allan has been a photographer for 27 years and has been involved in many popular exhibitions. His latest exhibition marks a departure from his usual style of photographing architecture and famous landmarks. Other exhibitions have included photos taken in capital cities and were highly successful.

### Paragraph C

Allan's latest work involves eight large-scale photographs of children standing next to large modes of transport dating from the last 50 years. These are all placed around his kitchen which has a high ceiling and lots of natural light. Steam trains and modern trains nestle alongside commuter ferries, jumbo jets and a double-decker bus.

### Paragraph D

For Allan, these photographs represent the changes in public transport use. Transport has become smaller in size and stature – people now use single-decker buses or taxis. Roads are congested with cars instead of buses. He has confessed that he longs to live in a time where waiting for a bus or train means time to think or to engage with other commuters. He now thinks that we all live in individual worlds instead of a unified one.

### Paragraph E

Unfortunately, few people have dared to visit Allan's house to look at the photographs. The exhibition has not been well publicised and Allan is deciding whether to abandon his idea of using his home to show his pictures. It would be a shame because some of the images are unique and show the historical changes in transport.

### Paragraph F

Allan has tried something different with this latest work. The photographs are majestic and inspiring. However, the problem with this exhibition is that it doesn't seem to work in a house. These pictures need a big and accessible space where hundreds can see them, not just the few who have come to Allan's house so far.

Turn over page

**Task 2**

Read the text on page 5 and answer questions 7-16.

**Questions 7-10**

Four sentences are missing from the text. Choose the best sentence for each gap. There is one sentence you don't need and one example.

- A *(Example) At the same time, junk food is becoming cheaper.*
- B Dr Hans, an expert in nutrition, thinks that there could be serious consequences for public health.
- C Another suggestion is that the government could introduce a tax on junk food.
- D There are fears that some people don't know how to cook nowadays.
- E Should supermarkets be doing more to keep the cost down?
- F One reason why fruit and vegetables are more expensive is that people want to buy all varieties throughout the year.

**Questions 11-13**

Choose the correct answer.

- 11. According to paragraph one, in the future, fruit and vegetables will become something people
  - A eat every day
  - B never eat
  - C eat rarely
- 12. In paragraph three, when does the chef want people to buy fruit and vegetables?
  - A all year round
  - B when available
  - C in the summer
- 13. The manager of Sunrise Supermarket thinks his products are
  - A very fresh
  - B well-priced
  - C top-quality

**Questions 14-16**

Choose the word with the same meaning as the word **in bold**.

- 14. **substantially** (paragraph one)
  - A a little
  - B a lot
  - C by half
- 15. **alternatives** (paragraph two)
  - A choices
  - B shapes
  - C opinions
- 16. **schemes** (paragraph five)
  - A programmes
  - B costs
  - C diets

## The cost of healthy eating

### Paragraph one

The cost of fruit and vegetables has risen **substantially** all over the world in the last ten years. The price of green vegetables such as cabbage and broccoli has doubled in the last decade. This has raised concerns that in the future these products will become luxury items, rather than everyday essentials.

### Paragraph two

                  A (Example)                  . The price of frozen food products such as pizzas, ice cream and chips is decreasing. Government health advisors have stated that if people can't afford to buy fresh, healthy food, they will have no choice but to turn to cheaper **alternatives** such as ready meals, which often contain high levels of salt, sugar and fat. A new fad of healthy ready-made and delivered meals is becoming popular in big cities, however. Sometimes it is possible to get a discount on the first meal.

### Paragraph three

                  7.                  . In the past, people would eat different food according to the season and only buy food that was fresh and available in particular months, for example, strawberries in summer and potatoes in October in the UK. A leading British chef said that if people bought food grown by local farmers, at the correct time of year, the cost would be significantly lower and this would be a great benefit to the local economy.

### Paragraph four

                  8.                  . The manager of Sunrise Supermarket doesn't think so. He said that fruit and vegetables are already very reasonably priced in his store. He claimed there are regular promotions and his supermarket also provides a budget range of products. He added that there are also significant reductions at the end of each day on dairy produce and there are also cheaper frozen and tinned products available.

### Paragraph five

                  9.                  . This would make it more expensive to buy and therefore less appealing. The extra funds could be used to subsidise the cost of fruit and vegetables. Similar **schemes** have been introduced in countries such as Mexico. However, some people feel that charging more for convenience food would take away their freedom of choice.

### Paragraph six

                  10.                  . He added that the government needs to do more to encourage healthy eating, and investing time and money on this issue will save money in the long run by reducing healthcare costs. Failure to do so could lead to an increase in illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes. What is more, people could become deficient in essential vitamins and minerals that fruit and vegetables provide. He said that a great deal more needs to be done so that people can eat healthily and cheaply.

Turn over page

**Task 3**

There are five related texts starting on page 8. Read all the texts and answer questions 17-30.

**Questions 17-19**

Match the correct text (A-E) to the descriptions below. There is one text you don't need and one example.

*Example:* to discuss the performance of two different candidates  
**and** to decide who should get the job

..... D .....

17. to reject a candidate for a job **and** to offer encouragement .....
18. to invite a candidate for an interview **and** to give information about what to expect .....
19. to advertise a job **and** to give information about the candidate profile .....




**Questions 20-22**

Choose the correct answer.

20. Text A is
- A an attempt to interest people in horticultural jobs
  - B a balanced evaluation of careers in horticulture
  - C a warning that horticulture is not for everyone
21. According to text D, Andrei
- A performed quite well at the interview
  - B had some good ideas for the rose garden
  - C does not have much experience of gardening
22. According to text D, Sara
- A seemed less ambitious than Andrei
  - B was by far the best candidate
  - C arrived late for the interview



## Text A

 <input data-bbox="304 264 1251 315" type="text" value="www.national-horticulture-association.co.uk"/>  					
<a href="#">About Us</a>	<a href="#">Careers</a>	<a href="#">Courses</a>	<a href="#">Jobs</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	<a href="#">About Horticulture</a>

## WORKING IN HORTICULTURE

**A**

Horticulture isn't just about gardening, although gardening is obviously an important part of it. Jobs in this sector can range from managing a garden centre, to looking after the grounds of a historic property, to advising a local council on planting.

**B (Example)**

In fact, there's something for everyone in horticulture. You could be a soil scientist, a park ranger working in one of our beautiful National Parks, or a journalist writing about plant-related issues for a range of specialist and general publications.

**C**

People come into horticulture at all stages of life. Some begin with an apprenticeship, some build on a degree in a subject like Biology or History, and others train part-time in order to prepare for a change in career in later life.

**D**

There are few, if any, millionaires working in horticulture, but there are a lot of very happy individuals who have welcomed the opportunity to develop a career that they find satisfying and worthwhile.

**E**

Horticulture is one of the largest industries in the UK. A thriving horticulture sector is crucial to the health of the nation – after all, without plants we wouldn't be able to survive at all! It's a great area to work in if you want to feel you are making a difference.

**F**

Click on the 'Careers' tab to find detailed information about the different jobs that fall under the heading of horticulture.



## Text B

⬅️ ➡️

About Us	Careers	Courses	Jobs	Contact Us	About Horticulture
----------	---------	---------	------	------------	--------------------

## GARDENER

### Southfield Castle

Are you looking for a career in horticulture? Start here! Southfield Castle is run by Preserving the Past Ltd, so experience gained in this post could open the door to a range of exciting opportunities at any of our properties throughout the country.

Southfield Castle is set in outstandingly beautiful grounds in the Midshire countryside. The garden looks wonderful all the year round and attracts visitors from all over the world.

**About this job**

We're looking for a passionate gardener who understands the importance of this historic garden to our national culture. The successful candidate will play a vital role in ensuring that visitors have an outstanding experience with us. As a gardener, you will be part of a team charged with keeping the garden beautifully presented at all times. This will include planting, pruning, mowing and hedge clipping. You will also be required to support our many **dedicated** volunteers. Regular weekend working, as part of a rota, is expected of all our staff.

**About you**

You will have practical experience of gardening and horticulture and hold at least a Level 2 qualification in horticulture. You must be able to demonstrate an excellent knowledge of plants. You need to be passionate, enthusiastic and willing to engage with our visitors, answering their questions with courtesy and an obvious pride in Southfield Castle garden.

**What you can expect from us**

- Salary well above the industry average
- Opportunities for training and development
- Annual pay review
- Generous holiday entitlement
- Opportunities for promotion within the company, including gaining managerial experience at many of our beautiful properties across the country

Turn over page

**Text C**

**To:** Andrei Grigorescu  
**From:** Susie Smythe  
**Subject:** Interview

---

Dear Andrei

Thank you for your interest in the position of gardener at Southfield Castle. I am pleased to invite you for an interview at 9.30am on Thursday 26 June.

The interview will take place in our office at 8 Church Street, Mayhurst, and last for about thirty minutes. You will have the opportunity to talk about your experience as a gardener. The panel will also ask you a range of questions designed to test your ability to create eye-catching displays with plants and to ensure that they are well looked after.

Kind regards

Susie Smythe  
Managing Director  
Preserving the Past Ltd

## Text D

**From:** Susie Smythe  
**To:** Maryam Hussein, Jack Thomas  
**Subject:** Gardener at Southfield Castle

---

Jack, Maryam

Thanks for your input. I've thought about what you've both said and I've decided to go for Sara. Jack, I understand your **concerns**, but remember we're looking for someone who can really make a career with us. Andrei was a great candidate, but I get the impression he will never want to move out of the garden, whereas Sara has the drive to go far with our organisation.

I'm going to give her a chance.

Susie

**From:** Jack Thomas  
**To:** Susie Smythe, Maryam Hussein  
**Subject:** Gardener at Southfield Castle

---

Susie and Maryam

I understand where you're both coming from, but I wasn't convinced by Sara. I'd have been more inclined to support her if she had arrived on time. Plus I know this is a gardening job, but I still think candidates should make an effort with their appearance.

I wondered how much commitment there really is under all that enthusiasm. How do you think she'll cope when it's freezing cold and she's got a couple of **grumpy** visitors moaning that there aren't any flowers out in January?

I know Andrei was a bit quiet compared to Sara, but I felt his experience spoke for itself. And look at his references! I don't see how we can turn him down.

Jack

**From:** Maryam Hussein  
**To:** Susie Smythe, Jack Thomas  
**Subject:** Gardener at Southfield Castle

---

Hello both!

Yes – I'm with Susie! Didn't you just love her ideas for the new rose garden? Sara gets my vote.

Maryam

**From:** Susie Smythe  
**To:** Maryam Hussein, Jack Thomas  
**Subject:** Gardener at Southfield Castle

---

Maryam and Jack

We need to get on with this. I'm in Paris next week and I want us to have made a decision before I leave.

I'm still on the side of Sara. I know she lacks experience but her enthusiasm and imagination really shone through.

Let me know your thoughts asap.

Susie

Turn over page

**Text E**

*Preserving the Past Ltd, 8 Church Street, Mayhurst MA1 2BC*

Andrei Grigorescu  
23 Church Road  
Newtown  
N20 3TP

5 July 2017

Dear Mr Grigorescu,

I regret to inform you that on this occasion we are unable to offer you the position of gardener at Southfield Castle.

Although the panel was very impressed with your performance and qualifications, competition for this job was particularly fierce. We would welcome another application from you in the future if you see another post that interests you.

Thank you for your interest in Preserving the Past Ltd.

Yours sincerely,

*Susie Smythe*

Susie Smythe  
Managing Director

**Remember to circle your answers on the answer sheet.**

1. What is this text about?

- A books  
B television  
C cinemas



Question	Answer		
1.	A	<u>B</u>	C
2.	A	B	C
3.	A	B	C

**End of exam**

## **Skills for Life Level 2 Reading – Sample paper 3 Answers**

1. B
2. E
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. F
8. E
9. C
10. B
11. C
12. B
13. B
14. B
15. A
16. A
17. E
18. C
19. B
20. A
21. A
22. C
23. E
24. F
25. C
26. C
27. A
28. B
29. A
30. C