

**ESOL International  
English Reading Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on your mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use a pencil.

You may NOT use a dictionary.

There are 30 questions in this examination.

You must attempt all the questions.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Total marks available: 30

You have **60 minutes** to finish the examination.

## Text 1

Google has marked the first day of spring with one of its famous doodles – in this case, a charming little blobman watering a handful of lovely flowers. Google’s chap obviously doesn’t live in England, who has suffered its wettest winter in 250 years and where the daffodils definitely don’t need watering.

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But there’s also something curiously dated about announcing the start of spring after daffodils, crocuses and other buds of spring have been out for several months in some parts of the country. 20 March is the spring equinox which, in the astronomical system of seasons, is the first day of spring.

The date the spring and autumn equinoxes fall each year - the days are the ones when day and night are roughly the same length - fluctuates because of the Earth’s orbit around the sun.

Meteorological types, like the Met Office, prefer to use a temperature-based system, where spring is fixed every year - it officially starts on 1 March, and runs through to the end of May. (The Met Office has a good blog post on the difference between the two systems).

However, both systems feel like they’ve not kept up with the times. As average temperatures have gone up due to climate change, studs have found British flowers came out between two and twelve days earlier in the past quarter century than in any previous 25-year period.

This year, traditional harbingers of spring, such as ladybirds and butterflies, and hazel and snowdrops flowering, appeared in early January. The winter, as well as being exceptionally wet, were also unusually mild, even by the standard of recent years.

Maybe next year, Google’s spring doodle will appear a couple of months earlier too.

1. A quarter of a century means:
  - a. 15 years
  - b. 25 years
  - c. 50 years
  - d. 75 years
  
2. The text suggests, that according to the Met Office:
  - a. Spring starts on 20 March.
  - b. Spring starts on 1 March.
  - c. It was the wettest winter in 250 years.
  - d. British flowers came early this year.
  
3. The word 'harbingers' as used on line 27 means:
  - a. Insects
  - b. Flowers
  - c. Seasons
  - d. Signs
  
4. What is an equinox?
  - a. The longest day of the year.
  - b. The longest night of the year.
  - c. A period of spring.
  - d. Time when night and day are of the same length.
  
5. According to the text, which statement is true?
  - a. Spring equinox falls on the same day every year.
  - b. Spring equinox varies in different years.
  - c. Spring equinox always falls on 1 March.
  - d. Spring equinox came early this year.

6. The tone of the text can be described as:
  - a. Factual and serious
  - b. Jokey and factual
  - c. Informative and persuasive
  - d. Descriptive and persuasive
  
7. A word has been spelt correctly but wrongly used on:
  - a. Line 3
  - b. Line 9
  - c. Line 14
  - d. Line 19
  
8. A spelling mistake has been made on:
  - a. Line 8
  - b. Line 14
  - c. Line 23
  - d. Line 29
  
9. A grammatical mistake has been made on:
  - a. Line 10
  - b. Line 13
  - c. Line 20
  - d. Line 29
  
10. Which word should always be spelt with a capital letter:
  - a. January
  - b. Office
  - c. March
  - d. May

**Text 2**

<b>A 20% tax on sugary drinks would reduce the number of obese adults in the UK by 180,000, say researchers writing in the British Medical Journal.</b>	1
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The impact would be greatest in the under-30s, the Oxford and Reading university study suggests.	5
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But some groups say a tax is misguided and simplistic and would not have an impact on older age groups who might benefit most from losing weight. Earlier this year doctors called for a soft drinks tax to reduce sugar intake.	8
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Sugar-sweetened drinks, when taken regularly, have been shown to increase the risk of obesity, diabetes and tooth decay. A typical sugary drink can contain six to 15 teaspoons of sugar? One teaspoon of sugar is equivalent to 4g of sugar or 16 calories. A 20% tax would add about 12p to the price of a 330ml can of fizzy drink bought in a supermarket or about 40p to the cost of a two-litre bottle. The researchers in this study ..... that such a tax could cut drinks purchases by 15% and lead to a reduced energy intake of 28 calories per person per week. Overall, they estimated that such a tax would reduce the number of obese UK adults by 1.3% and the number of overweight adults by 0.9%.	12
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Among younger adults, aged 16-29, who drink larger quantities of sugary drinks (300ml per day) than older adults (60ml per day), the researchers predicted a reduction of 128,000 in the number of obese adults - a bigger impact than for other age groups.	22
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But Gavin Partington, Director General of the British Soft Drinks Association, said soft drinks was not to blame for obesity."There's ample evidence to suggest that taxing soft drinks won't curb obesity, not least because its causes are far more complex than this simplistic approach implies. Trying to blame one set of products is misguided, particularly when they comprise a mere 2% of calories in the average diet."	26
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Dr Adam Briggs, lead study author from the Nuffield Department of Population Health at Oxford University, said their research led them to conclude that taxing sugar-sweetened drinks "is a promising population measure".	31
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11. How much does the study propose as a tax rise on sugary drinks?
  - a. 0.9% rise
  - b. 1.3% rise
  - c. 2% rise
  - d. 20% rise
  
12. How much will an average can of sugary drinks increase by?
  - a. 4 pence
  - b. 12 pence
  - c. 15 pence
  - d. 40 pence
  
13. Which age group drinks most sugary drinks?
  - a. Children
  - b. Young adults
  - c. Older adults
  - d. Elderly people
  
14. Which of the following is not caused by drinking sugary drinks?
  - a. Obesity
  - b. Diabetes
  - c. Tooth problems
  - d. Weight loss
  
15. Which best describes the format of the text?
  - a. A survey
  - b. A story
  - c. A letter
  - d. An article

16. A punctuation mark has been wrongly used on:
- Line 9
  - Line 14
  - Line 19
  - Line 24
17. A word has been omitted on line 17. It should be:
- Establish
  - Laughed
  - Estimated
  - Produced
18. A grammatical error has been made on:
- Line 16
  - Line 20
  - Line 23
  - Line 27
19. A word has been incorrectly used on:
- Line 9
  - Line 19
  - Line 30
  - Line 33
20. The word 'misguided' as used on line 29 can be best replaced by:
- Deluded
  - Unwise
  - Correct
  - Prudent

### Text 3

#### Recipe - for the filling

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 tbsp olive oil</li><li>• large knob of butter</li><li>• 1 leek, thinly sliced</li><li>• 4-5 spring onions, thinly chopped</li><li>• 150g/5oz button mushrooms, thinly sliced</li><li>• 225g/8oz boneless cooked chicken, shredded</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 150g/5oz feta cheese, crumbled</li><li>• 4 tbsp chopped dill</li><li>• 4 tbsp chopped parsley</li><li>• 4-6 tbsp double cream</li><li>• a little freshly ground nutmeg</li><li>• freshly ground black pepper and a little salt</li></ul> |
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#### Preparation method

1. For the filling, heat the olive oil and butter in a pan and fry the leeks, spring onions and mushrooms until softened.
2. Place in a large bowl with the cooked chicken, feta cheese, the herbs – dill and parsley - and enough cream to make the mixture moist.
3. Season the filling with lots of freshly ground black pepper and a little nutmeg to taste. Try the filling and add a little salt if needed. Feta cheese is very salty so you might not need it.
4. Brush the base of a frying pan with olive oil. Lay some large pieces of pastry over the pan so that it drapes over the sides and brush all over with olive oil, then spoon in half the filling.
5. Roll a piece of pastry and lay on top of the filling to cover. Brush with olive oil and sprinkle with a little water.
6. Spoon in the rest of the filling; place more pastry on top in the same way as before to make the top layer, brush with olive oil and sprinkle with water.
7. Fold the pastry which is hanging over the edges of the pan, back over the top to form a nice round pie. Brush again with olive oil and sprinkle lightly with water.
8. Fry for 6-8 minutes on a low heat, checking all the time so it doesn't go brown too fast.
9. Remove from the heat, turn over like a Spanish tortilla by placing a plate over the frying pan and quickly turning the pie upside-down on to the plate. Quickly slide it back into the pan and cook the other side for 6-8 minutes, or until golden-brown.
10. Place on a round wooden board and cut into large wedges. Serve hot or cold with a green salad or vegetables.



21. What is the main purpose of the above text?
- a. To persuade
  - b. To instruct
  - c. To inform
  - d. To entertain
22. What should you do with feta cheese in this recipe?
- a. Fry it with vegetables
  - b. Serve with a salad
  - c. Use as an ingredient for the filling
  - d. Serve with chicken
23. The last cooking process is:
- a. Fry the vegetables
  - b. Fry the other side of the pie
  - c. Mix the vegetables and chicken
  - d. Serve a salad
24. Which of the following is a herb?
- a. Nutmeg
  - b. Salt
  - c. Black pepper
  - d. Dill
25. Without changing the meaning, the word 'cut' in instruction 10 could be replaced by:
- a. Slice
  - b. Chop
  - c. Rip
  - d. Serve

## Text 4

Robert Douglas Thomas Pattinson was born on 13 May 1986 in London. His father, Richard, imported vintage cars from America, and his mother, Clare, worked for a modelling agency. He became involved in amateur theatre at the Barnes Theatre Company where he auditioned and was cast in a small role in <i>Guys and Dolls</i> . From such humble beginnings, Robert has gone on to become a recognised actor, model, musician and producer. In 2008, he landed the coveted role of the vampire, Edward Cullen, in <i>Twilight</i> , the first film of the film adaptations of the <i>Twilight</i> novels by Stephanie Meyer which brought him worldwide fame turning him into a movie star overnight. He went on to reprise the roll in the sequels: <i>The Twilight Saga: New Moon</i> (2009), <i>The Twilight Saga: Eclipse</i> (2010), <i>The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1</i> (2011) and <i>The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2</i> (2012).	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
He started his early acting career playing Cedric Diggory in <i>Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire</i> . In 2009, he portrayed Salvador Dali in <i>Little Ashes</i> . In 2010 he appeared as a troubled young man in <i>Remember Me</i> and in 2011 starred in the romantic drama <i>Water for Elephants</i> . He also played Georges Duroy in a film adaptation of the 1885 novel <i>Bel Ami</i> which premiered at the 62 <sup>nd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival. He earned critical praise for his performance in 2012 as a tough, cold-hearted and calculating billionaire in David Cronenberg's film, <i>Cosmopolis</i> . Pattinson plays and composes his own music and has sung songs for his films <i>Twilight</i> and <i>How to Be</i> . He is currently filming in Toronto playing Damien Stock, a <i>Life</i> magazine photographer in Anton Corbijn's <i>Life</i> and will star alongside Carey Mulligan in James Marsh's <i>Hold On to Me</i> with filming scheduled to start in September 2014.	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
(Adapted from Wikipedia article accessed 02.04.2014)	

26. What is one of Robert Pattinson's middle names?
- Cedric
  - Douglas
  - Edward
  - Georges
27. Which statement is true about Robert Pattinson?
- He appeared in five of the Twilight films.
  - He ceased acting to concentrate on his music career.
  - His mother is an actress.
  - He is a billionaire.
28. In line 8, the word 'coveted' could be replaced by:
- Unpopular
  - Scorned
  - Needed
  - Desirable
29. The text suggests that Robert Pattinson:
- Became rich overnight
  - Won an Oscar for his acting in 2010
  - Was in the novel *Bel Ami* written in 1885
  - Received praise for a performance in 2012
30. A word has been correctly spelt but incorrectly used in:
- Line 8
  - Line 12
  - Line 18
  - Line 26

**End of Examination**

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