

**ESOL International
English Listening Examination**

Level C2 Proficient

Texts to be used with the examination

The texts are to be recorded and sent to the centre on a disk prior to the examination.

Instructions are written in underlined italics and should not be recorded.

The recording must be played to learners in full from start to finish.

This is the NOCN ESOL International Proficient Level C2 Listening examination.

Please check that your name and other details are on your mark sheet.

The invigilator will have explained how to fill in the mark sheet.

Do not write on your examination paper.

The Listening examination will now begin.

Part 1

You will hear 10 sentences.

Read the replies on your examination paper. You have two minutes to read the replies on your examination paper.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to the sentences. You will hear the sentences in full twice. Choose the best reply for the situation. Then you will have two minutes to check your answers.

Record the sentences (three seconds between each sentence).

1. Are you feeling well?
2. Do you respect your parents?
3. Did you get the job?
4. Could you show me how to do it?
5. I think I saw Peter in town yesterday.
6. What did he say?
7. Can you come to the party?
8. When did you last see Gina and Tom?
9. I thought they prosecuted the thief!
10. I told you to be quiet!

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the sentences again.

Record the sentences again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

You will hear two conversations. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both conversations. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to Conversation 1. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the conversation.

- Rita, did you hear about that egg sold on eBay recently?
- No, what happened?
- Well, a perfectly spherical chicken egg was sold for an unbelievable £480 on the internet auction.
- You're pulling my leg?! Why?
- Apparently, Kim Broughton, the owner, found one of her hens - now renamed Ping Pong - had laid a round egg in her garden on the 17th of February - Pancake Day. She decided to auction the egg in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust after a friend's son died from the disease.
- That's incredible! Why would someone want to buy an egg?
- I read that the buyer was interested in preserving, rather than eating, the unusual egg. It was laid by a Buff Orpington hen - described as the "Scarlett Johansson of the chicken world" - attracted 64 bids, but no-one knows who the high bidder was.
- No way! Good job she didn't eat it herself.
- Well, Ms Broughton said she had been tempted to cook and eat the egg before being told it was "one-in-a-billion". She apparently said: "I was literally about to crack it open to make a pancake when a mate saw the photo I put on Facebook and messaged me to say 'Don't do it!' "Apparently somebody had sold one before for more than £90 so I thought 'Great if I can sell it for that'. When it was at £20 she thought 'Who'd pay that for an egg?' and then it went through the roof. It's unbelievable".
"I'm so happy as the cause is so close to my heart," said Kim Broughton
- Just wondered how she posted it?
- She said she was nervous about sending the egg through the post. She also said that at the moment it was safely in her son's lunchbox padded with kitchen roll - but if she sent it in a hard box it should be quite safe.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Record the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

Listen to Conversation 2. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the conversation.

In our studio today, Dr Robinson will give information and advice on hay fever. Welcome to the programme. Dr Robinson, what is hay fever?

- Strictly speaking, hay fever is caused by an allergy to grass or hay pollens. Pollen is the name given to the fine powder that is produced by plants, trees or flowers to fertilise other plants, trees or flowers of the same species. Grass pollen is the most common cause and tends to affect people every year in the grass pollen season from about May to July (late spring to early summer). However, the term is often used when allergies are caused by other pollens such as tree pollens. Tree pollens tend to affect people from March to May (early to late spring) each year.

- So what are the symptoms?

- Symptoms are due to your immune system reacting to the pollen. Cells on the lining of the nose and eyes release histamine and other chemicals when they come into contact with pollen. This causes inflammation in the nose and eyes. Sometimes the sinuses and throat can also be affected. The symptoms of hay fever can vary from person to person. Some people only have mild symptoms that tend to come and go. Others can be severely affected with symptoms that are present every day during the pollen season: As I said, the common symptoms include a runny and itchy nose, a blocked nose, sneezing, itchy and watery red eyes and an itchy throat. In some cases only nasal symptoms occur and in some cases only eye symptoms occur. Less common symptoms - these include loss of smell, face pain, sweats and headache.

- And who gets hay fever?

- Hay fever is very common. It affects about 2 in 10 people in the UK. It often first develops in school-age children and during the teenage years. Symptoms return for a season each year. But, the condition eventually goes away or improves in many cases (often after having had symptoms each season for several years). Hay fever tends to run in families. You are also more likely to develop hay fever if you already have asthma or eczema. Equally, if you have hay fever, you are more likely to develop eczema or asthma. The conditions asthma, eczema and hay fever are known together as atopic conditions or atopy.

- And my final question, how is it diagnosed?

- You doctor can usually diagnose hay fever from your typical symptoms that can occur during the hay fever season. They may also ask if there is a history in your family of hay fever, asthma or eczema.

- Dr. Robinson, many thanks.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Record the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Debate and Discussion

You will hear a debate and a discussion. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both the debate and discussion. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to the Debate. You will hear it twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the debate.

(Host) The subject of our debate today is: Space exploration- is it worth the money. And in the studio with us: Dr Branning and Mr. Delany. Dr. Branning, could you start, please.

(Branning) Thank you, Tim. First off: The most widely used argument that does not support space exploration is: We have too many problems on Earth, so why go into space? But not many people know that while there are many problems on Earth, a lot of them can be solved using the technologies that we develop for space exploration. An example of this is NASA's help on research into cancer and preventing, treating, and even curing it.

(Delany) My view is that we need to start helping starving and homeless people. We could spend our money on that instead of spending it on space exploration. Also, 18 astronauts have died because of flight incidents. It is safer to stay on Earth and help the needy. There is no point in going to space, as nothing can be achieved there. The government should spend money on saving this planet first rather than using it to find another planet to waste. This planet was created for us to use to our benefit and we shouldn't trash it and move on. Focus on other problems like war, corruption and environmental issues, which is a more terrible matter right now.

(Branning) Well, many people say "It is too expensive. We should be spending space program money helping the needy". While it is true that the poor need help, over ten times more of the US's National Budget for 2014 has gone into welfare than into space exploration. So why isn't welfare too expensive? Space Exploration gives the opportunity to one day, save mankind, and also benefit it greatly. Take one of Saturn's moons, Titan. It has enough lakes and oceans on it to allow humanity to function for thousands of years with new technology. Plus, space exploration also creates lots of green technology, so we may never need to use the resources on the moon. How would we get to Titan? Funding space exploration. How would we develop these green technologies? Funding space exploration.

(Delany) I disagree. The needs of humanity should always come first. While there are people on Earth who need help, they should be helped, rather than seeing money spent on sending robots onto other planets. Humanity is the number one priority; keeping the human race alive is a necessity. Alternatively, space exploration is a desire. If we put our desires before our

needs, then everyone loses out on a better standard of living. Sure, it's great that NASA can elevate technology to the next level time and time again, so why not make technology that directly benefits us? And as there are millions round the world who are starving to death, when people spend more and more money on space technology they should realize they are the killers. Also, why take so much time and money to learn about Mars or any other planet, when we know so little about our own? We should learn more about Earth and the oceans before wasting time and money on Space exploration.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the debate again.

Record the debate again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Discussion

Listen to the Discussion. You will hear it twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the discussion.

Good evening everybody. Is vegetarianism healthier? Our discussion today is on being a vegetarian. In modern Western societies vegetarianism is on the increase. Currently in 2009 in the UK alone, approximately 3% of the population are vegetarians, 5% of the population is partly vegetarian, not eating some types of meat or fish. This debate is about whether it is right for human beings to eat other animals (including fish). To take an even more absolute line, the proposition could argue for veganism - this means eating no dairy produce or eggs (as well as no meat or fish).

- I think it is immoral to kill animals. As evolved human beings it is our moral duty to inflict as little pain as possible for our survival. So if we do not need to inflict pain on animals in order to survive, we should not do it. Farm animals such as chickens, pigs, sheep, and cows are sentient living beings like us; they can feel pleasure and pain.

- I have to disagree. Other creatures were put on this earth for mankind to use, and that includes eating meat. For all these reasons we say that men and women have rights and that animals don't. This means that eating meat is in no way like murder. The fact that we humans have succeeded in that struggle by exploiting our natural environment means that we have a natural right over lower species. In fact farming animals is much less brutal than the pain and hardship that animals inflict on each other naturally in the wild.

- But don't you think that becoming a vegetarian is an environmentally friendly thing to do? Modern farming is one of the main sources of pollution in our rivers. Beef farming is one of the main causes of deforestation, and as long as people continue to buy fast food in their billions, there will be a financial incentive to continue cutting down trees to make room for cattle. Because of our desire to eat fish, our rivers and seas are being emptied of fish and many species are facing extinction. Eating meat and fish not only causes cruelty to animals, it causes serious harm to the environment and to biodiversity.

- You don't have to be vegetarian to be green. Many special environments have been created by livestock farming. Ending livestock farming would see these areas go back to woodland with a loss of many unique plants and animals. Growing crops can also be very bad for the planet, with fertilisers and pesticides polluting rivers, lakes and seas. Most tropical forests are now cut down for timber, or to allow oil palm trees to be grown in plantations, not to create space for meat production.

- Well, I think that being a vegetarian is simply healthier. There are significant health benefits to 'going veggie'; a vegetarian diet contains high quantities of fibre, vitamins, and minerals, and is low in fat. A vegan diet is even better since eggs and dairy products are high in cholesterol. The

risk of contracting many forms of cancer is increased by eating meat: in 1996 the American Cancer Society recommended that red meat should be excluded from the diet entirely. Eating meat also increases the risk of heart disease - vegetables contain no cholesterol, which can build up to cause blocked arteries.

- The key to good health is a balanced diet, not a meat- and fish-free diet. Meat and fish are good sources of protein, iron, and other vitamins and minerals. Most of the health benefits of a vegetarian diet derive from its being high in fibre and low in fat and cholesterol. These can be achieved by avoiding fatty and fried foods, eating only lean grilled meat and fish, and including a large amount of fruit and vegetables in your diet along with meat and fish. Also, a vegetarian diet, in the West, is a more expensive option - a luxury for the middle classes.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the discussion again.

Record the discussion again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

That is the end of the Listening examination. Please check your mark sheet is completed correctly. Put your pens down.

End of Examination