

**ESOL International**  
**English Listening Examination**  
**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on the mark sheet.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use pencil.

Total marks available: 31

You have **35 minutes** to finish the examination.

## Part 1

You will hear 7 questions and 3 sentences twice.

Now look at the answers. You have two minutes to read the answers.

Now listen to the recording and select the best answer. Mark the answer on the mark sheet.

- |    |  |     |   |
|----|--|-----|---|
| 1. | a. About 8 o'clock.<br>b. I eat pancakes.<br>c. I go jogging first.                      | 6.  | a. It is made of dough.<br>b. Put it in the oven for 20 minutes.<br>c. I think under the grill. |
| 2. | a. No, I like it with milk.<br>b. Yes, at what time?<br>c. Yes, I have 3 sugars.         | 7.  | a. Was it very spicy?<br>b. I went to India last year.<br>c. I ate spaghetti last night.        |
| 3. | a. It's been raining for hours.<br>b. Why, what has happened?<br>c. It's Thursday today. | 8.  | a. It'll take around an hour.<br>b. We went last week.<br>c. About two and a half hours.        |
| 4. | a. How did she do that?<br>b. I have some glue.<br>c. Does she need new shoes?           | 9.  | a. No, I forgot about them.<br>b. Yes, it's a tablet mini.<br>c. Yes, it's been for a walk.     |
| 5. | a. I have a big family.<br>b. The boot is at the back.<br>c. It has got four.            | 10. | a. The butcher's next door.<br>b. They are angel cakes.<br>c. The baker's down the road.        |

## Part 2

You will now hear two conversations. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to **Conversation 1**. Record your answers to the questions on the mark sheet.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **Who is speaking?**
  - a. Jane and Abby
  - b. Jane and Gabby
  - c. Jay and Gabby
2. **How old is Gabby?**
  - a. 45
  - b. 25
  - c. 35
3. **Which company supplies the gas?**
  - a. U Key Gas
  - b. UK Gas
  - c. UQ Gas
4. **What type of gas does she have?**
  - a. Mains gas
  - b. Bottled gas
  - c. May gas
5. **How much is the discount voucher worth?**
  - a. 10%
  - b. 12%
  - c. 35%

**Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.**

1. **What is the conversation about?**
  - a. A 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday party
  - b. A teenage prom
  - c. A 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday party
2. **Which Star Wars movie was mentioned?**
  - a. Empire Strikes back
  - b. Return of the Jedi
  - c. Return of the Jive
3. **What were the children dressed in to protect themselves when playing paintball?**
  - a. Overalls and helmets
  - b. Shoes and overalls
  - c. Overalls and caps
4. **What date is John's birthday on?**
  - a. 9<sup>th</sup> October
  - b. 10<sup>th</sup> August
  - c. 10<sup>th</sup> October
5. **What type of food did Teresa suggest taking?**
  - a. Sausage sandwiches
  - b. Sausage rolls
  - c. Crisp sandwiches

**Listen the conversation again and check your answers.**

**Part 3 – Broadcasts**

You will now hear two radio broadcasts. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both radio broadcasts.

Now listen to **Broadcast 1**. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

**Broadcast 1**

1. **What are people talking about?**
  - a. A trouser suit
  - b. A wedding dress
  - c. A ball gown
2. **At which institute has the dress created interest?**
  - a. Philosophy
  - b. Psychology
  - c. Physiology
3. **Which coloured dress was the daughter interested in?**
  - a. Black and brown
  - b. White and gold
  - c. Blue and black
4. **How many hits did the picture get?**
  - a. 40 million
  - b. 4 million
  - c. 14 million
5. **What type of papers were written?**
  - a. Designer
  - b. Scientific
  - c. Newspaper
6. **What percentage of people saw the colour as black and blue?**
  - a. 57%
  - b. 47%
  - c. 30%

**Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.**

Now listen to **Broadcast 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

**Broadcast 2**

1. **What is the purpose of the broadcast?**
  - a. To instruct
  - b. To inform
  - c. To persuade
2. **How many hours is the snow-filled day?**
  - a. 7 hours
  - b. 6 hours
  - c. 10 hours
3. **Where should you meet for the snowboarding lesson?**
  - a. By the Alpine Taverna
  - b. By the Winter Experience
  - c. By the Alpine Toboggin
4. **What time do the restaurants open?**
  - a. 10:30am
  - b. 12:00 noon
  - c. 12:30pm
5. **What does the restaurant serve?**
  - a. Home-baked food
  - b. Home-cooked food
  - c. Homemade food

**Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.**

**End of Examination for Listening –  
Level B2**

**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 31 questions in this examination.

You must attempt all the questions.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Total marks available: 31

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

**Text 1**

<b>Going Boating</b>	1
	2
Most boating problems and accidents can be prevented by checking the boat and doing key tasks to ensure it is safe and ready for sailing.	3
	4
	5
To do this, you need a checklist. Without a checklist, sailors may overlook something basic because of their inexperience, or a simple memory lapse.	6
	7
	8
Read the suggestions below and make your own checklist for your boat then check the list before sailing. Share the checklist with your crew (the guests you have invited to help you sail the boat).	9
	10
	11
	12
<b>Before going on the boat</b>	13
• Check the forecast and local wind and wave conditions	14
• Tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back (float plan)	15
• Make sure the crew wear appropriate clothing and bring seasickness prevention	16
	17
• It is critical to understand the risks of cold water or cold air (especially if caught in cold rain or spray) because hypothermia hugely increases the risks of accidents - so dress warmly in layers and be prepared.	18
	19
	20
<b>On the boat: showing the crew around</b>	21
• Stow personal items and equipment out of the way	22
• Show how to put on a life jacket (PFD)	23
• Show how to operate the marine head	24
• Talk with new crew guests about what to do in an emergency.	25
<b>Just before sailing</b>	26
• Tune the radio to channel 16	27
• Turn on and test electronics like the route plotter, radar and lights (especially at night)	28
	29
• Ensure your paper chart is handy in case the plotter fails	30
• .....crew jobs before leaving the dock, like handling lines and fenders, cooking and rope maintenance	31
	32
• Stay safe.	33

**1. Why might sailors overlook something?**

- a. too busy
- b. memory loss
- c. sickness

**2. What increases the risks of accidents?**

- a. Hyperthermia
- b. Seasickness
- c. Inexperience

**3. Before going to the boat, what should you check?**

- a. wave condensation
- b. wave conditions
- c. waive conditions

**4. What is a PFD?**

- a. life jumper
- b. live jacket
- c. life jacket

**5. On which line is there a spelling mistake?**

- a. 6
- b. 7
- c. 9

**6. Before sailing, which appropriate electronics should you test?**

- a. Route plotter
- b. Route spotter
- c. Radio control

**7. On which line is there a grammatical error?**

- a. 7
- b. 30
- c. 19

**8. There is missing punctuation on which line?**

- a. 6
- b. 15
- c. 33

**9. What does the word 'stow' mean in line 22?**

- a. Wash away.
- b. Sweep away.
- c. Put away.

**10. There are two missing words on line 31:**

- a. Give your
- b. Ask for
- c. Look for

**Text 2**

<b>Usain St Leo Bolt</b>	1
	2
Usain St Leo Bolt, is one of the most naturally gifted athletes the world has ever seen. He is 6 foot 5 inches tall (1.98 metres) and has muscular arms and broad shoulders.	3
	4
	5
In school in Jamaica, Usain won a bronze medal in the 80 hurdles in Class Three and also competed in the high jump and cricket as a fast bowler, but his running was his strength. At 14 years old, Usain surprised people by winning regional championships in western Jamaica and in the wider Caribbean. He started seriously competing in sports at age 16.	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
Usain's journey to fame started at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing where he won the 100m, 200m and 4 x 100m, and beat the world record. In 2012, he won three gold medals in the same events at the Olympic Games, in London. Then one day before his 30th birthday he won the same triple at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio and became the World's fastest man. (The 'Triple Triple' - three gold metals, at three consecutive Olympic Games.)	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
	16
Usain says he is a lazy man who likes watching action movies on TV. He says when he is at home he calls someone to come upstairs just to give him the TV remote control. He says he loves competing. It is the competition that makes him want to win but as she is now getting older he doesn't feel the same kind of motivation he had when he was younger and is thinking of retiring.	17
	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
He says he will live in the country when he retires because he loves the quiet and peacefulness of the countryside. He likes dirt bikes, football, nature and just chilling.	23
	24

**11. What is Usain's middle name?**

- a. St Leon
- b. St Leo
- c. St Lion

**12. In which year did he compete in his first Olympics?**

- a. 2008
- b. 2004
- c. 2012

**13. How old was he when he won triple gold in the 2016 Olympics?**

- a. 29
- b. 30
- c. 32

**14. In 2012, where were the Olympic games held?**

- a. Beijing
- b. Rio
- c. London

**15. What words could replace 'naturally gifted' in line 3?**

- a. able to learn how to do something
- b. born with an ability to do something
- c. had to work hard to do something

**16. In which race did he get his first medal?**

- a. 80 hurdles
- b. 85 hurdles
- c. 800 hurdles

**17. There is a spelling mistake on:**

- a. line 6
- b. line 19
- c. line 15

**18. What was his first ever medal?**

- a. Gold
- b. Silver
- c. Bronze

**19. There is a grammatical error on:**

- a. Line 19
- b. Line 17
- c. Line 8

**20. Why is he thinking of retiring?**

- a. He can't win anymore
- b. He doesn't feel motivated anymore
- c. He is too lazy

## **Text 3**

### **Tulips**

Traditionally people believe tulips come from Holland. However, it would be more accurate to say that early botanists (people who study plants) came from the great Turkish Empire, and were growing tulips as early as 1,000 AD.

### **The Tale of the Tulip**

There is a famous Turkish legend about a handsome prince named Farhad, who was stricken with love for a fair maid, Shirin. One day he heard that she had been killed, and in his grief, he climbed onto his favourite horse and galloped over the edge of a cliff to his death. It is said that from each droplet of his blood, a scarlet tulip sprang up, making the flower an historic symbol of perfect love. During the glory of the Ottoman Empire, the Sultans celebrated the tulip, and wore jewellery and ornaments of tulips to represent wealth and power. Today, the tulip is still the national flower of Turkey.

During the 1500's Europeans became plant explorers. In 1593 a botanist called Carolus Clusius met the ambassador to the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, who gave him some precious tulip bulbs. Clusius brought them back to Holland to cultivate and planted them in his garden. By 1624 they were highly prized by the rich and some bulbs were stolen from Clusius' garden, as they could be sold for up to £1,000 (in today's money). This was the beginning of 'Tulipomania' in Holland.

**21. Who were growing tulips in the Turkish Empire in 1,000 AD?**

- a. late botanists
- b. early botanists
- c. yearly botanists

**22. What is the tulip an historic symbol of?**

- a. perfect love
- b. prefect love
- c. perfect leaves

**23. In what year did Carolus meet the ambassador?**

- a. 1500
- b. 1624
- c. 1593

**24. In 1624 where were the bulbs stolen from?**

- a. The local park
- b. A garden
- c. A forest

**25. What synonym can be used for the word 'stolen' in the last paragraph?**

- a. robbed
- b. ribbed
- c. given

Text 4

<b>St. Bernard Dogs</b>	1
	2
St. Bernard dogs are famous for saving lives. Since the 1700s, monks have kept these dogs to help them with their work rescuing people after bad snowstorms on the 49 mile St. Bernard Pass, which is a little more than 8,000 feet above sea level through the western Alps between Italy and Switzerland. It is a treacherous route and for over 200 years, the monks have rescued about 2,000 people, from lost children to Napoleon's soldiers. They could do this because St. Bernard dogs have an uncanny sense of direction and resistance to cold.	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Servants called marroniers, were assigned to accompany travellers between the Monks' hospice and Bourg-Saint-Pierre, a municipality on the Swiss side. By 1750, marroniers were accompanied by the dogs, whose broad chests helped to clear snow from the paths for travellers. The marroniers soon discovered the dogs' tremendous sense of smell and the ability to discover people buried deep in the snow, and sent them out in packs of two or three alone to seek lost or injured travellers.	11 12 13 14 15 16 17
Today, St. Bernard dogs are used for dog sports such as carting and weight pulling. They are rarely used on rescue missions anymore and through much cross-breeding, the dogs have become giant dogs, with the largest weighing in at 140 kg. However, in the 1700s, the dogs were a lot smaller in size and had shorter, reddish brown and white fur and a longer tail.	18 19 20 21 22
St. Bernard dogs are sweet, gentle, calm, loyal, affectionate and patient, and make ideal pets in households.	23 24 25

26. What are St Bernard dogs famous for?

- a. being good pets
- b. saving people's lives
- c. doing dog sports

27. How long is the Great St Bernard Pass?

- a. 8,000 feet
- b. 200 miles
- c. 49 miles

28. How was the snow cleared along the Pass?

- a. By the Marrioners' chests
- b. By the dog's chests
- c. By the monk's chests

29. What does the word treacherous mean on line 6?

- a. dangerous
- b. high
- c. long

30. What were servants called, at the turn of the century?

- a. Mariners
- b. Travellers
- c. Marroniers

31. What did the dogs have a good sense of?

- a. sight
- b. smell
- c. hearing

End of Examination for Reading – Level B2

**Page left intentionally blank.**

**ESOL International**

**English Writing Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

You must write a minimum of 100 – 150 words for Task 1 and 150 - 200 words for Task 2.

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

You may NOT use a dictionary.

There are two tasks. You must attempt both tasks.

Formal writing Task 1, you must complete **either** Option 1 **OR** Option 2.

Informal writing Task 2, you must complete the set task.

Total marks available: 24

Allow time to check your work before the end of the examination.

You can ask for more writing paper if required.

You have **one hour** to finish the examination.

**Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow 30 minutes for this task

The computer you purchased recently is not working properly, so you decide to write a letter of complaint. You could write about:

- When you bought it
- The faults on the computer
- How often they keep happening.

**OR**

**Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow 30 minutes for this task

You see an advert for a part time job in the local bakery doing various roles and decide to write a letter applying for the position. You could write about:

- Experience you have had
- Why you would be suitable for the bakery
- Your personal qualities
- Hours you could work

Write 100 – 150 words.

(12 Marks)

---

**Informal Writing Task 2** – Allow 30 minutes for this task

You see an advert in the local newspaper about a summer camp. You decide to write an email to your friend about the summer camp:

You could write about:

- Both of you going to the camp this summer
- What activities they have on offer, e.g. swimming, climbing
- Competitions and games, e.g. quiz, sports challenge competition
- How the experience will make you feel

Write 150-200 words.

(12 Marks)

---

**You will be assessed on:**

- content
- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary
- use of appropriate tenses
- legibility of writing
- word order

**End of Examination for Writing – Level B2**

**Page left intentionally blank.**

NOCN  
The Quadrant  
Parkway Business Centre  
99 Parkway Avenue  
Sheffield  
S9 4WG  
UK

E-mail: [nocn@nocn.org.uk](mailto:nocn@nocn.org.uk)

Tel: +44 (0) 114 2270500  
Fax: +44 (0) 114 2270501