

**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

The Benefits of Garlic	1
	2
Aphrodisiac, money, food, medicine, vampire repellent – garlic has had much uses throughout the ages. More recent evidence-based research suggests garlic may to be effective against high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, cholesterol, colds and some cancers.	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
We've teamed up with the British Dietetic Association (BDA) to see if the health claims about garlic stand up to closer scrutiny.	8
	9
	10
The evidence	11
	12
High blood pressure	13
An authoritative review from 2012 on the use of garlic to treat high blood pressure identified one good quality study that suggested that 200mg of garlic powder three times daily reduced blood pressure. _____, the review concluded that there was insufficient evidence to say if garlic was an effective means for treating high blood pressure and reducing death rates.	14
	15
	16
	17
	18
	19
Cholesterol	20
A well-conducted review from 2009, involving a combined total of 1,794 participants, concluded that garlic (mainly garlic powder) produced "modest reductions" in total cholesterol levels.	21
	22
	23
	24
The dietitian's verdict	25
Alison Hornby, a dietitian and BDA spokesperson, says, "Garlic is a delicious flavour used widely in Mediterranean and Asian cooking." Studies using high concentrations of garlic extracts have been associated with improved blood circulation, healthier cholesterol levels and lower blood pressure, all of which reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. However, current evidence does not support the use of garlic supplements to improve health.	26
	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
	32
"Garlic is particularly usefull in cooking as it provides an alternative to salt in adding flavour to meals, along with lemon juice, chilli, herbs and spices. Eating less salt is important for avoiding high blood pressure," she said.	33
	34
	35

1. A word has been omitted from line 16. It should be:
 - a. However
 - b. Therefore
 - c. Despite
 - d. Moreover

2. A grammatical error has been made on:
 - a. Line 4
 - b. Line 5
 - c. Line 22
 - d. Line 30

3. A spelling mistake has been made on:
 - a. Line 14
 - b. Line 16
 - c. Line 26
 - d. Line 33

4. Which word should always be spelt with a capital letter?
 - a. British
 - b. Dietetic
 - c. Association
 - d. Aphrodisiac

5. A word has been incorrectly used on:
 - a. Line 3
 - b. Line 16
 - c. Line 31
 - d. Line 34

6. What are the scientific benefits of garlic, as based on the evidence?
 - a. It protects against vampires.
 - b. It has to be used to decrease high blood pressure.
 - c. It slightly decreases cholesterol.
 - d. It reduces death rates.

7. According to the scientific evidence, what is the best way to avoid high blood pressure?
 - a. Consume less sugar
 - b. Consume less salt
 - c. Consume less garlic
 - d. Consume less fat

8. The research on levels of cholesterol suggests, that:
 - a. Eating garlic considerably reduces cholesterol.
 - b. Eating garlic reduces cholesterol a little bit.
 - c. Eating garlic does not reduce cholesterol.
 - d. The result of the research was not clear.

9. According to Alison Hornby, what is undoubtedly a quality of garlic?
 - a. Its taste.
 - b. Its smell.
 - c. Its health properties.
 - d. It's an aphrodisiac.

10. The article could be found:
 - a. in a novel.
 - b. in a medical dictionary.
 - c. on a website.
 - d. in a cookery book.

Text 2

<p>Us</p> <p>The plot: Uptight middle aged scientist Douglas tells the story of his attempt to resurrect his stale marriage to artist Connie and mend his troubled relationship with their teenage son, Albie, by arranging to take them on an elaborate tour of the great cities of Europe. But it only makes matters worse as Connie wants to leave and Albie runs away.</p> <p>What's right with it? It's told in the first-person by Douglas, but it's actually less straightforward than it might seem, as he intricately weaves flashbacks to key moments with his wife and son into the fabric of the present-day plot. The story steadily builds an entirely convincing and overwhelmingly moving portrayal of a man who's ended up repeating the mistakes of his own father despite of knowing deep down how misguided he's being.</p> <p>What's wrong with it? You might occasionally lose patience with Douglas' pernickety tone.</p> <p>Verdict: A spectacularly well-observed, funny and often heart-breaking account of the difficulties of marriage and parenting. *****</p>	<p>The Rosie Effect</p> <p>The plot: Follow-up to the best-selling <i>The Rosie Project</i> about Don, a fascinating autistic professor, and his relationship with his wife Rosie. Now they have been married for ten months and are living in New York. As Don tries to get to grips with starting a family, his unusual research style gets him into trouble, and his life with Rosie continues to be unpredictable. He needs to remember that emotional support is just as important as practical expertise.</p> <p>What's right with it? Don is a truly endearing character-you're rooting for him the whole way. And although this is a sequel, you don't really need to have read <i>The Rosie Project</i> to follow the story.</p> <p>What's wrong with it? There are some moments when you wonder why he's bothering with Rosie at all.</p> <p>Verdict: This is a genuinely heartwarming tale, which manages to balance out serious themes with plenty of laughs. But be warned - you may well end up a blubbing wreck on the commute home. *****</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35</p>
---	---	--

11. The word 'plot' on line 1 could be best replaced by:
- a. conspiracy
 - b. story
 - c. play
 - d. area
12. A word has been incorrectly used on:
- a. Line 6
 - b. Line 9
 - c. Line 20
 - d. Line 29
13. There is a spelling mistake on:
- a. Line 17
 - b. Line 25
 - c. Line 29
 - d. Line 34
14. The verdict for *The Rosie Effect* suggests that it is:
- a. a comedy and crime novel.
 - b. a tragedy and romance novel.
 - c. a tragic and funny novel.
 - d. a crime and romance novel.
15. The story in 'Us' :
- a. continues in chronological order.
 - b. continues in reverse chronological order.
 - c. has a mixture of present and past.
 - d. happens in the future.

16. What is this text?
- a. A newspaper article
 - b. An instruction
 - c. A review
 - d. An advert
17. Which book does the author like more?
- a. *Us*
 - b. *The Rosie Effect*
 - c. Neither
 - d. Both
18. Which book is the second in a series?
- a. *Us*
 - b. *The Rosie Effect*
 - c. Neither
 - d. Both
19. In which book are the two main characters newly married?
- a. *Us*
 - b. *The Rosie Effect*
 - c. Neither
 - d. Both
20. Who is Albie?
- a. Douglas' son
 - b. Douglas and Connie's son
 - c. Don's son
 - d. Don and Rosie's son

Text 3

There are 59 billion animals alive at any one time, farmed for their meat. The world's domestic cattle weigh 16 times as much as all the wild animals on the planet put together. 60% of the globe's agricultural land is used for beef production, from growing grain to raising cows.

Since the early-20th century, industrial farming and global capitalism have worked hand-in-hand to provide meat at an ever cheaper price. And our appetites, so tempted, have led us to consume more and more animals. In the US, each citizen eats on average 120kg of meat per year. And that's not even the number one spot. Our insatiable desire for meat has defined how we use our planet.

But cheap meat comes at a price. Planet Carnivore gets under the skin of the health problems that over-consumption brings; of modern farming's destructive use of resources; and of the stretched and strained farms and abattoirs that lead to horsemeat in beef burgers and challenging moral questions about our relationship with our food.

Alex Renton's brilliantly researched, utterly compelling book serves up the grisly stories, and also looks at how we are beginning to try and pay the cheap meat bill, from innovative twists on current techniques to cutting edge scientific breakthroughs.

21. The texts suggests, that:
- there are 59 billion animals on the earth.
 - there are 59 billion farm animals.
 - there are 59 billion animals bred for consumption.
 - there are 59 billion species of animals.
22. The purpose of the above text is to:
- warn people of overconsumption.
 - provide statistical information.
 - introduce a new book.
 - inform about animal rights.
23. Which types of farm animals consume most global agricultural resources?
- Poultry
 - Cattle
 - Pigs
 - Sheep
24. The text suggests, that Renton:
- researched his book well.
 - is not telling the truth.
 - has written a comedy.
 - is an expert in domestic cattle.
25. According to the text, which sentence is true?
- Meat is becoming more expensive.
 - Meat is becoming unhealthier.
 - Eating meat is immoral.
 - People consume too much meat.

Text 4

Living for less with Nottinghamshire Libraries

Looking after the pennies? We know just the place

Your library is more than you can imagine for less than you thought possible. Here are just some of the ways you can reduce your outgoings, while expanding your horizons, at your local library.

Free books for pleasure that's priceless

Re-connect with the simple pleasure of reading today - be inspired, enjoy great adventures, and live a thousand different lives, just by visiting your library.

Fancy living the good life?

Borrow books on everything, from DIY and growing your own vegetables, to making your own clothes and greeting cards.

Keep in touch for less

Stay connected with friends and family for free using email and social networking sites.

Looking for a new career?

Search for your next move online, or browse the local newspaper job pages for free. Plus, with free CV printing for job seekers, we put the tools you need to work towards a better future at your fingertips.

Get up to speed with computers

Make the most of the free IT sessions available in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Learn the basics with one of our free courses such as setting up an email and finding your way around internet.

Searching for ancestors?

Delving into family history, using www.ancestry.com is free at your local library. We'll even help you get started with a free Family History Try It session.

Enjoy a great evening out without breaking the bank

Look out for inspiring cultural events happening at your local library - at great prices and with concessions available.

Mad about music and films?

Did you know that your library stocks a great range of DVDs and CDs that you can rent for as little as £1 a week?

For more information about Nottinghamshire Libraries visit
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries or phone 0115 977 4401

26. The text on the previous page can be considered as:
- a promotional leaflet.
 - a newspaper article.
 - a set of instructions.
 - a text from a professional magazine.
27. According to the text, which statement is true?
- You can learn how to become an expert on a computer through course at the library.
 - You can only use the computer to search the ancestry.com site.
 - You don't have to pay for a computer course.
 - You have to pay for a computer course.
28. What can you borrow for free from the library?
- Books only
 - CD and books
 - DVDs and CDs
 - All of the above
29. What kind of site is *ancestry.com*?
- It is a site where you can find your local history.
 - It is a site where you can find any history.
 - It is a site where you can trace your family tree.
 - It is a site where you can learn how to use a computer.
30. Who can print CVs free of charge?
- Everybody
 - Jobseekers
 - Young people only
 - People who want to change their job

End of Examination for Reading – Level B2

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

E-mail: nocn@nocn.org.uk

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

For Reading Paper

Instructions: Draw a line through either a, b, c, d or e to answer each question. 
 If you change your mind black out the wrong answer  and choose a new one with a line. 
 If you think your first answer was right, black out the wrong answer and circle your first answer. 

Insert Learner
 Label Here

1	a	b	c	d	NOCN Use Only
2	a	b	c	d	
3	a	b	c	d	
4	a	b	c	d	
5	a	b	c	d	
6	a	b	c	d	
7	a	b	c	d	
8	a	b	c	d	
9	a	b	c	d	
10	a	b	c	d	
11	a	b	c	d	
12	a	b	c	d	
13	a	b	c	d	
14	a	b	c	d	
15	a	b	c	d	
16	a	b	c	d	
17	a	b	c	d	
18	a	b	c	d	
19	a	b	c	d	
20	a	b	c	d	
21	a	b	c	d	
22	a	b	c	d	
23	a	b	c	d	
24	a	b	c	d	
25	a	b	c	d	
26	a	b	c	d	
27	a	b	c	d	
28	a	b	c	d	
29	a	b	c	d	
30	a	b	c	d	

Total marks _____

Learner Signature _____

Date _____