

**ESOL International
Sample English Reading Examination**

Level C1 Advanced

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on your mark sheet.

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER.

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 **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

**NOCN ESOL International Reading
Level C1 Advanced Paper AA
Sample Examination Task Sheet**

Text 1

It'll be a boy!

So far all the smart money has been on Kate and William's first-born being a girl.	1
But the Sunday People can reveal that Prince Harry is so excited about becoming an uncle that he is going around like a dog with two tails, telling all his friends that the Royal couple are expecting a BOY.	2 3 4 5
And while the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have made no official comment about the baby due in mid-July, Harry has found it hard to keep the secret.	6 7 8
A source close to the Prince told the Sunday People: "Harry has been telling everyone Wills and Kate are having a boy and how thrilled he is at the prospect of having a little nephew." He said the whole family were excited about it. Apparently Kate have always wanted a boy. "They're really working hard on baby names now and think they have it sorted. "But they won't reveal anything to anyone – not even Harry. Of course, Harry's been making up crazy suggestions and winding them up too. "The close inner circle all know that it's a boy and they're busily buying gifts with a boy theme. There will be an awful lot of blue in their house."	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Officially, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have refused to divulge the sex of their new arrival. But seven-months-pregnant Kate has dropped a couple of hints. In March she sparked frenzied speculation that made headlines around the world when she appeared to accidentally suggest that a girl was on the way.	17 18 19 20 21
It happened during a walkabout in Grimsby, when Kate was presented with a teddy by a local well-wisher. She thanked the woman for the gift and said: "I will take that for my d..." and then stopped herself.	22 23 24 25
A nearby listener said: "You were going to say daughter, _____ you?"	26 27
Kate replied: "No, we don't know."	28

(The Mirror)

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1. In line 1, the term 'smart money' is referring to:
 - a. money which is electronically transferred
 - b. a high possibility
 - c. a low possibility
 - d. money earned on betting

2. Kate Middleton confirms that:
 - a. her first child will be a boy
 - b. her first child will be a girl
 - c. she is expecting twins
 - d. she does not know whether she is expecting a boy or a girl

3. The style of the above text can be described as:
 - a. chatty
 - b. instructive
 - c. persuasive
 - d. descriptive

4. In March, Kate created headlines when she:
 - a. made a slip of the tongue to the crowd about expecting a baby
 - b. made a slip of the tongue to the crowd about expecting a boy
 - c. made a slip of the tongue to Prince Harry about having a boy
 - d. made a slip of the tongue to the crowd about expecting a girl

5. What does the simile on line 3 mean?
 - a. Prince Harry has a dog with two tails
 - b. Prince Harry has two tails
 - c. Prince Harry is very happy
 - d. Prince Harry is going to be an uncle

6. The best word to replace '*thrilled*' in line 10 is:
- a. excited
 - b. surprised
 - c. anxious
 - d. worried
7. There is a spelling mistake on:
- a. Line 3
 - b. Line 12
 - c. Line 19
 - d. Line 22
8. There is a grammatical error on:
- a. Line 10
 - b. Line 11
 - c. Line 20
 - d. Line 22
9. The phrase completing sentence in line 26 is:
- a. Were you
 - b. Don't you
 - c. Weren't you
 - d. Aren't you
10. Which word should you always spell with a capital letter?
- a. People
 - b. Will
 - c. Cambridge
 - d. March

Text 2

<u>Healthy food swaps (NHS Choices)</u>		1
Choosing healthier foods is easier than you may think. By changing just a few eating habits you can make a big difference to your diet.		2
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Choosing healthier foods is easier than you may think. By changing just a few eating habits you can make a big difference to your diet.		4
Making small changes to your diet can help you to shed excess pounds and achieve a healthy weight. It can also help you to achieve your five daily portions of fruit and vegetables.		5
Making small changes to your diet can help you to shed excess pounds and achieve a healthy weight. It can also help you to achieve your five daily portions of fruit and vegetables.		6
It's all about eating fewer foods that is high in calories, fat, salt and sugars and swapping them for something healthier, including more fruit and vegetables and wholegrain. Remember, small changes can add up to make a big overall _____ to your diet.		7
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Food and drink swaps		11
Try these small changes when you have your next meal or drink, or when you open the cupboard or fridge for a snack. Once you've got started, try thinking of your own healthier swaps too. Food labels can help you to choose healthier options.		12
Try these small changes when you have your next meal or drink, or when you open the cupboard or fridge for a snack. Once you've got started, try thinking of your own healthier swaps too. Food labels can help you to choose healthier options.		13
Try these small changes when you have your next meal or drink, or when you open the cupboard or fridge for a snack. Once you've got started, try thinking of your own healthier swaps too. Food labels can help you to choose healthier options.		14
Breakfast	Lunch	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap from whole milk to semi-skimmed, 1% fat or even skimmed milk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap white breads, bagels and muffins for wholegrain varieties. 	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap a sugar-coated breakfast cereal for a wholegrain breakfast such as porridge or shredded wholegrain wheat cereal, with no added sugar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap butter and cheese in your jacket potato for reduced fat spreads and reduced salt and sugar baked beans. 	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap a sprinkle of sugar on your breakfast cereal for a topping of fresh or dried fruit, which counts towards one of your five a day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap a tuna melt panini for a tuna salad sandwich on wholemeal bread, without mayo. 	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap full fat Greek yoghurt for lower fat free Greek yoghurt or natural low fat yoghurt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap a cheddar cheese filling in your sandwich for reduced fat hard cheese. 	19
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Dinner	Drinks	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap creamy or cheesy sauces for tomato – or vegetable-based sauces on your pasta, meat or fish dishes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap your usual coffee made with whole milk to a 'skinny' coffee made with skimmed milk. 	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap mashed potato made with butter and whole milk for mash with low-fat spread and a lower fat milk such as semi-skimmed, 1% fat or skimmed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap your cordial for a cordial with no added sugars. 	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose leaner cuts of meat, for example, swap streaky bacon for back bacon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap a few of your sugary drinks for a glass of water. 	32
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap the frying pan for the grill when cooking meat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap hot chocolate made with whole milk and served with whipped cream for a hot chocolate made with skimmed milk and no cream. 	33
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		40
		41
Snacks		42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap a blueberry muffin for a currant bun on its own or with some reduced fat spread. 		43
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap yoghurt-coated raisins for plain raisins. 		44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap salted nuts for unsalted nuts. 		45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swap cheese straws for rice cakes with lower-fat cream cheese. 		46

11. The main purpose of this document is to:
- Present factual information on food content
 - Offer ideas on how to change eating habits
 - Describe advantages of healthy eating
 - Inform the reader on food groups
12. According to the text, which statement is true?
- Back bacon contains less fat than streaky bacon
 - Cheese straws are healthier than rice cakes
 - Semi-skimmed milk is healthier than skimmed milk
 - It is not easy to change your eating habits
13. In line 5, '*shed excess pounds*' means:
- Gain weight
 - Lose weight
 - Save money
 - Maintain your weight
14. According to the text, you should:
- Swap from your regular drinks
 - Avoid sugar free drinks
 - Avoid sugar free cordial
 - Swap all your drinks to water
15. The text suggests that cheddar is:
- A type of filling
 - A type of sandwich
 - A type of cheese
 - A type of lunch

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16. A spelling mistake has been made on:

- a. Line 6
- b. Line 7
- c. Line 8
- d. Line 30

17. There is a grammatical mistake on:

- a. Line 7
- b. Line 15
- c. Line 17
- d. Line 38

18. The best word to replace 'habits' in line 3 is:

- a. Changes
- b. Addictions
- c. Manners
- d. Customs

19. The best word to complete a sentence in line 9 is:

- a. Change
- b. Pattern
- c. Style
- d. Difference

20. Which word should always be spelt with a capital letter?

- a. Lunch
- b. Dinner
- c. Greek
- d. All of the above

Text 3 - Student Support Fund

This service is for individuals who need financial support

What is it?

21. The Student Support Fund helps you pay for:
- Tuition fees
 - Exam and registration fees
 - Uniforms, kit, books, field trips
 - Travel to college, work experience and placement
 - Registered childcare whilst you are attending college
 - Unregistered childcare in exceptional circumstances
 - Emergency help if you are in crisis or hardship at any time

Who does it help?

You can apply if you:

- are aged 16 years or over on 1st September and are enrolled on a course
- and
- can provide evidence of financial hardship e.g. you, or someone you depend on, is receiving benefits or has a low income. We will ask for Tax Credit Award letters, benefit letters, payslips or bank statements as evidence.
- and
- attend all your classes (your award may be withdrawn if you have unauthorised absences).

How is it calculated?

Each application is assessed on an individual basis taking into account gross household income and dependent children. Claimants will be expected to have exercised their full entitlements to all other forms of financial support before being eligible for any discretionary learner support funding. All payments are subject to availability of funds and may be withdrawn at any time.

For dependent children the income bands will be increased by £1000 per dependent child.

Dependent children are classed as children under the age of 16.

What will it pay for?

16-18 year olds

- Emergency assistance*
- One-off large equipment costs

19+ Students

- Childcare
- Transport
- Tuition and exam fees
- Emergency assistance*
- Essential course requirements

*Emergency assistance - if you experience financial difficulties at any time, please come and talk to us as we may be able to help.

21. The above text could be found in:
- a. An information leaflet
 - b. An instruction manual
 - c. A guide book
 - d. A text book
22. The fund may be stopped, if:
- a. Students are late for their classes
 - b. Students do not show up for their classes
 - c. Students get a job
 - d. Students receive means tested benefits
23. According to the text, which statement is true?
- a. All students are entitled to financial support
 - b. Only students aged 16-18 are entitled to financial support
 - c. Only 19+ students are entitled to financial support
 - d. Only students on low income are entitled to financial support
24. The word 'claimant' is understood in this text as:
- a. Someone who claims benefits
 - b. Someone applying for the course
 - c. Someone on low income
 - d. Someone applying for support fund
25. Why does the phrase 'Emergency Assistance' have an asterisk (*) at the end of it?
- a. Because there is additional information you need to know about
 - b. Because it is a special payment
 - c. Because it is repeated further on in the text
 - d. Because you need to contact the emergency services for payment

Text 4

Practical advice this month from the Royal Horticultural Society Advisory Service

Jobs to do in February

1. Make sure garden birds have food and fresh water. Clean feeders and water dishes regularly to help avoid the transmission of diseases (such as bird pox).
2. Prune autumn raspberries, cutting all canes down to ground level.
3. Make sure house plants are in a well-lit spot. Water sparingly until they are in active growth, but stand on trays of damp gravel to increase humidity.
4. Cut back late-summer-flowering Clematis, which flower on current-year's growth, to the lowest pair of strong buds some 30 cm above ground level.
5. Force rhubarb for sweeter, earlier stems by covering the crowns with straw and then a container or forcing jar to exclude light.

Kitchen garden

- ❖ Complete pruning of apple and pear trees, gooseberries, redcurrants and blackcurrants this month.
- ❖ There is still time to buy and plant bare-root fruit trees and bushes.
- ❖ At the end of this month sow tomatoes, peppers and chillies on a heated propagator or on a sunny windowsill.
- ❖ Sow onions, early leeks, cabbage, peas and lettuce under cover.
- ❖ In mild area, sow bread beans and peas, cabbage, parsnip, beetroot and spinach under cloches when the soil has warmed.

Ornamental garden

- ❖ Prune roses to promote the growth of strong, young flowering stems.
- ❖ If the ground is not frozen or water-logged, deciduous shrubs, hedges, trees and climbers can be planted.
- ❖ Cut back old foliage on deciduous grasses.
- ❖ Prune summer-flowering deciduous shrubs.
- ❖ Sow sweet peas in propagator or on a sunny windowsill.

Pest and disease watch

- ❖ Remove diseased leaves from glasshouse plants promptly.
- ❖ Protect emerging herbaceous plants from attack by slugs.

26. The style of the above text can be best described as:
- Descriptive and chatty
 - Persuasive and informative
 - Formal and persuasive
 - Instructive and explanatory
27. The phrase 'transmission of diseases' in point 1 means that:
- Birds can catch a disease from plants
 - Various diseases can be passed from one bird to another
 - You can hear a radio transmission about various diseases
 - People can catch a disease from birds
28. In order to enjoy beautiful roses one should:
- Sow them in a sunny spot
 - Cut back old foliage
 - Increase humidity
 - Prune them in February
29. The phrase 'water sparingly' means that:
- You do not overwater the plants
 - You need to keep them well watered
 - You must not water them
 - You need to water plants generously
30. Why would you keep plants in a propagator?
- To keep them well-lit
 - To keep them moist
 - To keep them warm
 - To keep them dry

End of Examination

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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

Learner Name _____

Learner Registration Number _____ Examination Date _____

Centre Name _____ Centre Number _____

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

NOCN Use Only

1	a	b	c	d	
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	
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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 _____