

**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.

Text 1

Getting to Grips with Accessing the British Countryside

Taking a walk in the countryside is a great way to discover new places and enjoy the beauty of the British landscape. There are all kinds of walks, trails and routes to choose from.

Public access areas

Public access areas are areas of mountain, moor, common land, heath and downs where you can walk freely without having to follow paths. These areas are open to people who want to walk, run, hike, climb or watch wildlife. However, horse riding, bike riding, water sports and camping are not allowed.

You can find out where you can go in the English countryside by visiting the Countryside Access website. Your outdoor access rights and responsibilities in Scotland are explained on the Outdoor Access Scotland website.

National Trails

National Trails were created to enable people to enjoy some of the finest landscapes in England and Wales. The first route to be opened was the Pennine Way in 1965. Maintained to a high standard, they are signposted and marked by an acorn symbol to help you find your way. There are 15 National Trails in England and Wales. In Scotland there is four trails, known as 'Long Distance Routes' marked with a thistle symbol.

Public rights of way

England has about 118,000 miles of footpaths, bridleways, byways and other rights of way. As a member of the public, you are entitled to use any of these pathways for leisure, work or convenience.

All pathways are clearly marked with coloured arrows to show how _____:

- Footpath - yellow arrow: open to walkers only
- Bridleway - blue arrow: open to cyclists, horse riders and walkers
- Byway - red arrow: open to all walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motor vehicles

Follow the Countryside Code

If you want to get the best out of the countryside, you should follow the Countryside Code at all times. Following the Code also helps to protect and preserve rural areas now and for the future. Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs

- leave gates and property as you find them
- protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
- keep dogs under close control

So what are you waiting for?

Get out into the countryside - roam as free as a bird in the public access areas and see what is out there to enjoy.



Photo taken by Josef F Steufer 16.01.2013

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

1. In line 1, the title is referring to:
 - a. Knowing where the British Countryside is
 - b. Not being able to go into the British Countryside
 - c. Finding out what the British Countryside is
 - d. Finding out about the rules you must follow in the British Countryside

2. The acorn symbol is used:
 - a. On all signposts in England
 - b. On all National Trail signposts in England
 - c. On all National Trail signposts in England and Wales
 - d. On all Long Distance Routes

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


4. Public Rights of Way:
 - a. are just for walkers
 - b. are just for pleasure
 - c. are clearly marked to say who can use them
 - d. mean you can walk wherever you want

5. What does the simile on line 41 mean?
 - a. Birds are free to go anywhere but you cannot
 - b. You are free to go anywhere like a bird can
 - c. Birds are not caged so you won't be either
 - d. You are restricted where you can go but birds are not

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6. The best word or phrase to replace '*freely*' in line 8 is:
- a. at no cost
 - b. without restrictions
 - c. easily
 - d. openly
7. There is a spelling mistake on:
- a. Line 3
 - b. Line 12
 - c. Line 19
 - d. Line 25
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 27 is:
- a. They will be used
 - b. They should have been used
 - c. They might have been used
 - d. They can be used
10. Which word should you always spell with a capital letter?
- a. National
 - b. Trails
 - c. Code
 - d. English

Text 2

<u>How to Help Prevent Crime</u>		1
Reporting crime		2
The police and other public services can't tackle crime and anti-social behaviour alone. If people don't report crime or come forward as witnesses it can be hard for them to solve cases and bring criminals to justice. You can help play your part by reporting crime and anti-social behaviour when you see it.		3
Reporting crime in an emergency		4
In an emergency you should always call 999. An emergency is when a crime is hapening, when someone suspected of a crime is nearby or when someone is injured, threatened or in _____.		5
Reporting crime anonymously		6
If you want to report a crime but are concerned about revealing your identity to the police you can get in touch with the organisation, Crimestoppers. You do not have to give your name or address.		7
Join Neighbourhood Watch		8
One of the simplest and most effective move's you can make to protect your community is to join your local Neighbourhood Watch group.		9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your neighbours will tell you if they think they have seen someone acting suspiciously around your home. • If there isn't one in your area already, you can start your own. • Your local police station can put you in touch with a group near you. 		10
Join a Tenants' or Residents' Association		11
These groups provide a way for you to get involved in taking care of your local area.		12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joining the groups can help you take a stand against crime and anti-social behaviour. • It doesn't cost anything to join. • You can get involved by joining a group or setting up a tenants' or residents' association yourself. • Make a difference to your neighbourhood. 		13
Become a Special Constable		14
The Special Constabulary is a force of trained volunteers who work with and support their local police.		15
'Specials', as special constables are known, come from all walks of life - they can be teachers, taxi drivers, accountants and secretaries, or from any other profession.		16
They all volunteer at least four hours a week to help their local police force. Once they have completed their training, they have the same powers as regular officers and wear a similar uniform.		17
		18
Photo courtesy of West Midlands Police		19
Keeping yourself safe		20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep to lit pathways and keep away from alleys • Always try to be accompanied • Have emergency numbers in your mobile phone • Plan your travel arrangements carefully, especially at night 		21
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11. The main purpose of this document is to:
- Present factual information on how to protect your local area from crime
 - Present factual information on how to help the police in your area
 - Describe advantages of neighbourhood watch schemes
 - Inform the reader about how the police tackle crime
12. According to the text, which statement is true?
- You must always give your name and address if you report a crime
 - Neighbourhood Watch schemes are led by the police
 - You can be a Special Constable if you can volunteer for three hours a week
 - It is free to join a Tenants' Association
13. In line 21, '*take a stand against crime*' means:
- That you promote crime
 - That you stand up at meetings against crime
 - That you do not want to be involved with crime
 - Show that you are not prepared to put up with crime
14. According to the text, Neighbourhood Watch groups will:
- Report crime
 - Tackle criminals
 - Take place at the police station
 - Be in every area
15. The text suggests that the police force:
- Is not able to tackle crime
 - Needs support from the public
 - Is ineffective
 - Is not staffed sufficiently

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16. A spelling mistake has been made on:

- a. Line 4
- b. Line 6
- c. Line 9
- d. Line 14

17. There is a punctuation mistake on:

- a. Line 4
- b. Line 9
- c. Line 16
- d. Line 17

18. The best word to replace 'especially' in line 48 is:

- a. eventually
- b. particularly
- c. even
- d. deliberately

19. The best word to complete a sentence in line 10 is:

- a. risk
- b. danger
- c. harm
- d. survival

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

- a. Crimestoppers
- b. Neighbourhood
- c. Watch
- d. Association

Text 3

Coping with Stress

21. If you're stressed, a first step to feeling better is to identify the cause.

The most unhelpful thing you can do is turn to something unhealthy to help you cope, such as overeating.

Be active

If you have a stress-related problem, physical activity can get you in the right state of mind to be able to identify the causes of your stress and find a solution. Exercise won't make your stress disappear, but it will help reduce some of the emotional intensity you're feeling, clearing your thoughts and enabling you to deal with your problems more calmly.

Take control

No matter how difficult your problem may appear to be, there's always a solution. The act of taking control is in itself empowering and a crucial part of finding a solution that satisfies you and not someone else.

Connect with people

A problem shared is a problem halved, as the old saying goes. A good support network of colleagues, friends and family can ease your troubles and help you. The activities we do with friends help us relax and we often have a good laugh with them, which is an excellent stress reliever. Talking through problems with a friend can also help you find solutions to problems.

Have some 'me time'

Adults may find that they spend too much time in the workplace. The UK workforce works the longest hours in Europe. The extra hours in the workplace mean people aren't spending enough time doing things they really enjoy. Students often are overwhelmed by the amount of homework or course work that they have to do at home. Specialists recommend setting aside a couple of nights a week for some quality 'me time' away from work or classwork.

Work smarter, not harder

Good time management means quality work rather than quantity. Our long-hours culture is a well-known cause of workplace illness. You have to get a work-life balance that suits you. Working smarter means prioritising your tasks, concentrating on those that will make a real difference to your life, study or work. Leave the least important tasks to last and accept that you will always have more work to do.



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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. Physical activity will:

- a. Make stress disappear
- b. Help you cope with stress
- c. Solve your problems
- d. Identify the cause of your stress

23. According to the text, which statement is true?

- a. Spending time with friends can help manage stress
- b. Taking control of a problem makes life more difficult
- c. Solutions to problems must always satisfy both yourself and others
- d. Stress does not make you feel emotionally unstable

24. The sentence 'you have to get a work-life balance that suits you' is understood in this text as:

- a. Reducing the number of hours worked
- b. Working more hours to get all your work done
- c. Working more effectively
- d. Spending more time at home

25. Why does the phrase 'me time' have quotation marks round it?

- a. Because it shows that someone is speaking
- b. Because it is a quotation from someone else
- c. Because it is colloquial
- d. Because it is a title (of a book, play or poem for example)

Text 4

This is the summer of holidays at home

My partner and I have just spent five nights in the south of France, taking a low-cost airline to Marseille. It is hard to underestimate the sheer energy-sapping misery of air travel in high summer.

Once families have decided not to have their normal fortnight in France or Italy and to go somewhere closer to home, they will soon realise that they'll have more **disposable income** on holiday than they expected: money that can be spent on hiring a baby-sitter for an evening; or on eating out rather than eating in.

All of which is good news for the economy generally. A survey in June by Sainsbury's suggested that people will spend £43 billion on holidays this summer, with 63 per cent of that amount (just over £27 billion) staying in Britain. Pubs and cafés have been closing all over the country as the credit crunch starts to bite. If sales

are good in July and August, businesses may just be able to survive for longer. People can certainly do their bit to kick-start the economic recovery by spending their money on British goods and services - which they cannot do on a beach in Spain.

Some parts of the holiday business are doing well. The Caravan Club has reported that advance bookings in 2009 are 40 per cent up on a year ago. Sales of tents and camper vans have doubled.

If you think that if you do not go on your usual foreign holiday it will be a catastrophe, it **will** be a catastrophe - something that makes you feel miserable for weeks. Treat it as an opportunity - to try something different, re-connect with simpler pleasures, rediscover wonderful parts of Britain you had forgotten existed and you could be in for a pleasant surprise!



26. The style of the above text can be best described as:
- a. Descriptive and formal
 - b. Informal and persuasive
 - c. Formal and informative
 - d. Instructive and informal
27. The phrase 'disposable income' in paragraph 2 means that:
- a. Money you have earned that you can spend while on holiday
 - b. Money you have earned that you can throw away on a holiday
 - c. Money you have saved that you can use to buy a holiday
 - d. Money you don't need to spend on a holiday
28. Which of these is NOT stated as a reason to holiday in Britain?
- a. Britain has some wonderful places to visit
 - b. It is not pleasant to travel by air in summer
 - c. You will have more money to spend on your holiday
 - d. The weather is hot in Britain in summer
29. The phrase 'kick-start the economic recovery' relates to:
- a. Improving national finances in Spain
 - b. Improving national finances in Britain
 - c. Helping the holiday business
 - d. Helping to increase the number of holidays taken in Britain
30. How much money is spent on holidays in Britain?
- a. 27 billion
 - b. 40 billion
 - c. 43 billion
 - d. 63 billion

End of Examination

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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

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Learner Signature _____

Date _____