

ESOL International

English Listening Examination

Level C2 Proficient

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Do not open the paper until you are told to do so.

Complete the information above.

Listen to the instructions.

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

You must not use a dictionary.

Total marks available: **31**

You have **40 minutes** to finish the examination.

Part 1

You will hear ten sentences twice. Choose the best answer in each situation.

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

Now listen to the sentences and choose the best answer.

Mark the answer on the mark sheet.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. a. I think our train arrives in London at 9pm.
b. I'm sorry, I didn't realise that was the time!
c. I prefer taking the bus when I need to travel.</p> <p>2. a. Sure, what time?
b. No problem. What do you need?
c. I'll be there tomorrow.</p> <p>3. a. No, thank you. I am vegetarian.
b. Good question. What about pasta?
c. I'll be back for dinner.</p> <p>4. a. I visited London last year.
b. I moved here last November.
c. London is my favourite city.</p> <p>5. a. Perfect, we can wait until he arrives.
b. I think Mike can make it to the meeting today.
c. Oh, that's a shame. Would you mind taking the minutes?</p> | <p>6. a. If you email it to me, I'll have a look.
b. I showed you my CV, didn't I?
c. I don't have a copy of your CV.</p> <p>7. a. You need to be there before 9am.
b. Do you like your new job?
c. It's natural to feel anxious about it.</p> <p>8. a. I go to the gym twice a week.
b. Oh really, why is that?
c. How much is the gym membership?</p> <p>9. a. I'm seeing her this week, so I will do.
b. Yasmin has an appointment at 1pm.
c. I've known Yasmin for 10 years.</p> <p>10. a. Quite a lot of people are volunteering these days.
b. He told me it wasn't a very good idea.
c. The animal shelter is currently looking for volunteers.</p> |
|---|--|

Part 2

You will hear two conversations. You will hear them twice.

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

Now listen to **Conversation 1**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Conversation 1

- 1. What is the conversation about?**
 - a. Digital libraries.
 - b. Writing an academic essay.
 - c. Free resources for students.
- 2. What does Freddie say referencing allows the reader to do?**
 - a. Identify the author and publication.
 - b. Find other sources of information.
 - c. Access links to a website.
- 3. Maja is unsure how to:**
 - a. Directly quote academic texts.
 - b. Paraphrase academic texts.
 - c. Read academic texts.
- 4. Why does Freddie recommend using academic journals?**
 - a. The information is random.
 - b. The information is affordable.
 - c. The information is reliable.
- 5. What does Freddie say paraphrasing is?**
 - a. Citing something incorrectly.
 - b. Writing in paragraphs.
 - c. Putting someone's ideas in your own words.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Conversation 2

- 1. Who is the conversation between?**
 - a. Jennifer and her friend.
 - b. Jennifer and a careers advisor.
 - c. Jennifer and her manager.
- 2. Which nursing speciality is recommended to Jennifer?**
 - a. Caring for children.
 - b. Caring for the elderly.
 - c. Caring for families.
- 3. Why does Jennifer want to work in healthcare?**
 - a. She is good at communicating.
 - b. She enjoys unique challenges.
 - c. She thinks it will be fulfilling.
- 4. What does Jennifer usually do in the summer?**
 - a. She works in a care home.
 - b. She works as an au pair.
 - c. She has appointments.
- 5. What did Jennifer find interesting during her placement?**
 - a. Watching the nurse deal with the residents.
 - b. Playing games with the residents.
 - c. Working as part of a team.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Part 3 – Debate and discussion

You will hear a debate and a discussion. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both the debate and discussion.

Now listen to the **debate**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **Why are students suspended from school?**
 - a. For not making progress.
 - b. For playing in the classroom.
 - c. For behaviour issues.
2. **What does Joan advocate?**
 - a. Keeping students in the school.
 - b. Being supervised at home.
 - c. Engaging with discussions on funding.
3. **What does the presenter say about suspension rates in England?**
 - a. They are at their lowest.
 - b. They are at their highest.
 - c. They have remained the same.
4. **Based on Joan's experience, suspension can make students frequently feel:**
 - a. Frustrated.
 - b. Agreeable.
 - c. Misunderstood.
5. **Removing students from their learning environment can mean:**
 - a. More funding for resources.
 - b. A better school reputation.
 - c. An increase in motivational issues.
6. **Suspended students do not study at home because they:**
 - a. Don't care about the missed work.
 - b. Don't have support at home.
 - c. Catch up with work when they return.

Listen to the debate again and check your answers.

Now listen to the **discussion**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **What is the discussion about?**
 - a. How machine translation works when translating a text.
 - b. Whether machine translation is better than human translation.
 - c. When machine translation will replace human translation.
2. **What does Lara say is an issue with machine translation?**
 - a. It doesn't translate abstract language effectively.
 - b. There is a delay when it translates audio.
 - c. It is too costly to use the machine.
3. **Lara's manager says using machine translation would be:**
 - a. More reliable than human translators.
 - b. More accurate than human translators.
 - c. Cheaper than human translators.
4. **What does Yulia say would be available in an online meeting using AI translation?**
 - a. Audio in a person's first language.
 - b. Accurate translations of idioms.
 - c. Real-time translated captions.
5. **What did Lara's manager decide to do?**
 - a. Continue to use human translators.
 - b. Replace humans with the machine.
 - c. Not talk about the topic again.

Listen to the discussion again and check your answers.

End of Examination.

ESOL International

English Reading Examination

Level C2 Proficient

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information above.

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 **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

Text 1

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

One of the world’s smallest fish found to make sound as loud as a thunderclap	1
	2
Barely the size of a thumbnail, a Myanmar fish has the smallest brain of any vertebrate.	3
So, neuroscientists studying the fish in a laboratory were intrigued when they heard this pint-sized creature making sounds of over 140 decibels!	4
	5
	6
As researchers walked past the tanks of Myanmar fish, they heard peculiar clicking sounds. They decided to investigate further. It was well-known that the fish made these noises, both in the wild and in aquariums, but the scientists didn’t know how or why.	7
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The researchers filmed the fish and discovered that the noise came from their swim bladder. The fish make the noise as their ribs hit the surface of their bladder. A special muscle pulls their rib against some cartilage and, when it is released, it hits the bladder like a drum. Analysing further, scientists learned that the rib-pulling muscle has more endurance than other muscles in the fish’s body, allowing the fish to make repetitive drumming sounds.	11
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‘There’s tension built up in this contraction. When that is rapidly released, the rib strikes the swim bladder, which produces the sound, lead author Verity Cook’ told <i>New Scientist</i> .	17
	18
	19
Only males make the drumming noise as the particular rib that acts as a drumstick is more large and more rigid in males than in females. The purpose of the drumming remains elusive. It could be part of mating behaviour or to show aggression or dominance.	20
	21
	22
	23
‘When you have maybe eight males together in a large tank, then three of them will dominate the sound production, and the other ones will be quiet,’ explained Cook. ‘We think there is a hierarchy.’ The other possibility is that the fish use the noise to help find each other in dark water.	24
	25
	26
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	28
Myanmar fish are not the only sea creatures that make a peculiar noise. In fact, a midship fish produces mating calls that can reach 130 decibels. Even more _____ is the pistol shrimp, which is even louder and can make noises up to an impressive 200 decibels!	29
	30
	31

1. **The main point of the text is to:**
 - a. Inform the reader about the Myanmar fish.
 - b. Explain the mating behaviour of fish.
 - c. Describe the pistol shrimp.
2. **What does Cook think large groups of males in a tank use sound for?**
 - a. To attract other males.
 - b. To establish the social order.
 - c. To keep the other fish quiet.
3. **The fish produce a clicking sound by:**
 - a. Using their ribs to strike their swim bladder.
 - b. Using their ribs to hit the water.
 - c. Using their swim bladder to pull their ribs.
4. **Which sea creature is the loudest?**
 - a. The Myanmar fish.
 - b. The midshipman fish.
 - c. The pistol shrimp.
5. **Where did the scientists observe the fish in their studies?**
 - a. In the sea.
 - b. In a laboratory.
 - c. In aquariums.
6. **There is a spelling error on:**
 - a. Line 3.
 - b. Line 11.
 - c. Line 15.
7. **There is a grammar error on:**
 - a. Line 20.
 - b. Line 25.
 - c. Line 29.
8. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
 - a. Line 8.
 - b. Line 18.
 - c. Line 26.
9. **The best word to complete the sentence on line 30 is:**
 - a. Incredible.
 - b. Average.
 - c. Typical.
10. **The best word to replace 'elusive' on line 21 is:**
 - a. Interesting.
 - b. Misunderstood.
 - c. Unclear.

Text 2

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

Lucid dreaming	1
	2
Typically, when we dream, we do not know that a dream is not real. However, some people are able to enter a dream and be fully aware of the fact that they are actually dreaming. Specialists define a lucid dream as ‘a dream during which dreamers are aware that they are dreaming.’	3
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The very first record of lucid dreaming appears to feature in the treatise, ‘On Dreams’ by the Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. In it, he describes an instance of self-awareness during a dream state.	8
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Who experiences lucid dreaming?	12
It is unclear how many people actually experience lucid dreaming, though certain studies have tried to gather information regarding its prevalence and it seems that this phenomenon may be quite common. For instance, researchers in Brazil surveyed 3,427 participants with a median age of 25. The results of the survey indicated that 77% of the respondents had experienced lucid dreaming at least once in their lives.	13
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When does it happen and what is it like.	19
Like most dreams, lucid dreaming will typically occur during Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep. For some people it occurs spontaneously, but others train themselves to start dreaming lucidly or to becoming better at it. The degree to which a person can influence a dream also varies. Some people may simply wake up immediately upon realising that they have been dreaming. Other people, however, may be able to influence their own actions within the dream, or parts of the dream itself.	20
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	26
We spoke to one lucid dreamer, Francesca, who reported that she was able to manipulate the dream narrative in order to create a pleasant experience for herself. ‘Usually, I can control the story in the dream so, for example, if I’m _____ with the way things are going in the dream, I can change it,’ she explained.	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
Lucid dreaming is certainly an attractive and fascinating prospect. Being able to explore our own inner worlds with full awareness that we are in a dream is intriguing and has an almost magical air to it.	32
	33
	34

11. **What is the text about?**
- Explaining what lucid dreaming is.
 - Encouraging readers to change their dreams.
 - Warning people about lucid dreaming.
12. **What best defines lucid dreaming?**
- A frightening form of dreaming.
 - When a person is aware at the time of being in a dream.
 - A type of dream that only people who are trained in can experience.
13. **What was the average age of those surveyed?**
- 25 years old.
 - 27 years old.
 - 77 years old.
14. **What is the writer's opinion of lucid dreaming?**
- There is something magical about it.
 - It can be a manipulative experience.
 - It can influence people's actions.
15. **How did Aristotle contribute to the understanding of lucid dreaming?**
- By conducting modern surveys on lucid dreaming prevalence.
 - By describing an instance of self-awareness during a dream state.
 - By inventing techniques to induce lucid dreaming.
16. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
- Line 13.
 - Line 28.
 - Line 32.
17. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
- Line 22.
 - Line 24.
 - Line 33.
18. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
- Line 19.
 - Line 20.
 - Line 21.
19. **The best word to complete the sentence on line 29 is:**
- Delighted.
 - Fatigued.
 - Dissatisfied.
20. **The best word to replace the word 'prospect' on line 32 is:**
- Belief.
 - Idea.
 - Activity.

Text 3

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

Decoding the secrets of spider silk

Silk has been produced by a large variety of arthropods for hundreds of millions of years. Humans have been using silk materials for several thousands of years for all kinds of applications, ranging from textiles to wound dressings, to uses in the military.

The main source of silk is the Bombyx Mori, more commonly known as the domestic silk moth. This insect became a popular source of silk, because it is easy to farm. In contrast, the silk of spiders cannot be collected so easily. Despite the difficulty in sourcing spider silk, the nets of orb weaving spiders have historically been used in fishing and for wound coverage, due to their outstanding mechanical and biomedical properties.

Orb webs can be found all over the world, with web diameters ranging from a few centimetres to several metres. Very recently, spiders in Madagascar were found to spin single threads spanning across rivers, with a length of approximately 25 metres. Orb webs have been adapted over millions of years to withstand, and compensate for, the kinetic impacts of the large prey of the spider.

When examined by the naked eye, all threads in an orb web appear the same. However, on closer inspection, each web is built from up to five different silk types. A female orb weaving spider is even able to produce up to seven different silks, including one special silk for egg cases.

Spider silks have a sophisticated combination of strength and flexibility, which yields a very high toughness. This is calculated on the basis of the energy absorbed per volume before breakage, and it exceeds most natural or man-made fibres. All silks can stretch and return to their original shape. When stretched, energy is dissipated as heat, preventing them from bouncing back.

21. **How is the toughness of silk calculated?**
 - a. By measuring how quickly it bounces back.
 - b. By measuring how far it can be stretched.
 - c. By measuring energy absorbed per volume.
22. **Which is the main source of silk?**
 - a. Orb weaving spiders.
 - b. Domestic silk moth.
 - c. Spiders in Madagascar.
23. **Which is a notable characteristic of orb webs?**
 - a. They can withstand large prey impacts.
 - b. They are made from a single type of silk.
 - c. They are only found in Madagascar.
24. **How many different silk types can be found in an orb web?**
 - a. Up to five.
 - b. Up to seven.
 - c. Up to twenty-five.
25. **Why is spider silk used for wounds?**
 - a. It has kinetic properties.
 - b. It has biomedical properties.
 - c. It has flexible properties.

Text 4

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

The Work of Octavia Hill

Octavia Hill's contributions to social reform and urban development began in 1864 in the impoverished neighbourhood of Marylebone, London. At that time, Marylebone was a poor area, vastly different from its current status as one of London's most exclusive neighbourhoods. Hill, a teacher and artist, focused her efforts on improving the living conditions of those at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

Hill believed that decent housing was a fundamental necessity of life. Her vision was that even the smallest home, if well-maintained, with access to light, air, space, and a caring community, could significantly improve the quality of life for its inhabitants. To put her ideas into practice, Hill used funds provided by John Ruskin, an art critic and social thinker of the time, to purchase three houses.

Hill's meticulous management and compassionate approach yielded a financial return of 5%, making her housing projects attractive investments. Her success allowed her to expand her efforts, securing additional funds and support. Hill also trained many women to perform roles similar to hers, effectively laying the groundwork for the modern profession of social work. Her approach aimed to enhance tenants' self-respect and build mutual trust.

Beyond housing, Hill's influence extended to environmental conservation. In 1894, she played a pivotal role in founding the National Trust, an organisation dedicated to preserving the UK's stately homes, parks, and landscapes. The National Trust remains vital to the UK's heritage conservation efforts today. Hill's legacy also includes her written work, particularly the 1883 publication of two essays entitled "The Homes of the London Poor," which helped disseminate her ideas globally. Her methods and principles have inspired similar initiatives in cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, and Chicago.

26. Which best describes Octavia Hill?

- a. An advocate for the poor.
- b. A financial investor.
- c. A friend of John Ruskin.

27. How many houses did Octavia Hill initially buy?

- a. One.
- b. Three.
- c. Five.

28. The National Trust can be described as an organisation that:

- a. Helps protect historic buildings and the countryside.
- b. Helps people buy their own houses.
- c. Publishes books on homes and parks.

29. What did many women do in response to Hill's success?

- a. Donated money to Hill's project.
- b. Bought their own houses.
- c. Followed in her footsteps.

30. At the time, the area Octavia Hill first started working in was:

- a. London's most exclusive area.
- b. A poverty-stricken part of London.
- c. A conservation part of London.

31. What did Hill achieve in 1883?

- a. She founded the National Trust.
- b. She travelled to Berlin and Amsterdam.
- c. She became a published writer.

End of Examination.



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ESOL International

Writing

Level C2 Proficient

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information above.

You must write between 200 – 250 words for Task 1 and 250 – 300 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 **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1 – Allow 35 minutes for this task

You see an upcoming TED Talks event in your city and you would like to take part. The talks are open lectures on inspiring and interesting topics. Write an email to Ms O’Dowd, the organiser, expressing your interest in giving a 15-minute talk on a subject of your choice.

You could write about:

- what the topic of your talk would be
- why this topic would be interesting for others
- any experience you have with public speaking
- what you think you would gain from this opportunity.

OR

Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1 – Allow 35 minutes for this task

You recently saw that your local college is offering work experience in different sectors, including healthcare, hospitality, technology and construction. You are interested in this offer and would like to gain some work experience for your CV. Write a letter to the college careers advisor expressing your interest in this opportunity.

You could write about:

- what sector you would like to gain experience in
- what you know about this sector already
- what your plans are for the future
- what you hope to gain from this work experience.

You must write 200 – 250 words.

(12 Marks)

Informal Writing Task 2 – Allow 35 minutes for this task

Write a blog post for families about five interesting places they can visit or activities they can do this summer in the area you live.

You could write about:

- outdoor places that are suitable for families
- indoor places or activities that would interest all the family
- why these activities or places would be interesting
- how visiting these places could benefit the whole family.

You must write 250 – 300 words.

(12 Marks)

You will be assessed on:

- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary

- content
- use of appropriate tenses

- word order
- legibility of writing

End of Examination



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