

ESOL International

English Reading Examination

Level B2 Independent User

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

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

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

<u>The history of breakdancing</u>	1
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Breakdancing, or 'breaking', started in the 1970s in New York, USA. It was created by	3
African-American and Latin-American young people. They used the dance as a way to	4
show their feelings. The 'breaks' in songs were the parts with just rhythm and beats.	5
This gave dancers the chance to try new dance moves. One after another, they added	6
new steps, which helped it become an _____ new dance style.	7
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Breakdancing began as both an art form and a way for dancers to compete against each	9
other. They learned from each other too, wanting to make their moves better. Gradually,	10
breakdancing became known beyond the USA. It spread through music videos and	11
films, which helped show it to people around the world. These things made breakdancing	12
an important part of hip-hop culture during the 1980s.	13
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Events like Germanys <i>Battle of the Year</i> became popular. These contests helped bring	15
breakdancing to more people. Dancers competed to show their best moves, getting	16
praise and becoming well-known. Their wish to be the best made them practise hard.	17
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In 2024, breakdancing became an official sport in the Summer Olympic Games. This	19
shows how far breakdancing has come, since its early days of being performing in	20
streets. Now it is a strong movement that keeps inspiring people all over the world.	21

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| <p>1. Where did breakdancing begin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Africa.b. Germany.c. New York. <p>2. What did people use breakdancing for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. To create a new dance style.b. To show their feelings.c. To perfect their dance moves. <p>3. How did breakdancing spread beyond the USA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Through competitions.b. Through music videos and films.c. Through the culture. <p>4. What made them practise hard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The ability to show their best moves.b. Finding fame and approval.c. Their wish to be the best. <p>5. When did breakdancing become an official Olympic sport?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 1970s.b. 1980s.c. 2024. | <p>6. Which line has a spelling mistake?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 9.b. Line 10.c. Line 12. <p>7. The word 'official' on line 19 means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Approved.b. Popular.c. New. <p>8. Which line has a punctuation error?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 6.b. Line 11.c. Line 15. <p>9. The word missing from line 7 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Effortless.b. Expensive.c. Exciting. <p>10. Which line has a grammar error?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 17.b. Line 20.c. Line 21. |
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Text 2

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

<u>Paralympian Dame Sarah Storey</u>	1
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Dame Sarah Storey is Britain's most successful Paralympian. In France in 2024, she won her 19th Gold medal in an exciting cycling road race. Known for her strong performances, Storey finished just ahead of the second place French rider, after an exciting sprint to the finish.	3
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This win brings Storey's total medals to 30. She has won them in two sports, cycling and swimming, over nine Paralympic Games. In fact, Storey first competed in the Olympics at only 14 years old. She went on to win five of her gold medals before turning 19. Her deep focus on sports and her _____ on others have earned her respect worldwide. Despite setbacks and health issues, she keeps setting new goals regularly.	8
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Storey first took part in the Paralympics in 1992, racing as a swimmer for Britain in Spain. Over time, she switched to cycling and became known around the world for her determination. There's no stopping for Storey, which goal-setting stays as strong as ever.	15
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The 2024 Paris Paralympics were especially meaningful to her, as her two children, Louisa and Charlie, watched her compete for the first time. "The chance to experience a normal Games following the lockdown of 2020, with fans, supporters and my family was too good to miss," she said.	20
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11. **Dame Sarah Storey represents which country?**
a. Olympus.
b. France.
c. Britain.
12. **How many medals does Dame Sarah Storey have?**
a. 14.
b. 19.
c. 30.
13. **She first took part in the Paralympics as a:**
a. Cyclist.
b. Swimmer.
c. Sprinter.
14. **What is she known across the world for?**
a. Her determination.
b. Her ambition.
c. Her strength.
15. **Who are Louisa and Charlie?**
a. Her fans.
b. Her supporters.
c. Her children.
16. **'Meaningful' on line 20 means:**
a. Challenging.
b. Important.
c. Serious.
17. **Which line has a spelling mistake?**
a. Line 5.
b. Line 8.
c. Line 9.
18. **Which line has a punctuation error?**
a. Line 4.
b. Line 15.
c. Line 21.
19. **Which line has a grammar mistake?**
a. Line 12.
b. Line 17.
c. Line 22.
20. **The word missing from line 11 is:**
a. Pressure.
b. Influence.
c. Neglect.

Text 3

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

Living with over 70 pets

Can you imagine living with more than 70 cats? That's the reality for Karen Smy and her daughter, Lauren, from Wales. They run a cat rescue service, taking care of unwanted domestic cats.

Karen's Cat Community rescue started in 2017. The mother and daughter team began by offering advice on cat care, but quickly became overwhelmed, as more and more people asked them to adopt their unwanted cats. Now the pair share every room of their house with cats, including the kitchen and bathroom.

Lauren, who works in the charity sector, said that her strong emotional connection with the cats helped her through difficult times. She said the cats were always there for her when people weren't.

Caring for so many cats is challenging. Karen and Lauren spend £135 each day on food and cat litter, and have over £3,000 in vet bills still to pay. Karen added that rising costs have made it even harder to keep up with everything.

On balance, both Karen and Lauren still find great satisfaction in their work. The pair hope to find new rescue homes for all the cats and will continue to raise money through fundraising events.

21. What happened in 2017?

- a. Karen bought over 70 cats.
- b. Karen's Cat Community rescue started.
- c. Karen and her daughter raised money for charity.

22. What did the rescue only offer at the start?

- a. Food and cat litter.
- b. To adopt unwanted cats.
- c. Advice on cat care.

23. What helped Lauren through difficult times?

- a. The satisfaction in her work.
- b. Her emotional connection with the cats.
- c. Working with her mum.

24. What has made it even harder to manage?

- a. Having so many cats.
- b. The vet bills.
- c. Rising costs.

25. How will Karen and Lauren raise money?

- a. Through fundraising events.
- b. By finding the cats new homes.
- c. By working in a rescue service.

Text 4

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

Jelly Beans

Do you like jelly beans? These vivid, sweet treats are a favourite for many people. They come in a variety of flavours, from cherry and lime to unusual ones like popcorn, candyfloss or even rotten eggs! There's definitely a jelly bean to satisfy everyone.

Jelly beans are made using a process called panning. First, a hot sugary syrup is poured into bean-shaped moulds to form the soft centres, which are left to dry for up to 24 hours. These are then removed and placed into spinning pans. Thin layers of sugar, colour and flavour are gradually added as the beans spin. This creates the hard outer shell. Finally, the jelly beans are polished with wax to give them a shiny finish before being sorted and packaged.

Jelly beans have been around since the late 1800s. By the late 1930s, they were a common sweet in America. Historians believe that they became especially popular in the 1940s, as Easter treats. Many also believe that their soft centres were inspired by another sweet called Turkish Delight.

So, next time you enjoy a jelly bean, remember all the work that goes into creating these ideal sweet treats.

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| <p>26. What is a favourite for many people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Jelly beans.b. Turkish Delight.c. Popcorn. <p>27. Which is an unusual flavour?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Cherry.b. Lime.c. Candyfloss. <p>28. What creates the hard outer shell?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Drying them for 24 hours.b. Adding thin layers of sugar.c. Pouring the mix into moulds. | <p>29. What gives the beans their shiny look?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Polishing them with wax.b. Adding colour and flavour.c. Spinning them in pans. <p>30. When did jelly beans become an Easter treat?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 1800s.b. 1930s.c. 1940s. <p>31. What did Turkish Delight sweets inspire in jelly beans?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Their flavours.b. Their soft centre.c. Their colours. |
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End of Examination

Reading Mark Scheme

TEXT	Question	Answer		TEXT	Question	Answer
1	1	c		3	21	b
1	2	b		3	22	c
1	3	b		3	23	b
1	4	c		3	24	c
1	5	c		3	25	a
1	6	b		4	26	a
1	7	a		4	27	c
1	8	c		4	28	b
1	9	c		4	29	a
1	10	b		4	30	c
2	11	c		4	31	b
2	12	c				
2	13	b				
2	14	a				
2	15	c				
2	16	b				
2	17	a				
2	18	a				
2	19	b				
2	20	b				
					Total	31