

**ESOL International  
English Listening Examination  
Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on the mark sheet.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use pencil.

Total marks available: 31

You have **35 minutes** to finish the examination.

**Part 1**

You will hear 10 sentences twice. Choose the best answer in each situation.

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

Now listen to the sentences and select the best answer. Mark the answer on the mark sheet.

1.           a. Yes, I need to put my coat on.  
              b. No, can you close the windows?  
              c. Yes, I will take my sweater off.
  
2.           a. That would have been useful.  
              b. That is good news, well done.  
              c. That is not good news, is it?
  
3.           a. It is cheaper than driving though.  
              b. You will have to leave later.  
              c. They will enjoy that though.
  
4.           a. I need to tell them later.  
              b. We must do it again soon.  
              c. They left last Saturday.
  
5.           a. She doesn't want to.  
              b. That would not happen.  
              c. Of course you can.

6.
  - a. Are you already freezing cold?
  - b. So you can change if you get wet?
  - c. If they go will that be helpful?
  
7.
  - a. Yes, one black and one white.
  - b. Yes, one cat who is ginger.
  - c. Yes, two dogs who are black.
  
8.
  - a. If the weather is nice we can go in one group.
  - b. It is always awkward choosing a new car.
  - c. You must be nearly ready to take your test.
  
9.
  - a. Will he like the new restaurant?
  - b. Oh which? The new action one?
  - c. When are your friends visiting?
  
10.
  - a. Yes, it was not as good as usual.
  - b. Yes, it was all tasty and good value.
  - c. Yes, you looked like you enjoyed it.

**Part 2 - Conversations**

You will now hear two conversations. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to Conversation 1. Record your answers to the questions on the mark sheet.

**Conversation 1**

- 1. How many times did the driver ring the bell?**
  - a. Five
  - b. Three
  - c. Four
  
- 2. When was the order originally due?**
  - a. Wednesday
  - b. Tuesday
  - c. Friday
  
- 3. How many orders is the customer waiting for?**
  - a. Two
  - b. Three
  - c. Five
  
- 4. Which statement is not correct?**
  - a. The delivery is not marked as urgent.
  - b. The driver is always in a hurry.
  - c. The order should contain two boxes.
  
- 5. What action is the customer going to take?**
  - a. She will contact the driver's manager.
  - b. She will place further orders.
  - c. She will contact the company she bought from.

Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to Conversation 2. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Conversation 2

1. **Why did John and Gordon start the Big Issue?**
  - a. To start a new and profitable business.
  - b. To raise funds for their own companies.
  - c. To help homeless people help themselves.
  
2. **How do vendors help themselves?**
  - a. They buy the Big Issue and sell it for the same price.
  - b. They buy the Big Issue and sell it for more than it cost.
  - c. They buy the Big Issue and sell it for less than it cost.
  
3. **How many vendors currently work with the Big Issue?**
  - a. Over 40,000
  - b. Around 2000
  - c. Below 200
  
4. **When was the Big Issue Foundation set up?**
  - a. 1991
  - b. 2014
  - c. 1995
  
5. **Which statement is not correct?**
  - a. The Foundation helps with holiday plans.
  - b. The Foundation helps with health issues.
  - c. The Foundation helps with financial problems.

Listen the conversation again and check your answers.

**Part 3 - Broadcasts**

You will now hear two radio broadcasts. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both radio broadcasts.

Now listen to Broadcast 1. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

**Broadcast 1**

1. **When can blood clots start?**
  - a. Before taking regular daily exercise.
  - b. If the blood vessel lining is damaged.
  - c. During short periods of watching television.
  
2. **A word that could replace '*fatal*' is ...**
  - a. healthy
  - b. normal
  - c. deadly
  
3. **According to the broadcast, which statement about the research is true?**
  - a. People should drink water when watching television.
  - b. People should not have a daily rest or sleep.
  - c. People should sit for long periods to watch television.
  
4. **During the research those who watched over five hours of television a day ...**
  - a. had no risk at all of clots.
  - b. increased the risk of clots.
  - c. decreased the risk of clots.
  
5. **What did the research conclude?**
  - a. That eating when sitting is important.
  - b. That moving around is very important.
  - c. That keeping still is very important.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

Now listen to Broadcast 2. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Broadcast 2

1. **What does the broadcast say is a first?**
  - a. Harvard University students using the Facebook website.
  - b. Online visitors' monthly use of the Facebook website.
  - c. One billion people using the Facebook website on one day.
  
2. **Which statement is true?**
  - a. Anyone over 13 years old can have a Facebook account.
  - b. Only college students can have a Facebook account.
  - c. Only people under 13 years old can have a Facebook account.
  
3. **The word '*launching*' means ...**
  - a. selling very cheaply.
  - b. setting in motion.
  - c. producing many copies.
  
4. **According to the broadcast, one in seven people use Facebook to:**
  - a. do their shopping.
  - b. link up with friends.
  - c. apply for jobs.
  
5. **In what year did Facebook have one billion accounts?**
  - a. 2015
  - b. 2012
  - c. 2004

6. **Facebook's new service can help ...**
- a. calculate your annual income.
  - b. text friends new meeting times.
  - c. find restaurants near you.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

**End of Examination for Listening – Level B2**



**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 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

<u>Slow-melting ice cream ingredient discovered by scientists</u>	1
A new ingredient has been developed by scientists in Scotland, which could mean that ice-cream lovers can enjoy their ice-creams a bit longer before they melt. A naturally occurring protein can be used to create ice cream, which stays frozen for longer in _____ weather.	2
The scientists estimate that the slow-melting product could become available to shops in three to five years.	3
	4
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The project leader, Professor Cait MacPhee, of the University of Edinburgh's school of physics and astronomy, said: "it's not completely non-melting because you do want your ice cream to be cold. It will melt eventually but hopefully by keeping it stable for longer it will stop the drips." Professor MacPhee said it works by keeping oil and water mixed together, stopping air from escaping and coating the ice crystals in ice cream, which stops them from melting so quickly.	8
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Professor MacPhee told BBC Radio 5 live: "there is a natural protein already used in food preparation for some foods and by using this protein we're replacing some of the fat molecules that are currently used with these oil and water mixtures so it can reduce the fat content, but it shouldn't make the ice-cream taste any different."	15
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Professor MacPhee added that this process could reduce the sugar content in ice-cream and could be used in other foods such as chocolate mousse and mayonnaise to help reduce the calories.	20
	21
	22
	23
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34104545">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34104545</a>	24

### 1. What can make ice-cream stay frozen for longer?

- a. Fat
- b. Protein
- c. Water

### 2. When will the product be available?

- a. In under five years
- b. They don't know
- c. In over five years

- 3. Where does Professor Cait MacPhee work?**
- a. Radio 5
  - b. In a shop
  - c. The University of Edinburgh
- 4. What will the ice-cream still do?**
- a. Melt
  - b. Freeze
  - c. Be warm
- 5. What is mixed with oil to stop the ice-cream melting?**
- a. Fat
  - b. Sugar
  - c. Water
- 6. A word has been omitted from line 4. The word should be ...**
- a. frozen
  - b. hot
  - c. poor
- 7. What is covered in ice cream to slow down the melting process?**
- a. Sugar
  - b. Mayonnaise
  - c. Ice crystals
- 8. There is a spelling mistake in ...**
- a. line 8
  - b. line 18
  - c. line 24

**9. The best phrase to replace the word '*eventually*' in line 10 is ...**

- a. lately
- b. at some point
- c. reliably

**10. There is a grammatical mistake ...**

- a. in line 11
- b. in line 16
- c. in line 22

## Text 2

<u>Does lack of sleep make you more likely to catch a cold?</u>	1
People who sleep six hours a night or less are more at risk of catching a cold when exposed to the virus, research has found. For one week, 164 healthy volunteers were asked to wear a wrist sensor that tracked their normal sleep habits.	2 3 4
Drops were then put in their nose containing viruses that cause a cold; the volunteers were then kept in a hotel for five days under close observation to see how many got a cold.	5 6 7 8
The results suggest that people who get little sleep each night are more likely to catch a cold than those who sleep for more than seven hours a night. Getting broken sleep at night did not appear to make any difference; it was just the quantity of sleep per _____.	9 10 11 12 13
Lead researcher Dr Aric Prather, from the University of California in San Francisco, said that “it didn't matter how old people were, their stress levels, their race, education or income. It didn't matter if they were a smoker.” It was the amount and quality of sleep that had the biggest impact on the chance of catching a cold. Poor sleep has been linked to other illnesses and obesity. Dr Prather has previously said that sleep may limit the effectiveness of _____.	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
Experts say most people need about eight hours of good-quality sleep a night to function properly – but some need more and some less.	21 22 23
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-34115113">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-34115113</a>	24 25

### 11. How many people were asked to take part in the test?

- a. 164
- b. 191
- c. 200

### 12. How many days did the volunteers stay in the hotel?

- a. Two
- b. Five
- c. Seven

**13. What makes people more at risk of getting a cold?**

- a. Too much sleep
- b. Broken sleep
- c. Too little sleep

**14. What is Dr Aric Prather's role?**

- a. Lead researcher
- b. Volunteer
- c. General practitioner

**15. What else is poor sleep linked to?**

- a. Education
- b. Obesity
- c. Income

**16. The word 'volunteer' in line 7 can best be replaced with ...**

- a. students
- b. managers
- c. helpers

**17. There is a spelling mistake on ...**

- a. line 6
- b. line 18
- c. line 20

**18. The best word to complete the sentence in line 13 is ...**

- a. morning
- b. night
- c. afternoon

**19. A grammatical mistake has been made on ...**

- a. line 12
- b. line 22
- c. line 25

**20. What is the best word or phrase to complete line 20?**

- a. Vaccines
- b. Hotels
- c. Hours

### **Text 3**

#### Loch Ness and the Loch Ness monster

You should not visit Scotland without going to Loch Ness. Loch Ness is over 20 miles long, a mile wide and 700 feet at its deepest. Loch Ness is the largest lake in Scotland by volume. The area around Loch Ness is filled with historic attractions, natural wonders, places to stay and good local restaurants. The Loch Ness Monster is just one of the many myths and legends to be discovered in this particularly beautiful part of Scotland.

The legend of the Loch Ness Monster has been around since the sixth century, when Irish monk Saint Columba witnessed locals burying a man who had been attacked by a 'water beast'. Nothing was seen until a report of a monster in the Northern Chronicle of 27th August 1930, which described fishermen in a boat on Loch Ness being "disturbed" by an 18 feet long creature.

But it was the famous sighting in 1933, when George Spicer and his wife claimed they saw 'a most extraordinary form of animal', which was 4ft high and 25ft long crossing the road near the loch, that started Nessie mania.

The central location of Loch Ness makes the area a perfect destination for holidays in the Scottish Highlands – all within easy reach of Scotland's fastest growing city, Inverness.

<http://www.inverness-scotland.com/Loch-Ness.php>

#### **21. What is the main purpose of the text?**

- a. To direct
- b. To advise
- c. To inform

#### **22. According to the text, how deep is Loch Ness?**

- a. 20 miles
- b. 18 feet
- c. 700 feet

#### **23. Who was disturbed by an 18 feet long creature in 1930?**

- a. Saint Columba
- b. Fishermen
- c. George Spicer



**24. What does *'claimed'* mean in paragraph 3?**

- a. Joked
- b. Took away
- c. Stated

**25. When was it said the larger Monster was seen?**

- a. 6<sup>th</sup> Century
- b. 1933
- c. 1930

## Text 4

<u>Luxury apartment blocks to be linked by glass-bottomed pool suspended 115 feet in the air</u>	1
A pair of luxury apartment blocks will be linked by a swimming pool suspended 115 feet in the air. Embassy Gardens is a Thames-side development in Battersea which will be made up of around 2,000 homes including three-bedroom suites and penthouses starting at £602,000.	2 3 4 5 6 7
Ballymore and Eco World, who are working on the plot, have produced plans for the 'Sky Pool'. This includes a riverfront walk threading between Embassy Gardens to Battersea Park, a boutique hotel and a number of bars, restaurants and shops for residents to enjoy.	8 9 10 11 12
The chairman of Ballymore Group, Sean Mulryan, described the plans as 'truly unique'. He said: 'My vision for the Sky Pool stemmed from a desire to do something that had never been done before. At Ballymore we like to push the boundaries on all aspects of design, the Sky Pool's transparent structure is the result of significant advancements in technologies over the last decade'.	13 14 15 16 17 18
Sean added that 'the experience of the pool will feel like floating through the air in central London.' The buildings linked by the pool are part of the second phase of the development, which will be released to market in September.	19 20 21 22
Buyers will be able to move into the properties in 2018.	23
<a href="http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3203692/Swimming-sky-Luxury-apartment-blocks-linked-glass-bottomed-pool-suspended-115-feet-air.html">http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3203692/Swimming-sky-Luxury-apartment-blocks-linked-glass-bottomed-pool-suspended-115-feet-air.html</a>	24 25 26

### 26. What is the name of the luxury apartments?

- a. Sky Pool
- b. Embassy Gardens
- c. Ballymore

### 27. According to the text, which statement is true?

- a. The swimming pool will be suspended 300 feet up.
- b. The development will be made up of 2,000 homes.
- c. The riverfront walk leads to Central London.

**28. What is meant by 'truly unique' in line 13?**

- a. Like many others
- b. Very expensive
- c. One of a kind

**29. What facility is not mentioned in the text?**

- a. Theatre
- b. Restaurants
- c. Shops

**30. When will the properties be available?**

- a. 2020
- b. 2016
- c. 2018

**31. What is part of the second phase of building?**

- a. Three-bedroom suites
- b. The pool linked buildings
- c. Penthouse and bars

**End of Examination for Reading – Level B2**

**ESOL International  
English Writing Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper. Please complete the information above.

You must write a minimum of 100 – 150 for Task 1 and 150 - 200 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.

In Task 1 you must complete **either** Option 1 **or** Option 2 of the Formal Writing Task.

Total marks available: 40

Allow time to check your work before the end of the examination.

You have **one hour** to finish the examination.

**Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow 30 minutes for this task.

Write an article for a local magazine about the need for more recycling facilities where you live.

You could write about:

- The benefits of recycling.
- What could be provided – bins, gloves, bags
- Who would use these facilities.

**Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow 30 minutes for this task.

Write an article for a local magazine about a recent fund raising event you carried out for a local dog charity.

You could write about:

- The event you took part in.
- What type of dogs are cared for by the charity.
- The money you raised.
- What the money will be used for.

Write 100 – 150 words.

You will be assessed on:

- content
- word order
- use of appropriate tenses
- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary
- legibility of writing

(20 Marks)

**Informal Writing Task 2** – Allow 30 minutes for this task.

Write a letter to a friend about a book you have recently read and enjoyed.

You could write about:

- Why you liked the book.
- What the book was about.
- What made you want to read the book.

Write 150-200 words.

You will be assessed on:

- content
- word order
- use of appropriate tenses
- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary
- legibility of writing

(20 Marks)

**End of Examination for Writing – Level B2**

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