

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

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

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

Please complete the information above.

Listen to the instructions.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use pencil.

You must not use a dictionary.

Total marks available: 31

You have **35 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 recording and select the best answer. Mark the answer on the mark sheet.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. a. I don't like football.<br/>b. Which club do you play at?<br/>c. Roger Federer plays well.</p> <p>2. a. Yes, it was on the house.<br/>b. Yes, it was raining.<br/>c. Yes, it was very scary.</p> <p>3. a. It has ten chapters altogether.<br/>b. One called Malibu Rising.<br/>c. I am reading two at once.</p> <p>4. a. Taller than my garden shed.<br/>b. The daisy is not very tall.<br/>c. I am very tall.</p> <p>5. a. Do you have any bags?<br/>b. Yes, what type do you want?<br/>c. The apples all taste good.</p> | <p>6. a. I hope so!<br/>b. What happened yesterday?<br/>c. That's great news.</p> <p>7. a. No, I'm too busy.<br/>b. Through the back door.<br/>c. It's in the garden.</p> <p>8. a. A pair of shoes.<br/>b. Plenty of sand.<br/>c. Definitely a towel.</p> <p>9. a. They mustn't know the time.<br/>b. I know, it annoys me.<br/>c. I have time to read a book.</p> <p>10. a. Yes, she got a distinction.<br/>b. Yes, she's playing on Sunday.<br/>c. Yes, piano exams are hard.</p> |
|--|---|

## Part 2

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

You have two minutes to read the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to **Conversation 1**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- 1. What kind of pond has Ronnie built?**
  - a. Midlife.
  - b. Wildfowl.
  - c. Wildlife.
- 2. The deepest part of the pond is:**
  - a. 120 centimetres.
  - b. 1 metre.
  - c. 90 centimetres.
- 3. What is the shape of the pond?**
  - a. Circle.
  - b. Shallow.
  - c. Keyhole.
- 4. What word describes how nature found the pond?**
  - a. Amazing.
  - b. Impressive.
  - c. Incredible.
- 5. Plants help with:**
  - a. Keeping the fish alive.
  - b. Oxygen in the water.
  - c. The environment.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- 1. Where did the interview take place?**
  - a. Toronto Centre Stadium.
  - b. Rogers Centre Stadium.
  - c. Blue Jays Centre Stadium.
- 2. How many homers did Vladimir achieve?**
  - a. 40.
  - b. 22.
  - c. 14.
- 3. Who did Ronald Acuna Junior play for?**
  - a. Atlas Braves.
  - b. Atlanta Raves.
  - c. Atlanta Braves.
- 4. How will Charlie feel if they beat their rivals 8 – 0 every time?**
  - a. Confident.
  - b. Quite happy.
  - c. Well prepared.
- 5. Where is the Yankee Stadium?**
  - a. The Bronx.
  - b. The Banks.
  - c. The Bronze.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

### Part 3

You will now hear **two** radio broadcasts. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to read the questions for **both** radio broadcasts.

Now listen to **Broadcast 1**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- The radio station is called:**
  - Fashioneeze FM.
  - Fashionista FM.
  - Fastfashion FM.
- Where does the fashion month 'kick off'?**
  - New York.
  - London.
  - Paris.
- Which seasons are the collections from?**
  - Autumn/winter.
  - September/spring.
  - Spring/summer.
- Thom Browne is returning from:**
  - New York.
  - Paris.
  - Milan.
- How many designers are at the shows?**
  - 91.
  - 31.
  - 19.
- One of Rita Ora's favourite designers is:**
  - Ralph Lauren.
  - Jason Wu.
  - Lanvin.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Broadcast 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

- According to the broadcast Northumberland is what:**
  - The most northerly county.
  - The most important county.
  - The most agricultural county.
- The county is described as:**
  - Leading the future.
  - Leading exports.
  - Leading the way.
- According to the broadcast, what is being supported?**
  - Offices.
  - Vegan products.
  - Local agriculture.
- The valley is located north east of:**
  - Seaton Delaval.
  - Newcastle.
  - Northumberland.
- How far is the main motorway?**
  - 5 kilometres.
  - 7 kilometres.
  - 3 kilometres.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

**End of Examination B2 Independent User.**

**ESOL International**

**English Reading Examination**

**Level B2 Independent User**

**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 **60 minutes** to finish the examination.

**Text 1**

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

<b><u>Honeybees</u></b>	1
It is said, that apart from man, there is nothing in the world to compare with the incredible efficiency of the work of the honeybee. Inside the beehive, each bee has a special job to do and the whole process runs smoothly.	2
	3
	4
	5
Bees need two different kinds of food. One is honey made from nectar, the sugary juice that can be found in the heart of the flowers. The other come from the anthers of flowers, which contain small grains, called pollen.	6
	7
	8
	9
Bees are marvellous flying machines, as they can carry as much nectar or pollen as their own bodyweight. Compare that to an aircraft that can only carry one quarter of its own weight. What a miracle that the honeybee can stay in the air with such a load. The bees have been producing honey in the same way for over one hundred and fifty million years.	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
One beehive can produce 27kg of honey in a good season. Bees fly about 88,000km to make just ½ kg of honey, that’s about 2.2 times around the world. The Roman’s used honey, instead of gold, to pay their taxes, which shows how much they valued the product.	16
	17
	18
	19
	20
The type of honey depends on the type of foliage and flowers available to the bees. Garden flowers tend to give a ____ liquid honey, whereas the bright yellow flowers of the crop, oil seed rape, produces a honey that sets very hard. You will see the difference in honey in the jars on supermarket shelves.	21
	22
	23
	24

1. **According to the text, what are the small grains called?**
  - a. Nectar.
  - b. Anthers.
  - c. Pollen.
  
2. **What have bees been doing for over one hundred and fifty million years?**
  - a. Carrying pollen.
  - b. Producing honey.
  - c. Flying around the world.
  
3. **Bees fly about 2.2 times around the world to make:**
  - a. 27 kg of honey.
  - b. 2.7 kg of honey.
  - c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  kg of honey.
  
4. **What did the Romans use the honey to pay for?**
  - a. Gold.
  - b. Taxes.
  - c. Products.
  
5. **Garden flowers give:**
  - a. Clear liquid honey.
  - b. Very hard honey.
  - c. Clear hard honey.
  
6. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
  - a. Line 2.
  - b. Line 4.
  - c. Line 8.
  
7. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
  - a. Line 7.
  - b. Line 10.
  - c. Line 11.
  
8. **What word is a synonym of 'producing' on line 13?**
  - a. Breaking.
  - b. Taking.
  - c. Making.
  
9. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
  - a. Line 16.
  - b. Line 17.
  - c. Line 18.
  
10. **The best word to fill the gap on line 22 is:**
  - a. Clear.
  - b. Tough.
  - c. Sunny.

**Text 2**

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

<b><u>The Blue Train</u></b>	1
	2
One of the greatest achievements of the 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century was the	3
building of the South African, <i>Blue Train</i> , who runs from Pretoria to Cape Town.	4
It takes thirty-one hours to complete the journey and the train travels up to 90	5
kilometres an hour. The journey covers 1,600 kilometres through some of the	6
most diverse and spectacular scenery offered by the African sub-continent.	7
	8
It owes its origins to the Union Limited and the Union Express, which, from 1923,	9
linked Johannesburg with the mail ships _____ from Cape Town for England.	10
Ordinary coaches were used until 1927, when jointed saloons were imported.	11
After being withdrawn in 1942, due to World War II, the service returned in 1946.	12
In 1955 it began to be hauled by electric locomotives between Cape Town and	13
Touws River.	14
	15
Nowadays the Blue Train lives up to its five-star reputation in every sense. Its	16
cuisine exceeds even the highest expectations. It could be said that dinner	17
will be the most unforgettable experience of your adventure. Executive chef,	18
Chef Cresan, was appointed the Sun International youngest executive chef in	19
2017.	20
	21
There are many challenges to working in a moving kitchen that is just 13 x 3m.	22
Chef Cresan states, “with the right planning you make it work. Liaising with	23
suppliers with regards to how I need products packaged is vital.	24
	25
Chef Cresan’s signature dish is a lovely Pearl Barley Mushroom Risotto.	26



11. **According to the text what is a great achievement:**
- The destruction on the Blue Train.
  - The construction of the Blue Train.
  - The rebuilding of the Blue Train.
12. **The Blue Train runs from:**
- Pretoria to Cape Town.
  - Pretoria to Johannesburg.
  - Cape Town to Touws River.
13. **The service returned after the war in:**
- 1947.
  - 1946.
  - 1955.
14. **Executive Chef Cresan was the Sun International's:**
- Five star cuisine.
  - Imported chef.
  - Youngest executive chef.
15. **What do the suppliers need to know?**
- How to work in the kitchen.
  - How to package the produce.
  - How to work in a moving space.
16. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
- Line 4.
  - Line 5.
  - Line 6.
17. **The best word to fill the gap on line 10 is:**
- Anchored.
  - Arriving.
  - Leaving.
18. **Which line has a spelling error?**
- Line 12.
  - Line 16.
  - Line 19.
19. **In the text, the best word to replace 'exceeds' on line 17 is:**
- Tastes.
  - Beats.
  - Limits.
20. **There is a punctuation mistake on line:**
- Line 18.
  - Line 22.
  - Line 24.

### Text 3

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

#### Thanksgiving Day

American Thanksgiving Day is on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November every year.

In September, 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower, left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers to the New World (America). After 66 days at sea, they dropped anchor near Cape Cod, then one month later they crossed Massachusetts Bay, where they constructed a village, named Plymouth. These people become known as the Plymouth Colonists.

A native American, named Squanto, taught the pilgrims how to grow corn, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He helped the pilgrims become allies with the local tribe of Wampanoag.

In November, 1621, the first corn harvest was successful and Governor William Bradford organised a celebration feast, which lasted three days and invited the native American allies. This was known as American's first Thanksgiving.

For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln declared a national Thanksgiving Day was to be held each November.

21. **The purpose of the text is to:**

- a. Inform you about the history of Thanksgiving.
- b. Describe the food on Thanksgiving.
- c. Persuade you to celebrate Thanksgiving.

22. **According to the text, what was America known as in 1620?**

- a. The Plymouth colonists.
- b. The New America.
- c. The New World.

23. **In the text, which one of these is a proper noun and needs a capital letter?**

- a. Celebration.
- b. Squanto.
- c. Tribe.

24. **How many days did the feast last?**

- a. 66 days.
- b. 2 days.
- c. 3 days.

25. **According to the text, in which year was Thanksgiving declared a national holiday?**

- a. 1863.
- b. 1621.
- c. 1820.

## Text 4

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

### Scissors

Artist, Leonardo Da Vinci was credited with inventing scissors, used in cutting his canvasses, but sadly, it was not him, but the ancient Egyptians.

The Egyptians used a version of scissors, as long ago as 1500BC. They were made from a single piece of bronze metal, made into two blades, controlled by a metal strip, which kept the blades apart until they were squeezed. Through trade and adventure, the item spread beyond Egypt to other parts of the world.

The Romans adapted the design in 100AD, creating a pair of cross-bladed scissors that are more like what we have today. They mainly used bronze, but sometimes made them from iron too.

Now to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although an actual inventor is hard to identify, Robert Hinchcliffe of Sheffield, England, should be acknowledged as the father of modern scissors. He was the first to use steel to manufacture and mass-produce them in 1761, \_\_\_\_\_ than 200 years after the death of Leonardo.

26. **According to the text, who invented the first scissors?**

- a. Leonardo Da Vinci.
- b. Ancient Egyptians.
- c. Robert Hinchcliffe.

27. **How did the first scissors reach other parts of the world?**

- a. By seeing them in Leonardo's paintings.
- b. By the Romans.
- c. By trade and adventure.

28. **The word 'adapted' in paragraph three could be replaced by:**

- a. Changed.
- b. Prepared.
- c. Matched.

29. **The text suggests that modern scissors were invented in the:**

- a. Fifteenth century.
- b. Seventeenth century.
- c. Eighteenth century.

30. **The word 'identify' in paragraph four could be replaced by:**

- a. Find.
- b. Change.
- c. Describe.

31. **Which word would best fill the gap in the last paragraph?**

- a. Even.
- b. More.
- c. Most.



**Page intentionally left blank.**

**ESOL International**

**Writing**

**B2 Independent User**

NOCN use only	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
<b>Total</b>	

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information above.

You must write a minimum of 100 – 150 words 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.

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 **60 minutes** to finish the examination.

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

Write a letter to your local college thanking them for raising money for your charity, 'Animals in Need'. Tell them how pleased you are with the donation and what you have used the donation for.

You could write about:

- what the college students did to raise the money
- how the money was given to you
- what you have used the money for
- how you feel about the donation.

**OR**

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

Write an email to the holiday company you booked an apartment with, complaining about the problems it had.

You could write about:

- there was no hot water
- it did not have clean towels
- the bedrooms were very small
- if you would recommend it to other people.

Write 100 – 150 words.

(12 Marks)

---

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

Write a letter to your cousin telling them about a new hobby you have started during the summer holidays.

You could write about:

- what made you start the new hobby
- if you need any equipment to do it
- any new skills you have learnt
- how it makes you feel.

Write 150 – 200 words.

(12 Marks)

**You will be assessed on:**

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

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



**Page intentionally left blank.**

NOCN Group

Acero Building  
1 Concourse Way  
Sheaf Street  
Sheffield  
S1 2BJ  
UK  
©NOCN

E-mail: [nocn@nocn.org.uk](mailto:nocn@nocn.org.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)0300 999 1177