

**ESOL International**  
**English Listening Examination**  
**Level B1 Intermediate**

**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.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. a. I work in a shop.<br>b. I like playing football.<br>c. I don't like sweets.        | 6. a. Yes, of course.<br>b. Thank you for your help.<br>c. I would love to.      |
| 2. a. It opens at 10.00 am.<br>b. Next to the museum.<br>c. With my sister.              | 7. a. I went to the UK.<br>b. The weather was hot.<br>c. I travelled by plane.   |
| 3. a. Yesterday morning.<br>b. The dentist is here.<br>c. He likes painting.             | 8. a. She is nice.<br>b. My house is big.<br>c. That's my cousin.                |
| 4. a. It leaves in an hour.<br>b. Sorry you missed it.<br>c. It's 15 pounds.             | 9. a. She's not here.<br>b. I missed the bus.<br>c. I go to work every day.      |
| 5. a. No sugar, thank you.<br>b. I'll have a coffee please.<br>c. Thank you for the tea. | 10. a. Every weekend.<br>b. The park is near my house.<br>c. I walk in the park. |

## **Part 2**

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

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

Now listen to Conversation 1.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

### **Conversation 1**

1. **What time did Sarah watch the film?**
  - a. 9.45 am.
  - b. 10.00 am.
  - c. 10.45 am.
2. **What is the film about?**
  - a. A family on an adventure.
  - b. Friends who find a treasure map.
  - c. A holiday on a desert island.
3. **Who does Sarah describe as brave and funny?**
  - a. All the characters.
  - b. The lead actor.
  - c. Her friend, Jane.
4. **How long was the film?**
  - a. Half an hour.
  - b. Two hours.
  - c. Two and a half hours.
5. **Sarah did not like that:**
  - a. The adverts were too long.
  - b. There were no special effects.
  - c. The film was boring.

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. **Where is the café?**
  - a. By the sports hall.
  - b. Next to the main hall.
  - c. Next to the library.
2. **When will hot food be served?**
  - a. 8 am to 6 pm.
  - b. 2 pm to 6 pm.
  - c. 12 pm to 2 pm.
3. **How do students get discounts?**
  - a. By showing their ID card.
  - b. By checking the college website.
  - c. By picking a menu.
4. **The principal describes the space as:**
  - a. Available.
  - b. Comfortable.
  - c. Quiet.
5. **Where can students eat and study?**
  - a. In the quiet work area.
  - b. In the library.
  - c. Outside the café.

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

### **Part 3**

You will hear two broadcasts. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to read the questions and answers for both broadcasts.

Now listen to Broadcast 1.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

#### **Broadcast 1**

1. **Which country do old clothes get sent to from the UK?**
  - a. India.
  - b. America.
  - c. Australia.
2. **To sell old clothes in India you need:**
  - a. A market.
  - b. A company.
  - c. A licence.
3. **How many factories are there in Panipat?**
  - a. Thirty.
  - b. Three hundred.
  - c. Three.
4. **The clothes are sorted by:**
  - a. Different colours.
  - b. Different sizes.
  - c. Different fabrics.
5. **What is shoddy fabric used for?**
  - a. To make mattresses.
  - b. To make cleaning cloths.
  - c. To make blankets.
6. **Where do the blankets get sold to?**
  - a. India.
  - b. Africa.
  - c. America.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

Now listen to Broadcast 2.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

#### **Broadcast 2**

1. **When is the community centre opening?**
  - a. At the weekend.
  - b. Next Monday.
  - c. On Thursday.
2. **How can you book the hall?**
  - a. Visit the website.
  - b. At reception.
  - c. Phone Sam.
3. **The soup kitchen opens:**
  - a. Daily.
  - b. Weekly.
  - c. Monthly.
4. **Where can you have a friendly chat?**
  - a. At the main hall.
  - b. At the children's club.
  - c. At the soup kitchen.
5. **What is the centre looking for?**
  - a. Children.
  - b. Volunteers.
  - c. Activities.

Listen to the broadcast again and check your answers.

**End of Examination.**

**ESOL International**

**English Reading Examination**

**Level B1 Intermediate**

**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>The History of Wedding Rings</u></b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>2</b>
The beginning of the tradition for wedding rings is not clear, but some people believe that it started in ancient Egypt in 4000 BC. For people in Egypt, a ring meant 'forever', because the circle shape has no beginning and no end.	<b>3</b>
	<b>4</b>
	<b>5</b>
	<b>6</b>
Ancient Egyptians also chooses the finger that most people wear their wedding rings on. The Egyptians believed that a 'vein of love' was in the fourth finger and was connected straight to the heart. The fourth finger became known as the 'ring finger'.	<b>7</b>
	<b>8</b>
	<b>9</b>
	<b>10</b>
The ancient Greeks and Romans also wore rings. The very first rings were made from dry grass. The early rings were made from leather and it was also in this time that the tradition of metal bands began and Iron wedding rings were made.	<b>11</b>
	<b>12</b>
	<b>13</b>
For those rich enough, gold and silver rings were given to women to show a reel commitment to the marriage. Diamond rings became popular in the 1950s. A big company which sold diamonds said that 'diamonds last forever'. After this, diamond rings became the most popular type of wedding ring.	<b>14</b>
	<b>15</b>
	<b>16</b>
	<b>17</b>
	<b>18</b>
Wedding rings for men only became popular during the World Wars. A man would wear a ring to remember his wife that he had left at home. _____ then, the wearing of wedding rings between husband and wife has become a tradition.	<b>19</b>
	<b>20</b>
	<b>21</b>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. <b>Who started the tradition of wedding rings?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Ancient Greeks.</li><li>b. Romans.</li><li>c. Ancient Egyptians.</li></ul> <p>2. <b>Why was the fourth finger known as the ring finger?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. It has the 'vein of love'.</li><li>b. It has no beginning or end.</li><li>c. It shows a real commitment.</li></ul> <p>3. <b>What were the first rings made from?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Iron.</li><li>b. Grass.</li><li>c. Gold.</li></ul> <p>4. <b>When did diamond rings become popular?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. During the World Wars.</li><li>b. In 4000 BC.</li><li>c. In the 1950s.</li></ul> <p>5. <b>Why did soldiers wear wedding rings during the war?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. To remember their wives.</li><li>b. Because they were popular.</li><li>c. To show they were wealthy.</li></ul> | <p>6. <b>Which word can replace 'beginning' on line 5?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Close.</li><li>b. Start.</li><li>c. Break.</li></ul> <p>7. <b>Which line has a spelling mistake?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 11.</li><li>b. Line 14.</li><li>c. Line 16.</li></ul> <p>8. <b>Which word is missing from line 20?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. However.</li><li>b. Although.</li><li>c. Since.</li></ul> <p>9. <b>There is a grammar mistake on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 7.</li><li>b. Line 12.</li><li>c. Line 17.</li></ul> <p>10. <b>There is a punctuation mistake on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 4.</li><li>b. Line 13.</li><li>c. Line 19.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

## Text 2

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

<b>How to Recycle Around the House</b>	1
	2
Recycling is very important for the environment, because it saves energy and reduces waste. If everyone takes the time at home to recycle the right way, then we can all make a big difference. Here are some tips on how you can recycle around your house.	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
<b>In the Kitchen</b>	8
Start by sorting your waste. Use separate bins for different materials. You can recycle anything that is made from plastic, glass or metal. Remember to wash items before you recycle them. Food you throw away can go into a compost bin, if you have one. This turns the food into useful compost for your garden. Remember plastic bags cannot be recycled in your regular bin. Check if your local supermarket has a special collection point for these.	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
<b>In the Living Room</b>	16
Old newspapers, magazines and cardboard can be recycled. Make sure they are dry and clean. Do not recycle paper that is dirty. Instead of throwing away old items, think about giving them to a charity shop. Books, DVDs, and toys can often be used again by someone else.	17
	18
	19
	20
	21
The tips are easy and can be followed _____ everyone, so let's work together to recycle more and waste less.	22
	23



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>11. <b>Why is recycling important?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. It saves energy.</li><li>b. It increases waste.</li><li>c. It saves time.</li></ul> <p>12. <b>What should you do with food waste?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Place it in the regular bin.</li><li>b. Put it in the compost bin.</li><li>c. Recycle it at the shop.</li></ul> <p>13. <b>What do you need to take to a special collection point?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Glass.</li><li>b. Metal.</li><li>c. Plastic bags.</li></ul> <p>14. <b>Which of the following should not be recycled?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Magazines.</li><li>b. Dirty paper.</li><li>c. Books.</li></ul> <p>15. <b>Toys can often be:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Used by someone else.</li><li>b. Thrown in the bin.</li><li>c. Taken to the supermarket.</li></ul> | <p>16. <b>There is a spelling error on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 5.</li><li>b. Line 9.</li><li>c. Line 19.</li></ul> <p>17. <b>There is a punctuation error on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 3.</li><li>b. Line 11.</li><li>c. Line 12.</li></ul> <p>18. <b>'Reduces' on line 4 means:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Lowers.</li><li>b. Raises.</li><li>c. Stays the same.</li></ul> <p>19. <b>Which word is missing from line 22?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. If.</li><li>b. For.</li><li>c. By.</li></ul> <p>20. <b>There is a grammar error on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Line 10.</li><li>b. Line 13.</li><li>c. Line 17.</li></ul> |
|--|--|

### **Text 3**

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

#### **Why Writing by Hand is in Danger**

Many states in the US are trying to stop handwriting from disappearing as more children are typing instead of writing by hand.

The US government removed handwriting as a skill from their curriculum in 2010, because they thought that it was not important to learn this anymore. They also thought handwriting would not be useful as everyone uses phones and tablets. This meant schools could spend time teaching new skills like typing.

As 41 states stopped teaching handwriting, teachers started to notice some concerning things. Over time, they found some children could not hold a pen to write and some children could not read other people's handwriting at all, or sign their name using a pen.

Six years later, 14 states brought back teaching handwriting into all classes, because of all the problems. This number grew to 20 states in 2019. Sharon Quirk-Silva introduced a bill in California in 2023, stating that students must learn handwriting and they should be able to read other people's handwriting. This bill passed and will take effect in the 2024-2025 school year. Other states, like Kentucky, are waiting for their bills to be passed.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>21. <b>Handwriting is disappearing because:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Children are typing instead.</li><li>b. US states want to stop handwriting.</li><li>c. No-one can read handwriting.</li></ul> <p>22. <b>The US government removed handwriting from their curriculum in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 2010.</li><li>b. 2023.</li><li>c. 2024.</li></ul> <p>23. <b>What problems were teachers concerned about?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Children using their phones.</li><li>b. Children who can't hold a pen to write.</li><li>c. Children learning typing.</li></ul> | <p>24. <b>How many states had started teaching handwriting again?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 14.</li><li>b. 20.</li><li>c. 25.</li></ul> <p>25. <b>Which state is waiting for their bill to be passed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Quirk-Silva.</li><li>b. California.</li><li>c. Kentucky.</li></ul> |
|---|--|

## Text 4

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

### **Volunteer Opportunity:** Animal Sanctuary

**Role:** Join us as a volunteer at Forest Animal Sanctuary and make a difference to the lives of rescued animals.

**Duties:** Volunteer duties include feeding, cleaning animal enclosures, and helping with daily care tasks. You are not expected to lead the workshops with the public, but you may need to answer questions that people may have.

**Uniform:** You should wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for outdoor work. A company jacket is provided to wear over your own clothes. You can buy one of our baseball hats if you wish.

**Experience:** No experience or a high level of education is necessary, however, a passion for animals and a willingness to learn are essential. Training will be provided by experienced staff members.

**Qualities:** We need volunteers who are reliable, caring and who work well in a team. Good communication skills and a positive attitude are required.

**Benefits:** We will pay your travel costs and volunteers receive a 50% discount at our gift shop.

**Applying Information:** To become a volunteer, please complete the application form on our website. Join us in making a difference for animals in need. For more information, please visit us or call us.

26. **Which are the main duties of a volunteer?**

- a. Feeding and cleaning enclosures.
- b. Managing the gift shop.
- c. Leading tours for the public.

27. **What is provided for the volunteer to wear?**

- a. Hats.
- b. Shoes.
- c. Jacket.

28. **To be a volunteer you must have:**

- a. A higher level of education.
- b. A lot of experience.
- c. A passion for animals.

29. **To be a volunteer you must be:**

- a. Someone who is trained.
- b. Someone who is reliable and caring.
- c. Someone who can lead workshops.

30. **What will the sanctuary pay for?**

- a. Gifts from the shop.
- b. The cost of a baseball hat.
- c. Your travel costs.

31. **How can you apply to be a volunteer?**

- a. Apply on the website.
- b. Call the sanctuary.
- c. Visit the sanctuary.

**End of Examination.**

**This page is intentionally blank**

**ESOL International**

**English Writing Examination**

**Level B1 Intermediate**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information above.

You must write 75 - 100 words for Task 1 and 100 - 125 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.

Your college organised a visit to another city. Write an article for the college magazine about your trip.  
You could write about:

- the name of the city and how you travelled there
- what you did there
- what the city was like
- why you would like to go again.

**OR**

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

You were due to see your teacher to discuss your homework but you cannot make it. Email your teacher to explain why you cannot attend and ask some questions about your homework.  
You could write about:

- when you were due to see your teacher
- why you cannot attend the meeting
- questions you have about your homework
- arranging another time to see them.

Write 75 – 100 words.

(12 Marks)

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

You recently visited a new shopping centre in your local area. Write a letter to your friend and tell them about it.

You could write about:

- what the shopping centre looks like
- the types of shops that are there
- what you liked about it
- how you would like your friend to go with you next time.

Write 100-125 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**

**This page is intentionally blank**

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

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

Tel: +44 (0) 0300 999 117