

**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.

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|---|--|
| <p>1. a. Yes, I'm heading there now.<br/>b. No, what does it say?<br/>c. I haven't seen anyone from Head Office.</p> <p>2. a. Yes, that's the one!<br/>b. I bought it last week.<br/>c. The one with the gold packaging.</p> <p>3. a. It was written over a hundred years ago.<br/>b. It was written by a famous poet.<br/>c. I don't know who it was written by.</p> <p>4. a. I've been doing a lot recently.<br/>b. Yes, it will have been done by then.<br/>c. By this time next week, hopefully.</p> <p>5. a. I said she would join us later.<br/>b. She said she was going to email us.<br/>c. She didn't say she would do that.</p> | <p>6. a. It does rain a lot.<br/>b. I thought it would rain tonight.<br/>c. Then we won't need an umbrella.</p> <p>7. a. Yes, I think he's a good director.<br/>b. Yes, I did say he's a good actor.<br/>c. Yes, he is a good doctor.</p> <p>8. a. Yes, it works.<br/>b. Yes, it is.<br/>c. Yes, it does.</p> <p>9. a. Great, my train gets in at 10 o'clock.<br/>b. Yes, I've arranged to pick him up.<br/>c. Ok, what time will you pick me up?</p> <p>10. a. Oh, you won't be coming?<br/>b. You're going to a party?<br/>c. Can you do my make-up for the party?</p> |
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## 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.

1. **When can the best prices for train tickets be obtained?**
  - a. On the day of the journey.
  - b. When travelling at peak times.
  - c. When booking in advance.
2. **What adheres to the strictest levels?**
  - a. Public transport.
  - b. Tap water.
  - c. Budget hotels.
3. **Which advice is the traveller given about stretching their budget?**
  - a. Travelling out of season.
  - b. Using discount cards for tourists.
  - c. Buying produce from markets.
4. **Which of the following is mentioned as a new inexpensive way to travel?**
  - a. Cycle hire schemes.
  - b. City taxis.
  - c. Public buses.
5. **What does the traveller think is a bonus?**
  - a. Convenience stores.
  - b. Free entry to museums and galleries.
  - c. Oyster card scheme.

**Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.**

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **What do Kris and Paula do?**
  - a. They are film producers.
  - b. They are film students.
  - c. They are cinema employees.
2. **IMAX cameras are used to:**
  - a. Capture expansive scenes.
  - b. Study films.
  - c. Evoke strong emotions.
3. **What did they particularly like about *The Batman*?**
  - a. The director, Christopher Nolan.
  - b. The action scenes in the film.
  - c. The cinematography of the film.
4. **What did Kris find notable about the use of rain in *The Batman*?**
  - a. It created a warm atmosphere.
  - b. It set a sombre mood for the scenes.
  - c. It matched the nature of the character.
5. **What does Paula say gives a lifelike feel to scenes?**
  - a. The use of shadows.
  - b. The warm spectrum of light.
  - c. The use of natural lighting.

**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. **Which is Susan's main argument for providing all official services in English?**
  - a. It will help preserve local languages.
  - b. It undermines local languages.
  - c. It will attract more tourists.
2. **What does the host say about a mandatory policy?**
  - a. It shouldn't be compulsory.
  - b. It could be introduced in the future.
  - c. It is required for good business.
3. **Which point does the host maintain?**
  - a. Providing services in English is good for business.
  - b. There is a danger of the native language being lost.
  - c. An official policy of English is necessary.
4. **Susan provides the example of other countries' English policies to show how:**
  - a. They stay competitive.
  - b. They undermine local languages.
  - c. They reduce tourism.
5. **A reasonable compromise is:**
  - a. To make people learn native languages.
  - b. To impose English language globally.
  - c. To provide English whilst preserving the native language.
6. **What is a benefit that Susan mentions?**
  - a. It will impose on cultural identity.
  - b. Businesses would flourish.
  - c. Restaurants will have better menus.

**Listen to the debate again and check your answers.**

Now listen to the **discussion**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **Which concern is raised about new homes being built by cowboy builders?**
  - a. They may have plumbing issues.
  - b. They might be structurally unsound.
  - c. They lack character and charm.
2. **Which potential problem is associated with old homes?**
  - a. Outdated wiring.
  - b. Smaller rooms.
  - c. Higher ceilings.
3. **According to the discussion, which is a major advantage of new homes?**
  - a. Larger living spaces.
  - b. More modern design and layout.
  - c. Better construction quality.
4. **What is one reason some people prefer old homes over new ones?**
  - a. The fixtures and fittings are better.
  - b. They require less maintenance.
  - c. They have more character and history.
5. **Latest insulation technologies result in:**
  - a. Larger hidden problems.
  - b. Higher unforeseen repair costs.
  - c. Superior energy efficiency.

**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.**

<b>Graffiti and Historical Monuments: Vandalism or Part of History?</b>	1
	2
In our bustling cities and serene countryside, amidst the grandeur of historical monuments and ancient ruins, there exists a form of expression that provokes both admiration and disdain: graffiti. This age-old debate draws attention to the intertwined narratives of history and contemporary culture.	3
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Consider the intriguing dilemma of graffiti on historical monuments. For instance, when visiting some of Europe's many centuries-old churches, eagle-eyed visitors can sometimes find the names of medieval peasants carved into the stones. Or perhaps such scrawls were even made by the stonemasons themselves, eager to leave their mark. This 'graffiti' was certainly not part of the buildings intended design and would most likely have been a punishable offence if caught in the act. However, these markings, viewed by us in the present, now evoke a sense of fascination, offering a window into the lives and aspirations of those who came before us.	8
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But here's where the plot thickens. While the graffiti of old is romanticised as part of a monument's charm, modern sensibilities draw a stark contrast between past and present. Today, similar acts of graffiti are met with _____ and disapproval, widely seen as offensive defacements of priceless heritage.	17
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This begs the question: why the double standard? Why is graffiti of the past celebrated while its contemporary examples are condemned? Is it simply a matter of time and perspective, or does it speak to deeper societal shifts in the perception of art and history?	22
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Perhaps the answer lies in changing culture norms. What was once considered vandalism may, over time, be seen as historical documentation. Conversely, what is condemned today may one day be viewed as valuable relics of our era.	26
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Balancing preservation with progress is complex. Preservationists argue that any alteration, including graffiti, diminishes a monument's authenticity. Meanwhile, others believe graffiti reflects societal diversity and should be included as part of our cultural heritage. Ultimately, graffiti transcends simple labels of vandalism. Embracing this rich tapestry of shared heritage, flaws and all, might be the way forward.	30
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1. **How is graffiti often perceived in the modern age?**
  - a. As vandalism.
  - b. As a form of historical documentation.
  - c. As artistic expression.
2. **This article:**
  - a. Persuades the reader to visit historical monuments.
  - b. Informs the reader about different graffiti styles.
  - c. Discusses differing viewpoints on the topic of graffiti.
3. **What is the primary argument of preservationists regarding graffiti?**
  - a. It enhances cultural heritage.
  - b. It detracts from authenticity.
  - c. It reflects societal diversity.
4. **Modern graffiti may one day be viewed as:**
  - a. Valuable.
  - b. Offensive.
  - c. Charming.
5. **What gives us a glimpse into the life of those who preceded us?**
  - a. Images of eagles carved into stones.
  - b. Markings made by stonemasons.
  - c. Centuries-old windows.
6. **There is a punctuation error on:**
  - a. Line 4.
  - b. Line 9.
  - c. Line 12.
7. **There is a spelling error on:**
  - a. Line 14.
  - b. Line 24.
  - c. Line 33.
8. **There is a grammar error on:**
  - a. Line 17.
  - b. Line 26.
  - c. Line 30.
9. **The best word to complete the sentence on line 19 is:**
  - a. Objection.
  - b. Endorsement.
  - c. Indifference.
10. **The best word to replace 'provokes' on line 4 is:**
  - a. Weakens.
  - b. Triggers.
  - c. Suppresses.

## Text 2

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

<b>Vinyl Records Making a Comeback</b>	1
	2
Vinyl records are experiencing a remarkable resurgence, surpassing CDs in sales for the first time since 1987. According to a recent report, over 41 million vinyl records were sold in the US in 2022, generating \$1.2 billion in revenue. In contrast, CD sales _____ only 33 million units, amounting to \$483 million.	3
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The report highlighted that 2022 marked the 16th consecutive year of growth for vinyl sales, which now account for 71% of physical format revenues. In comparison, CD sales have continued to decline, with an 18% drop in revenue last year. Overall recorded music revenue in the US grew by 6% in 2022, reaching a record high of \$15.9 billion, though this was driven largely by streaming, which accounted for 84% of total revenues.	8
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One significant factor contributing to its resurgence is the tangible nature of vinyl records, which offer a physical connection to music that digital formats lack. Furthermore, vinyl has become a symbol of quality and craftsmanship. One industry expert commented, "Music lovers clearly can't get enough of the high-quality sound and tangible connection to artists that vinyl delivers". They then went on to say, "and labels have squarely met that demand with a steady stream of exclusives, special reissues, and beautifully crafted and packaged discs."	14
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Vinyl records offer not just nostalgia but also a perceived superior sound quality. Enthusiasts arguing that records provide a warmer, more authentic sound compared to the digital precision of CDs. This is due to the analogue nature of vinyl, where sound waves are physically etched into the grooves of the record. When a vinyl record is played, a needle, or stylus, runs along these grooves, translating the physical variations into sound. This process captures the full range of audio frequencies, including those that digital formats may miss, thus providing a richer listening experience.	22
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While digital formats and streaming services remain dominant; the enduring appeal of vinyl suggests that this vintage medium is far from obsolete. Instead, it represents a blend of nostalgia and quality that resonates with a diverse audience, ensuring its place in the future of music consumption.	30
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11. **What are etched into the grooves of the record?**
- Needles.
  - Digital sounds.
  - Sound waves.
12. **Enthusiasts believe records provide better sound quality than CDs because:**
- They are tangible and offer a connection to artists.
  - They capture the full range of audio frequencies.
  - They are beautifully crafted.
13. **How much revenue did the sale of vinyl records generate in the US in 2022?**
- \$483 million.
  - \$1.2 billion.
  - \$15.9 billion.
14. **Which format has the largest proportion of music sales in the US?**
- Vinyl.
  - CDs.
  - Streaming.
15. **What has vinyl become a symbol of?**
- Quality and craftsmanship.
  - Sound quality and exclusive offers.
  - Warmth and nostalgia.
16. **Which line has a spelling mistake?**
- Line 3.
  - Line 8.
  - Line 14.
17. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
- Line 11.
  - Line 15.
  - Line 23.
18. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
- Line 19.
  - Line 30.
  - Line 32.
19. **The best word to complete the sentence on line 5 is:**
- Performed.
  - Reached.
  - Bought.
20. **The best word to replace the word 'squarely' on line 18 is:**
- Partially.
  - Vaguely.
  - Fully.

### Text 3

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

#### Changing Trends in Shopping

In recent years, shopping trends have shifted significantly, with online shopping becoming increasingly popular compared to traditional in-person shopping. This change is driven by various factors, including convenience, cost-effectiveness and changing consumer habits.

Online shopping offers several economic benefits. Prices are often lower online due to reduced overhead costs. Retailers save on expenses related to rent, utilities, and staffing, allowing them to offer competitive prices. The ability to compare prices across different websites also helps consumers make informed decisions and find the best deals.

Moreover, whereas once it could be said that only in-person shopping allowed you to try a product before you bought it, this key difference between the two modes of retail has now largely disappeared. Many online retailers now offer flexible return policies, allowing customers to try items at home and return them if they are not satisfied. Free shipping and returns thus further enhance confidence in online shopping, reducing the risk associated with buying items without seeing them first.

With all this in online shopping's favour, is there anything still to be said for old-fashioned brick-and-mortar stores? Well, despite these advantages, in-person shopping remains a popular activity for many. Shopping in physical stores provides an experience that online shopping cannot replicate. The sheer pleasure some people derive from window shopping, and the 'retail therapy' of taking one's purchases home, are significant draws. Additionally, shopping in person is often a social activity. Friends and family members enjoy spending time together browsing stores.

So, while online shopping offers convenience and economic benefits, in-person shopping provides an irreplaceable social experience: a fun day out. As consumer preferences evolve, both forms of shopping will likely coexist, catering to different needs and desires.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>21. <b>A social aspect of in-person shopping is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Enjoying window shopping.</li><li>b. Browsing stores with friends.</li><li>c. Comparing prices across different stores.</li></ul> <p>22. <b>Online retailers can offer low prices due to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Price competition between different websites.</li><li>b. A change in return policies.</li><li>c. Reduced overhead costs such as rent.</li></ul> <p>23. <b>What drives the popularity of online shopping?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Convenience and changing consumer habits.</li><li>b. An increase in social activity.</li><li>c. The pleasure of 'retail therapy'.</li></ul> | <p>24. <b>What has changed about the advantages of online vs. in-person shopping?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Online shopping now offers more competitive prices.</li><li>b. Online retailers now offer free shipping and returns.</li><li>c. Shoppers can now make informed decisions and find the best deals.</li></ul> <p>25. <b>Which statement is true?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Trends are changing significantly and online shopping will become more popular.</li><li>b. Physical stores will provide an experience that online shopping can replicate.</li><li>c. Both forms of shopping will coexist, catering to different requirements.</li></ul> |
|---|--|

## **Text 4**

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

#### **The Life and Times of Jeremy Bentham**

The 18th century English philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, was a ground-breaking social reformer, with many of his ideas laying the groundwork for reforms in law and social policy that are still in effect to this day. However, he was also quite a peculiar character. Here are some quirky facts about him.

Bentham's eccentricities began with his vocabulary. He coined many of the words we use today, such as 'international', 'submergible', 'antagonising', 'exhaustive', and even the word 'eccentric' itself. His creativity extended beyond language; he invented underpants, a novel concept at the time. Bentham also had a knack for naming his belongings. His walking sticks, for instance, were affectionately called 'Dapple' and 'Dobbin'. His sense of humour was evident in the names of his pets as well. He had a cat named 'The Reverend Sir John Langborne' and, quite unusually, a teapot he named 'Dickie'.

One lesser-known fact is that Bentham bore a striking resemblance to Benjamin Franklin. He was aware of this similarity and found it amusing, often entertaining guests with comparisons of Franklin's portrait to his own likeness.

But perhaps the most fascinating aspect of Bentham's legacy is that he requested his body be mummified and displayed after his death, like the Pharaohs of Egypt. His skeleton, dressed in his clothes and topped with a wax head, is seated in a glass case at University College London.

Bentham's quirks were not merely superficial; they also reflected his innovative mind. His contributions to language and legal theory remain influential, but these personal anecdotes reveal a more colourful and human side to the philosopher.

**26. How did Bentham's sense of humour manifest in his social life?**

- a. He entertained guests with stories about his cat.
- b. He gave imaginative names to his belongings.
- c. He made jokes about his resemblance to another famous figure.

**27. What do Bentham's personal anecdotes suggest about him?**

- a. He had a colourful and human side.
- b. He was not very influential.
- c. He was quite superficial.

**28. Which of the words that Bentham coined could best describe himself?**

- a. International.
- b. Antagonising.
- c. Eccentric.

**29. In what way is Bentham similar to the Pharaohs of Egypt?**

- a. His skeleton was waxed.
- b. He was mummified.
- c. He is on display.

**30. What nickname did Bentham give his teapot?**

- a. Dapple.
- b. Dobbin.
- c. Dickie.

**31. Which of Bentham's inventions is described as 'novel'?**

- a. Underpants.
- b. His vocabulary.
- c. His pet names.

**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 were recently given a voucher as part of a promotion at a shopping centre in your town. However, when you tried to use it, the staff at the shopping centre refused to redeem it and claimed it was invalid. Write an email to the customer service department at the shopping centre to complain.

You could write about:

- when and where you acquired the voucher
- the circumstances under which you were refused
- your loyalty to the shopping centre
- what you would like the customer service team to do about it.

**OR**

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

You recently attended a publicity event of a famous celebrity promoting the release of a new product. Write an article for your local newspaper reporting on the event, explaining what happened and how it went.

You could write about:

- where and when the event took place
- what you found interesting about the event
- how the celebrity was received by the attendees
- why it was significant for your town.

You must write 200 – 250 words.

(12 Marks)

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**Informal Writing Task 2 – Allow 35 minutes for this task**

You are planning an eco-friendly vacation and want to discuss your thoughts with your friend. Write a letter to your friend about your plans and ask if they have any suggestions.

You could write about:

- why you chose this type of vacation
- where you are thinking of going
- how you will travel there
- the activities you want to do.

You must write 250 – 300 words.

(12 Marks)

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**You will be assessed on:**

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

**End of Examination**

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