

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.

Listen to the instructions.

Use blue or black ink. Do not use a pencil.

You must not use a dictionary.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

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.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. a. He's been here since yesterday.
b. He wasn't here yesterday.
c. He was here yesterday.</p> <p>2. a. You can always use my phone.
b. Have you looked under the sofa?
c. It's ok, my phone is right here.</p> <p>3. a. I think her name is Angela.
b. No, I don't think she will until Friday.
c. Actually, I haven't asked her yet.</p> <p>4. a. Ok. Why not?
b. Really? When did you buy it?
c. Sara bought a new car last week.</p> <p>5. a. The spaghetti is still in the pan.
b. It is delicious with some garlic bread.
c. It was Yannis. He couldn't resist it.</p> | <p>6. a. I think I like the blue ones better.
b. I noticed there were lots of colours.
c. There's a lot of choice here.</p> <p>7. a. Me too. I only handed the last one in yesterday.
b. The assignment from yesterday is due in today.
c. You haven't been studying much.</p> <p>8. a. The party is going to start around 8pm.
b. Call her. I'm sure she just forgot.
c. Her parties are always really good fun.</p> <p>9. a. He hasn't been to university before.
b. He went there six months ago.
c. He should. He's been studying hard.</p> <p>10. a. No thanks, it's very hot in here.
b. I was going to open it.
c. I don't know where it is.</p> |
|---|---|

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. **What is the conversation about?**
 - a. Charging electric vehicles.
 - b. Buying a hybrid car.
 - c. Considering different electric vehicles.
2. **What are the customer's concerns about choosing an EV?**
 - a. Difficulty finding places to charge it.
 - b. Whether it is comfortable to drive.
 - c. How expensive it is to buy.
3. **Which is a key feature of both EVs and PHEVs?**
 - a. Level 2 charging.
 - b. The lithium-ion battery.
 - c. A petrol engine.
4. **How far does the customer usually drive in a week?**
 - a. 50 miles.
 - b. 200 miles.
 - c. 300 miles.
5. **Which type of car matches the customer's needs overall?**
 - a. A plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV).
 - b. A traditional hybrid.
 - c. An electric vehicle (EV).

Now listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **Which symptoms has Sarah noticed regarding her wisdom teeth?**
 - a. Numbness in her jaw.
 - b. Pressure at the back of her jaw.
 - c. Infection in her gums.
2. **When does Mr Thompson recommend removing a wisdom tooth?**
 - a. Before they are fully formed.
 - b. When they have emerged.
 - c. After an x-ray.
3. **How is Sarah feeling at the start of the appointment?**
 - a. Fine.
 - b. Anxious.
 - c. Nervous.
4. **What does Mr Thompson want Sarah to do next?**
 - a. Come back in a few days.
 - b. Concentrate on cleaning her back teeth.
 - c. Use fluoride treatments.
5. **If Sarah's wisdom teeth become problematic, what does the dentist suggest?**
 - a. Brushing and flossing.
 - b. Possible extraction.
 - c. Using mouthwash.

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. **What is the debate about?**
 - a. Which athlete is the most successful.
 - b. The effect of the Olympics on a host city.
 - c. How much the Olympics cost to run.
2. **Which Games does Alex highlight as having a positive impact on urban regeneration?**
 - a. Rio 2016.
 - b. Montreal 1976.
 - c. London 2012.
3. **What criticism does Emma have about the legacy of the Rio 2016 Games?**
 - a. The infrastructure improvements were not completed.
 - b. The Games led to a decrease in tourism.
 - c. The sports venues were repurposed for public use.
4. **Which city Olympics caused financial issues for many years after the Olympics?**
 - a. Barcelona.
 - b. London.
 - c. Montreal.
5. **Which is Emma Li's Olympic sport?**
 - a. Swimming.
 - b. Gymnastics.
 - c. Rowing.
6. **What has been the lasting impact of the Games for Barcelona?**
 - a. Increased tourism for the city.
 - b. More sports available in schools.
 - c. Better employment in the city.

Listen to the debate again and check your answers.

Now listen to the **discussion**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **How does Mr. Ball's daughter travel home?**
 - a. With her parents.
 - b. On her own.
 - c. With other students.
2. **What is the discussion about?**
 - a. The use of smartphones in schools.
 - b. Emergency use of phones.
 - c. Parental choice.
3. **Which risk does Ms. Ford mention regarding smartphones?**
 - a. Storing the phones.
 - b. Cyberbullying.
 - c. Unrestricted phone access.
4. **Mr. Ball believes Smartphones:**
 - a. Should be used in class.
 - b. Make children more responsible.
 - c. Keep children safe.
5. **What is the outcome of the discussion?**
 - a. Children can use their phones at school.
 - b. Mr. Ball understands the school's reasons for the smartphone ban.
 - c. More discussion is needed.

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.

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.

The different regions of Oaxaca, Mexico	1
	2
Oaxaca, nestled in the southern part of Mexico, is celebrated for its rich tapestry of cultures and traditions, which vary dramatically across its diverse regions. The state is divided into eight principal regions: the Central Valleys, Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur, Mixteca, Cañada, Papaloapan, Istmo and Costa. Each of these areas presents a unique cultural landscape shaped by its indigenous roots and colonial history.	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
In the Central Valleys, where the state capital resides, a vibrant festival takes place every July. This celebration showcases the distinct music, dance and costumes of various indigenous groups, primarily the Zapotecs and Mixtecs. Visitors gather to experience traditional foods, colourful parades and artisan crafts that reflect the rich cultural heritage of the region.	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
Local markets' are a delight to witness, bustling with stalls selling colourful textiles, handwoven rugs and intricate black pottery. The Central Valleys also offers scenic landscapes and historic sites, making it a popular destination for visitors.	14
	15
	16
	17
The Sierra Norte is characterised by its mountainous terrain. A pivotal feature of this region is the celebration of the Day of the Dead when families honour their deceased relatives with elaborate altars. These altars, known as ofrendas, are adorned with marigolds, sugar skulls, traditional foods and candles, demonstrating a fusion of pre-Hispanic and Catholic beliefs. This tradition is a deeply meaningful time for communities, bringing family members together to remember and celebrate their ancestors.	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
Further south is the Istmo de Tehuantepec, the cultural centre of the Tehuana people. The area is known for a colourful dance that narrates the historical events surrounding the Spanish conquest. This region's cuisine are famed for dishes such as a string cheese that is unique to Oaxaca, showcasing the area's culinary diversity.	25
	26
	27
	28
	29
Each of Oaxaca's regions contributes to the state's overall identity, creating a profound sense of community and cultural resilience. The traditions of Oaxaca are not _____; they evolve, inviting both locals and visitors to participate in their rich heritage, thereby fostering a greater understanding of the complexities inherent to the Mexican cultural landscape.	30
	31
	32
	33

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. This text has been written to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Promote tourism in Oaxaca.b. Provide an overview of Oaxaca's traditions.c. Compare the regions of Mexico. <p>2. Which type of food is associated with the Day of the Dead celebration?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Only sugared food.b. Elaborate food.c. Traditional food. <p>3. The Central Valleys region is popular with tourists for its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Colourful dance and cheese dishes.b. Unique landscapes and mountainous terrain.c. Scenic landscapes and historic sites. <p>4. In which region does the writer highlight the mix of different faiths?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Cañada.b. Sierra Norte.c. Papaloapan. <p>5. Which group of people is from Istmo?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Tehuanas.b. Zapotecs.c. Mixtecs. | <p>6. There is a spelling error on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 4.b. Line 10.c. Line 33. <p>7. There is a grammar error on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 21.b. Line 27.c. Line 30. <p>8. There is a punctuation mistake on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Line 5.b. Line 14.c. Line 15. <p>9. The best word to complete the sentence on line 31 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Static.b. Ancient.c. Uncommon. <p>10. The best word to replace 'pivotal' on line 18 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Profound.b. Trivial.c. Core. |
|--|---|

Text 2

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

Billie Eilish: Redefining Pop and Inspiring a New Generation	1
	2
Billie Eilish, born in Los Angeles in 2001, has quickly risen to become one of the most influential figures in contemporary music. With a unique blend of pop, electronic and indie sounds, Eilish stands out, not only for her innovative musical style, but also for her bold approach to self-expression, which deeply resonates with young audiences. Her authenticity and willingness to _____ difficult subjects, ranging from mental health to environmental issues, have made her a significant role model for today's youth.	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
Eilish's breakthrough came in 2015, when she uploaded the haunting single <i>Ocean Eyes</i> to SoundCloud. Co-written and produced by her older brother, Finneas O'Connell, the track soon went viral, catching the attention of major music labels. Her 2019 debut album, <i>When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?</i> , featuring the Grammy-winning singles <i>Bad Guy</i> and <i>When the Party's Over</i> , propelled her to international stardom. The album's innovative production and Eilish's genre-defying vocals earned her widespread acclaim, while the lyrics, often reflective and confessional, touched on issues familiar to many young listeners, such as depression, self-doubt and societal pressures.	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
	15
	16
	17
	18
What makes Eilish particularly inspiring to young people is her rejection of conventional beauty standards and her openness about mental health struggles. In a world dominated by carefully curated social media personas, Eilish's honesty is refreshing. Her public discussions of body image, self-acceptance and dealing with fame has encouraged countless fans to embrace their authentic selves and prioritise their mental well-being. Additionally, Eilish uses her platform to advocate for environmental conservation, urging her followers to make sustainable choices and take action against climate change.	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
	25
	26
Eilish's influence extends beyond music; she embodies a cultural shift toward greater openness, vulnerability and social responsibility. Her career serves as a powerful example of how young artists can remain true to their values, while achieving mainstream success. For a generation navigating the challenges of modern life, Billie Eilish is more than just a musician: She is a voice for authenticity and change, inspiring young people worldwide to express themselves and make a difference.	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
	32

11. What is the focus of this text?

- a. To analyse Eilish's musical techniques.
- b. To examine the music industry's impact on young people.
- c. To discuss Eilish's role as a cultural inspiration.

12. In which year did Billie Eilish release her first album?

- a. 2001.
- b. 2015.
- c. 2019.

13. What does Eilish encourage her fans to do?

- a. Make ecological choices and fight against climate change.
- b. Avoid social media to reduce societal pressure.
- c. Focus on beauty standards and achieving success.

14. Which of Eilish's tracks went viral?

- a. Bad Guy.
- b. Ocean Eyes.
- c. When the Party's Over.

15. Which topic does Eilish often address to inspire her fans?

- a. Fashion trends.
- b. Curating social media.
- c. Mental health.

16. There is a spelling mistake on:

- a. Line 24.
- b. Line 27.
- c. Line 29.

17. There is a grammar mistake on:

- a. Line 15.
- b. Line 19.
- c. Line 22.

18. There is a punctuation mistake on:

- a. Line 4.
- b. Line 11.
- c. Line 31.

19. The best word to complete the sentence on line 7 is:

- a. Tackle.
- b. Evade.
- c. Challenge.

20. The best word to replace the word 'reflective' on line 16 is:

- a. Impulsive.
- b. Contemplative.
- c. Impressive.

Text 3

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

Veganism

Veganism is a lifestyle that excludes all animal products including meat, dairy, eggs and honey. People adopt this way of living for a variety of reasons including ethical beliefs, environmental awareness and personal well-being.

From an ethical perspective, many vegans believe animals should not be used for human benefit. They avoid consuming meat and animal by-products such as gelatine, lanolin, beeswax, rennet and lard. Vegans also steer clear of products like leather, wool and cosmetics that are tested on animals. Vegans see this choice as a commitment to sustainability and responsible consumption.

Environmental reasons are a major influence too. Animal agriculture is responsible for roughly 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. It also contributes to deforestation, water shortages and loss of biodiversity. Choosing a plant-based diet can reduce an individual's food-related carbon footprint by up to 73%, help preserve natural habitats and significantly cut water use.

Health is another motivating factor. Well-planned vegan diets are typically rich in fibre, vitamins and antioxidants. Vegan alternatives include nut milks, meat substitutes made from soya and mushrooms and plant-based margarines. Nowadays, these alternatives are commonly found in all diets. People following vegan diets often report feeling more energised, sleeping better and having improved digestion. For example, plant-based diets tend to be lower in saturated fat, which can support heart health and weight management.

In summary, veganism is not just a diet but a lifestyle rooted in thoughtful choices. It supports animal welfare, benefits the environment and promotes personal health. Although less than 10% of the global population is currently vegan, interest continues to grow. For many, it offers a meaningful way to live with greater awareness, purpose and care for the world around them.

21. According to the text, vegan diets:

- a. Are low in fibre.
- b. Increase fat intake.
- c. Can improve digestion.

22. Which environmental concern is linked to animal agriculture?

- a. Greenhouse gas emissions.
- b. Use of gelatine and lanolin.
- c. Testing of cosmetics on animals.

23. According to the text, veganism promotes:

- a. Deforestation.
- b. Wool production.
- c. Personal health.

24. Which one of these statements is true?

- a. Plant-based diets produce 14.5% of greenhouse gas emissions.
- b. A plant-based diet could reduce your carbon footprint by up to 73%.
- c. More than 10% of the world population is vegan.

25. Which of these is a vegan alternative?

- a. Rennet.
- b. Honey.
- c. Soya.

Text 4

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

Istanbul's cats

Istanbul's cats sounds like an indie band, yet those who have wandered Turkey's vibrant streets will recognise these renowned felines instantly. Whether prowling through police stations, sauntering along cobbled avenues, or perched with regal indifference in museums and mosques, Istanbul's street cats, or *sokak kedileri* in Turkish, are an intrinsic element of the cityscape. Unlike stray animals in many other nations, these cats are cherished by the local population and safeguarded from harm.

Embedded in Istanbul's historical fabric for centuries, these ubiquitous felines are believed to trace their lineage back to Egypt, where they were among the first domesticated creatures and revered by ancient Egyptians as sacred beings. Scientific consensus suggests that these industrious guardians gradually spread across the globe from Egypt approximately 10,000 years ago, intertwining themselves with human civilization ever since.

Why, then, does Istanbul boast such an abundance of free-roaming cats? The phenomenon may be traced back to the Byzantine Empire which ruled the city, before the Ottomans, for over a thousand years. Like the Ottoman people who followed, the Byzantines lived amid wooden structures vulnerable to rodent infestations. Cats were welcomed as natural protectors of grain stores and homes, becoming woven into daily urban life. When the Ottoman Empire later took control, the tradition of caring for these animals continued and evolved.

Today, estimates suggest that over a million cats call Istanbul home. The city's reverence for its feline inhabitants was once formally institutionalised through the role of *mancaş*, or "cat sitter." Employed by charitable foundations, *mancaş* were responsible for the daily feeding of Istanbul's stray cats, while local veterinarians provided essential medical care. Shopkeepers and residents, contributed by maintaining the cats' environment and safety. This system of structured support remained in place until the 1970s.

26. Free roaming cats were first introduced to Istanbul by:

- a. Ottoman people.
- b. The Egyptians.
- c. Byzantine people.

27. According to the text, which of the following is true?

- a. Locals dislike stray cats.
- b. In Istanbul, cats can roam freely.
- c. Cats were not revered by ancient Egyptians.

28. *Sokak kedileri* in Turkish means:

- a. Stray animals.
- b. Street cats.
- c. Sacred beings.

29. Turkish streets are said to be:

- a. Vibrant.
- b. Industrious.
- c. Ubiquitous.

30. According to the text, stray cats were fed daily by:

- a. Veterinarians.
- b. Shopkeepers.
- c. *Mancaş*.

31. How many cats are estimated to live in Istanbul?

- a. Over 1,000.
- b. Over 10,000.
- c. Over a million.

End of Examination.

This page is intentionally blank

ESOL International

Writing

Level C2 Proficient

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

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 are part of a school or college committee planning to set up a study and chill zone, a place where students can relax, study and get help with their homework. Write an email to all students and teachers explaining how the study and chill zone could benefit everyone.

You could write about:

- why this zone is being created
- the advantages of having this dedicated space
- what the space will look like and when it will be available to use
- ways that students and teachers could get involved.

OR

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

A new mega-supermarket is being built in your town. You know that this will make things difficult for all the local shops. Write an article for the town newspaper to persuade people to keep supporting their local shops.

You could write about:

- the impact the new mega-supermarket might have on local shops
- how local businesses support local jobs and families
- the personal service small shops can offer
- ways people can support local shops.

You must write 200 – 250 words.

(12 Marks)

Informal Writing Task 2 – Allow 35 minutes for this task

You spent some time in the summer visiting friends. You tried a new outdoor activity while you were there. Write a blog about your trip and your experiences.

You could write about:

- where you went and who you visited
- what the place was like
- what outdoor activity you tried
- how you felt about the experience.

You must write 250 – 300 words.

(12 Marks)

You will be assessed on:

- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary

- content
- use of appropriate tenses

- word order
- legibility of writing

End of Examination

This page is intentionally blank



PART OF **nocn** GROUP

NOCN Group

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

©NOCN

E-mail: nocn@nocn.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0) 0300 999 1177