

The Classic ESOL International Examinations



SAMPLE PAGES

**B2
Level**

Practice
Tests
the Classic
Way

student's book



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Reading Task 1

Read the article and circle the best option to complete the text – a, b, c or d.
An example has been done for you.

CHOOSING A PART TIME JOB

The issue of finding a job **0)** _____ always been a matter of great importance for every person, young or old, and has become the goal upon which people focus for their entire life in order to stay at work and guarantee the income they will need for as long as they live.

So, the first holiday job is an important **1)** _____ for a teen. It signifies that the young teenager is on the way to adulthood, at the same time, this job will introduce him/her to the world of employment, as it is exactly this phase of life which will acquaint him/her **2)** _____ the various paths of creativity and productivity.

However, the type of this **3)** _____ term job, which the teen opts for, should be based on his/ her career prospects and goals as well as on his/her talents and skills.

For a teen with the traits of a leader, a job in a youth camp as a team organizer sounds very attractive, as this choice will allow him/her to work outdoors with participants who are very likely to see them as their mentors for a number of guided activities. It's this kind of work that will give such a teen the **4)** _____ to exhibit leadership abilities allowing for communication and conflict resolution skills.

On the other hand, if what matters most is the amount of income earned, the field of sales could be the ideal choice **5)** _____ that besides having social and communicative skills, the sales person should have the talent of **6)** _____ with the prospective customer who very often doesn't know exactly what to buy! It's then that the teen will prove to himself that he/she doesn't lack the confidence required to guide such a customer to what it is indeed necessary for the needs that he/she must satisfy.

Example:	a) have	b) has	c) is	d) was
1.	a) matter	b) channel	c) way	d) tunnel
2.	a) to	b) in	c) about	d) with
3.	a) long	b) short	c) easy	d) fast
4.	a) money	b) time	c) opportunity	d) efforts
5.	a) unless	b) suggesting	c) provided	d) if
6.	a) interacting	b) disagreeing	c) agreeing	d) fighting

(6 marks)

Writing Task 1

Choose ONE of the following two topics: A or B

A. Your friend Mary is visiting your town for the first time and wants to find out about some places worth visiting. Write an email to Mary recommending where she should go during her visit.

You can use some of the following ideas, or write about your own:

MUSEUM

PARK

CONCERT HALL

ART GALLERY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

THE BEACH

B. Write a letter to the editor of your local youth magazine advising him about some new additions that will make the magazine more popular with teenagers.

You can use some of the following ideas, or write about your own:

CONTESTS

CELEBRITY INTERVIEWS

ADVICE COLUMN

SPORTS SECTION

ORGANISE PARTIES

GOSSIP COLUMN

Which topic have you chosen: A or B? _____

Write a minimum of 150 words.

Writing Task 2

Choose ONE of the following two topics: A or B

A. Write an article for a technology magazine describing how young people in your country use the Internet.

You can use some of the following ideas, or write about your own:

SOCIAL MEDIA	GAMES	EDUCATION
CURRENT AFFAIRS	MUSIC	FILMS

Remember to:

- Write an introductory paragraph
- Use a style appropriate to your audience
- Give reasons and relevant examples
- Write a clear conclusion

B. More and more teenagers nowadays are studying to learn at least one foreign language. Write an essay explaining why you think learning English is important for young people.

You can use some of the following ideas, or write about your own:

EDUCATION ABROAD	TRAVELLING	MAKE NEW FRIENDS
JOB OPPORTUNITIES	USE OF TECHNOLOGY	TOURISM

Remember to include:

- An introduction
- Your opinion and supporting reasons
- Relevant examples
- A clear conclusion

Which topic have you chosen: A or B? _____

Write a minimum of 150 words.

Reading Task 3

Read the three texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, or C. An example has been done for you.

TEXT A SWIMMING IN THE SEA

Swimming in the sea is the best activity for the body as well as for the mind and it has been known to the Greeks since the ancient times. Hippocrates used the word "thalassotherapy" to describe the therapeutic power of the sea water as it is rich in minerals, which makes swimming not only a very pleasant and athletic activity, but it also improves blood circulation and hydrates the skin. In fact, seawater has properties which are similar to those of human blood and it helps the body to get rid of toxins and to cleanse it thoroughly. It also boosts the immune system, improving, among other things, its antibiotic resistance. Swimming in the sea brings the swimmer into direct contact with nature and helps people recover their confidence and strength. Also, a person who swims feels that the sea is an ally and not an enemy provided that he or she shows respect for nature, as the sea is not under his or her control and it never will be. So, the swimmer begins to feel his or her limitations and doesn't risk his or her safety when he or she is in the sea.

TEXT B SWIMMING IN THE POOL

Swimming has 365 advantages: it can be done 365 days a year! A swimming pool, especially a private one, may have a temperature of around 28 degrees, summer and winter. But, of course this isn't always easy. Therefore, the local swimming pool is just as good. You can decide to buy an annual or monthly subscription, usually at an affordable cost, and go swimming whenever you feel like it, without fearing stormy weather or other uncontrollable factors.

In such a protected environment you can enjoy the recreational effects of indoor swimming and it's up to you to swim fast or slow as there are usually many lanes to satisfy any kind of swimmer. Certainly, there are rules to follow like having a shower before entering the swimming pool and wearing a bathing cap. Also, you must behave yourself and not splash water all over as if you were swimming in the sea all by yourself. Of course, you don't need to be afraid of insects or any other living organisms as the pool water is highly chlorinated which makes it absolutely safe for you to swim unafraid of unwanted contacts with any of those creatures!

TEXT C
SWIMMING IN THE RIVER

The Thames has always been London's most famous water way. Yet, it's hard to believe that people could think of swimming into this river which is known for its polluted waters. Maybe in the good old days, the beaches around the Tower of London or Greenwich were popular for competitive swimmers, but with the pollution that followed economic progress, the river came to be regarded as very dangerous. But, now thanks to the efforts made over the last 50 years, the river has been cleaned and regular swimming activities take place. But before you try to prove to yourself that you are not afraid of its past, remember that you need to be a competent swimmer, and make sure you like fish, river vegetation and also insects. Particularly those who are used to swimming in chlorine-controlled swimming pools may find it rather unpleasant. Also, you should not swim alone, but with a friend, as swimming in the open river is not as safe as you probably think it is. The usually very cold water means that you have to wear a special swimsuit to insulate against the cold which could be great fun to wear. Maybe it's a good idea to join a swimming club, where you'll meet fellow river swimmers, who can help you develop your swimming skills and share your experience with them...

Which text does the following?

Example Describes a place you have to pay in order to use it.

B

- | | | |
|----|--|-------|
| 1. | Describes a place which used to be unsuitable for swimming. | _____ |
| 2. | Describes a place with steady temperature. | _____ |
| 3. | Describes a place which has been used for swimming since antiquity. | _____ |
| 4. | Describes a place which is better to use with a partner. | _____ |
| 5. | Describes a place where swimming is good for your health. | _____ |
| 6. | Describes a place which is divided according to the swimmers' level. | _____ |
| 7. | Describes a place which could be psychologically beneficial. | _____ |
| 8. | Describes a place where you need special gear to protect yourself. | _____ |

(8 marks)

Listening Task 1

Listen to the recording and circle the correct option – a, b, c or d.

An example has been done for you.

You have one minute to read the questions before the recording is played.

You will hear the recording twice.

Example: The camp is in:

- a) South Sudan
- b) Northern Sudan
- c) Eastern Sudan
- d) We don't know

1. The student:

- a) has already checked the website.
- b) has already applied for the position.
- c) hasn't checked the website yet.
- d) will check the website and call back later.

2. How old is the student?

- a) Between 18 and 30.
- b) We don't know.
- c) Almost 18.
- d) Almost 30.

3. The student would like to take her dog with her because:

- a) it is very friendly.
- b) she has nowhere to leave it.
- c) it can be a great volunteer.
- d) it loves children.

4. What can the student do about her dog?

- a) The secretary doesn't really know.
- b) The secretary will send her a letter later.
- c) The secretary will ask and tell her.
- d) The secretary will send the student's application to her supervisors.

5. Can the student continue her vegetarian diet in the camp?

- a) The secretary doesn't know.
- b) No, because the camp doesn't serve vegetarian meals.
- c) Yes, because the kitchen staff are also vegetarians.
- d) Yes, as long as she has notified the kitchen staff first.

6. When can the student find out whether she has been selected?

- a) In June.
- b) A month before the camp starts.
- c) The secretary will answer her by email soon.
- d) Within a month following her application.

(6 marks)

Reading Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions below.

Circle the correct option, a, b, c or d. An example has been done for you.

TOOTHBRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTES

Nowadays, although we are surrounded by every day inventions in the field of digital technology, we tend to take it for granted that simple constructions or gadgets have always been around and we never ask questions as to when they were made, where they have been used or who invented them. One such example is the toothbrush! Indeed, have you ever wondered what your teeth would be like if you didn't brush them daily? You probably think that the toothbrush has always been used by people everywhere in the world. Well, it isn't so. As a matter of fact, it was not invented in Europe. In fact, the first brush which looks like the one we know was found in China and was used in the 7th century A.D. which means that the Chinese people are very likely to have invented and used it at least a thousand years before it was made known to the Europeans!

This brush was made of the bristles of Siberian hogs, as their bristles were firmer due to the very cold climate there and they were attached to a handle made of bone or a bamboo. The first to have witnessed the use of the toothbrush in China were travelers who decided to bring bristle toothbrushes to Europe no earlier than the 17th century. In China, monks were recorded to clean their teeth with brushes similar to ours made of horsetail hairs attached to an oxbone handle almost four hundred years before they spread to Europe! Actually, until the 20th century, the Chinese exported millions of mass produced toothbrushes made of horse or boar bristle to Europe and they continue to do so even now but in smaller quantities as mass production of similar brushes began in England, France, Germany, and Japan around 1840.

As brushing teeth became a daily routine, it became clear that animal bristle was not as ideal as it originally seemed, and later in 1938 it was replaced with synthetic fibers, usually nylon. The first nylon bristle toothbrush made with nylon yarn went on sale on February 24, 1938 in France. Sixteen years later, the first electric toothbrush was invented in Switzerland, but didn't appear on the open market until the 1960s. It also used nylon yarn and its handle was made of wood or plastic materials.

It's really hard to believe, but most Americans did not brush their teeth until American soldiers, who had orders to clean their teeth daily, brought their tooth brushing habit back home after World War II. Yet, in January 2003, the toothbrush was selected as the number one invention American people could not live without according to an official Massachusetts Institute of Technology invention report.

As for toothpaste, it was used as long ago as 500 BC in both China and India, while modern toothpaste was developed in the 1800s, taking its modern form just after WWII, when soap was replaced by better and more effective synthetic detergents with fluoride, another extremely important discovery for the oral hygiene of the mouth as fluoride strengthens tooth enamel against decay. So, finally, it's true that, after the Second World War there were great advances in the development of toothpaste and hygiene and in the care of the mouth which now is, without a doubt, a major part of a normal daily routine for each one of us without exception.

Example: What is true about everyday gadgets?

- a) Most of them have been digitalized nowadays.
- b) We rarely think of their origins.
- c) We have changed the way we use them today.
- d) Their last example is the toothbrush.

1) What is true about the first toothbrushes?

- a) They were probably invented in China.
- b) They were found in China one thousand years ago.
- c) Europeans used them long before the Chinese did.
- d) Europeans have known about their existence since the 7th century AD.

2) Who brought the toothbrush to Europe?

- a) Chinese monks.
- b) Chinese travelers to Europe.
- c) European travelers to China.
- d) We don't really know.

3) Chinese toothbrushes made of animal bristle:

- a) were exported until the 20th century.
- b) are exported even today.
- c) were exported until 1840.
- d) are exported only to England, France, Germany and Japan.

4) What happened on February 24, 1938?

- a) People stopped using toothbrushes with animal bristle.
- b) The first electric toothbrush was produced.
- c) The first nylon bristle toothbrush was sold.
- d) The French started using toothbrushes.

5) In the 1960s, Swiss people:

- a) started using nylon bristle toothbrushes.
- b) started brushing their teeth.
- c) invented plastic handle toothbrushes.
- d) started using electric toothbrushes.

6) In the USA:

- a) people didn't brush their teeth until 2003.
- b) only soldiers brush their teeth.
- c) a new kind of toothbrush was invented in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- d) brushing teeth became a widespread habit after WWII.

Speaking Task 1: Communicating Personal Information

The examiner will ask you both a number of questions.
Answer each question in a few sentences.

Questions for Candidate A

Tell me something interesting about yourself.

Do you like video games?
Why/Why not?

Tell me about your favourite food.

If you could have any pet,
which would you choose? Why?

Tell me about your favourite film.

Questions for Candidate B

Tell me something interesting about yourself.

Do you use social media?
Why/Why not?

Tell me about your favourite sport.

If you could have any pet, which
would you choose? Why?

Tell me about your favourite kind
of music.

Speaking Task 2: Presentation

In this part of the assessment, you are each going to give a presentation on the topic you have chosen. You will listen to each other's presentation. When the other candidate has finished speaking, you will need to ask two questions about their presentation.

Choose one of the following topics:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Topic 1 | The Internet will eventually replace most libraries. |
| Topic 2 | Celebrities have the right to some privacy. |
| Topic 3 | Driving safety should be taught at schools. |
| Topic 4 | Rich countries have an obligation to aid poor countries. |

Speaking Task 3: Discussion

The examiner is going to describe a situation to you.
Then you will talk about it together.

**Our friend is not sure about which profession is the best for him.
Discuss some professions that you believe would be good for him and why.**

Visual Prompts for Speaking Task 3





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ISBN 978-618-83365-2-0



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