

ESOL International

English Reading Examination

Level C2 Proficient User

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on your mark sheet.

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.

<u>The Guinness Book of World Records</u>	1
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The Guinness Book of Records began in 1955 and in 2000 it became known as the Guinness Book of <i>World</i> Records. It is an annual reference book listing world records of achievements and natural events. In fact, the book itself holds a world record as the best-selling book of all time and is published in 100 countries and 23 languages.	3
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There are very strict policies governing what makes a world record. Each world record must be measurable, breakable, able to be repeated and proven.	9
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An example of a world record achievement in 2017 is by 28 year old Timur Gareyev from the USA, who is a World Chess Grandmaster. He played 48 games of chess at the same time, blindfolded while riding an exercise bike. He has set a world record for blindfold chess and now says he is ready to set a new world record for playing 55 games simultaneously.	12
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Another 2017 world breaking record was set by French sailor François Gabart who circumnavigated the world in 42 days and 16 hours – six days faster than the previous record.	18
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Of course there are stranger records than these. Ayanna Williams of the USA grew the longest women’s fingernails. Her nails measured a total of 576.4 cm. The tallest recorded person in the world was Robert Pershing Wadlow from the USA who measured 2.72 metres tall in 1940. In Venezuela, a man called Jeison Orlando Rodríguez Hernandez has feet which measure over 40 cm each.	22
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Animals have also entered the Guinness Book of World Records. Himmy who is living in Queensland, Australia, was the heaviest recorded cat, weighing in at a staggering 21.3kg (46.8lbs). Himmy died at the age of ten of heart failure. Now there is a new contender for the world’s heaviest cat. Five-year-old Katy, who lives in Russia, weighs 20kg. Katy’s owners had hoped to have her listed as the world’s heaviest cat with the Guinness World Records. However, the World Records organisation are no longer accepting nominations in this category, as they to encourage pet owners to overfeed their animals.	28
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1. The main purpose of this document is to:

- a. Inform readers about how to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.
- b. Describe some unbeatable World Records.
- c. Explain why the Guinness Book of Records changed its name.

2. According to the article, which statement is true?

- a. The book only publishes achievements that can be beaten by someone else.
- b. If you can't repeat the achievement, you can't be listed in the book.
- c. You can only be listed in the book once.

3. In the text, who wants to beat his/her own world record?

- a. Timur Gareyev.
- b. François Gabart.
- c. Katy the Cat.

4. Ayanna Williams fingernails measured:

- a. 576.4 cm on each finger.
- b. 576.4 cm on one hand.
- c. 576.4 cm on two hands.

5. Why can't Katy the cat apply for the Guinness Book of World Records?

- a. She's not heavy enough.
- b. Animals are banned from the book.
- c. Animals are not allowed to be entered for being the fattest or heaviest animals.

6. The best word or phrase to replace 'simultaneously' in line 16 is:

- a. For a long time.
- b. Again and again.
- c. At the same time.

7. There is a spelling mistake on:

- a. Line 4.
- b. Line 14.
- c. Line 24.

8. There is a grammatical error on:

- a. Line 12.
- b. Line 18.
- c. Line 23.

9. The phrase completing the sentence in line 35 is:

- a. Don't want.
- b. Would like.
- c. May have to.

10. In line 19, what does 'circumnavigated' mean:

- a. Travel over.
- b. Travel across.
- c. Travel all the way round.

Text 2

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

<u>Mountains and Animals</u>	1
	2
A mountain is steeper than a hill and is a tough place to live due to having lower temperatures and harsher weather. At very high altitudes there is also less oxygen and carbon dioxide in the air. Soils are thin or non-existent on steep mountain slopes, which restrict the types of plants that can grow. The uppermost slopes of the tallest mountains may be completely barren of plant-life. High mountains are a bleak habitat for animals. Food is scarce and the climate is very cold yet many animals survive these hardships and size is very important.	3
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A very small mammal will lose heat so fast through its skin surface area that it must stay extremely active to keep warm, or it will freeze to death. For example the mountain shrew, which is perhaps the smallest mammal at high altitudes, has a heartbeat of up to 1200 times a minute. It has a high metabolism and eats insects. It must eat at least every hour and consume its own weight in food every day, or it will die.	11
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There are three main ways that warm blooded animals can deal with the extreme cold conditions on mountains' - through hibernation, migration, or by seeking shelter under the ground or snow.	18
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Most large mountain animals migrate. Goats, elk and bighorn sheep, which feed on mountain foliage during the summer, move down the mountain in colder months to avoid the deep snows. They spend the winter in thick protected areas. As the snows in spring they move upward again. These animals have specially designed hooves which enable them to travel over really rocky terrain at great speeds, and climb steep cliffs. The hooves are flexible to cope with sharp rocks and stones. Baby bighorn sheep can stand up within an hour of birth. Within a week it can follow its mother wherever she goes, and within two weeks it can run as fast as she can!	22
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- 11. How is a mountain different from a hill?**
- Plants can't grow on a mountain.
 - There aren't many animals on a mountain.
 - The weather is more severe on a mountain.
- 12. How does a shrew keep warm on a mountain in the winter?**
- It runs around a lot.
 - It hides away.
 - It sleeps a lot.
- 13. According to the text, which statement is true:**
- Animals migrate down the mountain in winter.
 - Animals hibernate up the mountain in spring.
 - Animals hide under cover in the summer.
- 14. What do large animals eat on the mountain?**
- Small animals.
 - Plants and leaves.
 - Insects.
- 15. Where are the hooves located on an animal's body?**
- Legs.
 - Feet.
 - Hips.
- 16. There is a grammatical mistake on:**
- Line 4.
 - Line 7.
 - Line 12.
- 17. The best word to replace 'altitudes' in lines 4 and 13 is:**
- Heights.
 - Peaks.
 - Tops.
- 18. The best word to finish the sentence in line 25 is:**
- Fall.
 - Settles.
 - Melt.
- 19. What is 'metabolism' in Line 14?**
- The body's process of converting food into energy.
 - The rate of a heartbeat.
 - The body's weight.
- 20. There is a punctuation mistake on:**
- Line 6.
 - Line 19.
 - Line 27.

Text 3

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

Notting Hill Carnival, London

Notting Hill Carnival was first held in 1966 as an offshoot of the Trinidad Carnival, celebrating Caribbean culture and traditions in London. Since then, the carnival has become the largest street festival in Europe and the second largest in the world after the Rio De Janeiro Carnival. Notting Hill Carnival grows in popularity each year and provides a vivid spectacle of London's past and present multicultural history and costs nothing to join in.

Every August bank holiday weekend, the streets of West London come alive with a huge Caribbean party full of colour and music. Elaborate floats of colourful costumed performers and Moko stilt-walkers slowly move through the streets and 50,000 performers dance in the carnival parade. Over 40 sound systems play calypso, soca and steel band music whilst up to two million spectators watch the floats and dancers pass by. 80-300 people take part in the masquerades wearing 15,000 different handmade costumes.

40,000 volunteers work to make sure the carnival runs smoothly and 9,000 police are on hand to help anyone. When they are not helping anyone, they are dancing along with everyone else.

Along the three and a half mile route there are around 300 tempting food stalls selling jerk chicken, rice and peas, corn on the cob and fried plantain.

21. Why was the above text written?

- a. To inform people about the history of Notting Hill Carnival.
- b. To explain why Notting Hill Carnival takes place.
- c. To describe what happens at Notting Hill Carnival.

22. According to the text, a 'float' is:

- a. A decorated moving platform.
- b. A Masquerade dance.
- c. A style of Caribbean music.

23. According to the text, the costumes of the Masquerade dancers are:

- a. Individually sewn.
- b. Manufactured.
- c. Second-hand.

24. According to the text, which sentence is true:

- a. Notting Hill Carnival is the biggest music festival in Europe.
- b. Notting Hill Carnival is the 2nd biggest street carnival in the world.
- c. Notting Hill Carnival is bigger than Rio De Janeiro Carnival.

25. Which of these things are not mentioned in the text:

- a. Singing.
- b. Dancing.
- c. Playing music.

26. How long is the carnival route?

- a. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.
- b. 2 and a half miles.
- c. Three and a half miles.

Text 4

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

A Job Interview

It is very important to prepare for a job interview. Before you go, make sure you have a copy of your application form and CV with you in a folder, a pen, paper and the interview contact number, just in case you are delayed and needed to contact them.

Always arrive 10 minutes early and make sure you know exactly where to go even if it means driving there the day before the interview. Remember your interview starts the moment you enter the building so be pleasant to the receptionist.

You should switch off your mobile phone before you are called into the interview room. During the interview give a firm handshake when you meet your interviewer/s, sit when invited to do so, make direct eye contact and smile. From the moment you meet, your communication with the interviewer forms part of their decision-making as to whether they would recruit you; in fact most decisions are made within the first three minutes'.

Show a genuine interest in the job, listen and answer any questions asked, never argue a point. If you do not understand or hear a question, ask for it to be repeated and do not interrupt people when they are talking.

Appearance and manners are VERY important so think of your body language and expressions. Put your feet squarely on the floor or cross your legs at the ankle and do not hold anything on your lap. Rest your hands on your lap, make eye contact and nod your head to show you are listening. Finally, do not forget to smile!

27. The word 'genuine' in the text can be replaced with:

- a. Positive.
- b. Real.
- c. A lot of.

28. There is a punctuation error in the third paragraph, what is it?

- a. Question mark.
- b. Exclamation mark.
- c. Apostrophe.

29. A grammatical mistake in paragraph one has been made, what is it?

- a. Needed.
- b. Delayed.
- c. Contact.

30. A word has been omitted in the last paragraph, it should be:

- a. Eye.
- b. Bodily.
- c. Facial.

31. The phrase 'put your feet squarely on the floor' means:

- a. Put one foot over the other.
- b. Put your feet side by side.
- c. Put your feet under the chair.