

**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.

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>How Swimming became an Olympic Sport</b>	1
	2
Swimming is not only an enjoyable pastime but is also a competitive sport,	3
which began in the early 1800s in England.	4
	5
In 1828, the first indoor swimming pool was opened to the public. By 1837, the	6
National Swimming Society was formed and held regular swimming	7
competitions in six pools, built around London.	8
	9
In 1844, a swimming competition was held in London between a British	10
swimmer and two Native American swimmers. The British competitor used the	11
traditional breaststroke style, while the Native Americans swam the front crawl,	12
which was unknown to the British at that time. The crawl was a success and	13
the winning medal went to 'Flying Gull' who swam 130 feet in 30 seconds.	14
	15
The British, who preferred to keep their heads above the water, did not adopt	16
the front crawl method of swimming until 1873 when John Arthur Trudgen	17
started using it and won a local competition in 1875. Soon, Trudgen's method	18
of swimming became popular around the world.	19
	20
By 1880, the Amateur Swimming Association was formed with over 300 regional	21
swimming clubs. Other European countries started establishing swimming	22
federations; Germany in 1882, France in 1890 and Hungary in 1896. The first	23
European amateur swimming competitions were in 1889 in Vienna. The world's	24
first professional women's swimming championship was held in Scotland in	25
1892.	26
	27
In 1896, swimming was becoming an Olympic sport at the Olympic Games	28
in Athens. The first gold medal was won by Alfréd Hajós of Hungary in the	29
100 metres freestyle.	30
	31
Today, more than 100 years later, it is not ..... to see both men and women	32
competing in the Olympics for swimming medals. Paralympic swimmers also	33
compete in competitions using a variety of swimming styles such as freestyle,	34
backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke. To ensure that competition is as fair as	35
possible, athletes are always grouped according to their skills and capabilities to	36
perform each stroke in a process known as 'classification'.	37

- 1. The main purpose of this document is to:**
  - a. Describe the evolution of competitive swimming.
  - b. Persuade the reader to start swimming in competitions.
  - c. Explain how to use different swimming techniques in competitions.
  
- 2. Who won the fastest swimmer medal in 1844?**
  - a. A British swimmer.
  - b. A Native American swimmer.
  - c. A British-American swimmer.
  
- 3. When did the front crawl style of swimming become popular?**
  - a. It became popular after 1844.
  - b. It became popular after 1873.
  - c. It became popular after 1875.
  
- 4. When was the first professional swimming competition held?**
  - a. It took place in 1892.
  - b. It took place in 1896.
  - c. It took place in 1889.
  
- 5. According to the article, which statement is true?**
  - a. The British hated the breaststroke.
  - b. Trudgen swam the front crawl.
  - c. Alfréd Hajós won a gold trophy.
  
- 6. What is the best phrase to replace 'classification' on line 37?**
  - a. Arranging people into gender groups.
  - b. Arranging people into age groups.
  - c. Arranging people into ability groups.
  
- 7. There is a spelling mistake on:**
  - a. Line 18.
  - b. Line 24.
  - c. Line 35.
  
- 8. There is a grammatical error on:**
  - a. Line 12.
  - b. Line 21.
  - c. Line 28.
  
- 9. The most suitable word to complete the sentence on line 32 is:**
  - a. Unusual.
  - b. Normal.
  - c. Common.
  
- 10. Which of these best describes the style of the text?**
  - a. Informal and entertaining.
  - b. Informative and detailed.
  - c. Formal and instructive.

**Text 2**

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

<u><b>The Montreux Jazz Festival</b></u>	1
	2
The Montreux Jazz Festival has been celebrated for just over fifty years. It first began in 1967 and is held annually in the first two weeks of July on the shore of Lake Geneva in Switzerland. It is the second largest jazz festival in the world; the first being Canada’s Montreal International Jazz Festival.	3
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The festival attracts more than 200,000 people and features musicians from all continents and musical genres playing jazz, rock, blues, soul, reggae, hip-hop, rap and pop. It also includes Brazilian regional styles influenced by traditional African, European and Amerindian forms of music performed by native people of those continents.	8
	9
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The festival was first held at the original Montreux Casino, which burned down in December 1971. After that the festival took place in other venues in Montreux until it returned to the newly rebuilt casino in 1975. As the popularity of the festival grew, in 1993 a lot of performances were relocated to the larger Montreux Convention Centre. Now, as well as the casino, there is additional activities such as music in the park, pool parties and workshops. Themed shows are held on the trains of the Golden Pass Rail Line and on boats that cruise the lake.	14
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In 2020, more than 250,000 people attended the festival which also included dance performances, some free concerts, cafes and market stalls.	23
	24
The festival is open to people of all ages and there is a free childcare centre for children up to 10 years old, which is open until 2am in the morning.	25
	26
	27
Events like these can create a lot of litter, but the festival has its own recycling scheme. Every day a ..... team works 24 hours a day sorting litter and cleaning the public areas. In fact, the festival has won the Swiss Recycling Award for environmental teamwork, achieving a near 100% sorting rate for recyclables, and promotes caring for the environment.	28
	29
	30
	31
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**11. According to the text, which statement is true?**

- a. The festival is no longer held at the Montreux Casino.
- b. All the musical performances are free.
- c. The festival takes place every year.

**12. The phrase 'native people' on line 11 means:**

- a. People who have lived in one place or country for thousands of years.
- b. People who have left the place or country where they were born.
- c. People who live in a place or country but were not born there.

**13. Who can attend the festival?**

- a. Anyone over the age of 10 years can attend the festival.
- b. Only adults can attend the festival.
- c. Anyone of any age can attend the festival.

**14. Which of these genres of music is not mentioned in the text?**

- a. Soul music.
- b. Hip-Pop music.
- c. Rap music.

**15. Why was the festival given the Swiss Recycling Award?**

- a. For recycling nearly 100% of all litter.
- b. For successful teamwork.
- c. For celebrating 50 years of success.

**16. There is a grammatical mistake on:**

- a. Line 4.
- b. Line 18.
- c. Line 28.

**17. There is a spelling mistake on:**

- a. Line 8.
- b. Line 16.
- c. Line 31.

**18. The best word to complete the sentence on line 29 is:**

- a. Clean-up.
- b. Make-up.
- c. Wash-up.

**19. How long has the festival been celebrated?**

- a. It has been celebrated for 79 years.
- b. It has been celebrated for 67 years.
- c. It has been celebrated for 52 years.

**20. There is a punctuation mistake on:**

- a. Line 15.
- b. Line 9.
- c. Line 5.

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

LIVESCIENCE

## Animal Discoveries

By [Laura Geggel](#)



Breaking biological science news

Every year, scientists wade into jungles, deserts and seas to examine animals and, if they're lucky, they discover a new species.

The Sneezing Monkey

One such species is a black and white sneezing monkey, nicknamed 'Snubby', because of its short, upturned nose. On wet days, his nose collects rainwater, making him sneeze, but Snubby has a trick up his sleeve, and tucks his head between his knees in wet weather, avoiding sneezing too often.

Smallest snail on Earth

This tiny snail was found in soil in Borneo. It has a shiny, translucent, white shell that measures about 0.027 inches (0.7 millimeters) tall, and it lives on limestone hills. It is so small that researchers couldn't see it with their naked eyes in the wild and only found it when they magnified soil taken from the tropical rainforest.

'Skeletorus' and 'Sparklemuffin'

These are Australian Peacock Spiders, named for their appearance, bright colours and dancing courtship rituals; the males stand still, lift up their tail flaps and legs and wave them in the air for the female spider. Skeletorus is black and white and looks like a cartoon skeleton, whereas Sparklemuffin has red-and-blue colouring. They are so tiny they look like pin heads but they have the most amazing mouthparts that almost make them look like they are smiling.

Pig-nosed rat with vampire teeth

This weird animal is from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. It has a hog-like nose and large upturned teeth that would make a vampire jealous. *"I have never seen a rat with a nose like that,"* Jacob Esselstyn, curator of mammals at Louisiana State University's Museum of Natural Science, told Live Science in October. *"When I took it out of the trap, I knew it was a new species. There was never any doubt in my mind."*

- 21. What kind of text is this?**
- An online biography.
  - An online news story.
  - An online advertisement.
- 22. According to the text, which statement is true?**
- The pig-nosed rat has an upturned nose.
  - The peacock spiders have vampire teeth.
  - Snubby the monkey lowers his head when it rains.
- 23. How did scientists find the snail?**
- They collected soil and looked at it under a microscope.
  - They saw it on the forest floor.
  - They used a snail detecting machine.

- 24. Snubby the monkey has a 'trick up its sleeve'. What does this mean in the text?**
- He has a secret plan.
  - He has a clever idea.
  - He has an invention.
- 25. What is unusual about the Peacock Spiders?**
- They can smile.
  - They can jump.
  - They can dance.

## Text 4

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

### Stephen William Hawking

Professor Stephen Hawking was born on 8th January, 1942, in Oxford, England.

Stephen went to St. Albans School and was so clever his friends called him 'Einstein'. After school in 1952, he went to University College, Oxford and studied physics. After three years he achieved a first class honours degree in natural science.

In October 1962, Stephen went to Cambridge University to research cosmology; the study of the origin and evolution of the universe in space-time. The following year, when he was 21, Stephen was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, which meant he would spend his life in a wheelchair. As he began to lose the ability to talk he became dependent on a computerised voice system to help him talk, but this didn't stop him from studying. In 1965 he gained his PhD and in 1966 he won the Adams Prize for his essay *Singularities and the Geometry of Space-time*.

Stephen published his first book in 1979, *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time*, when he finally achieved his dream of being a Professor of Mathematics.

All his life, Stephen worked on the basic laws which govern the universe, and explored Einstein's theory of space and time. He published many books but his best seller is still *A Brief History of Time, Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays*. During his lifetime, he received thirteen honorary degrees and many awards for his books and ideas.

Stephen always dreamed of travelling into space. He said:

*"We are running out of space, and the only places to go to are other worlds. It is time to explore other solar systems. Spreading out may be the only thing that saves us from ourselves. I am convinced that humans need to leave Earth."*

**26. When did Stephen become Professor of Mathematics?**

- a. In 1979.
- b. In 1965.
- c. In 1962.

**27. What does 'cosmology' mean in paragraph three?**

- a. It is the scientific study of the earth.
- b. It is the scientific study of the universe.
- c. It is the study of the moon and stars.

**28. How did Stephen communicate with people?**

- a. He used a computerised voice system.
- b. He used sign language.
- c. He wrote everything down.

**29. Which one of Einstein's theories did Stephen investigate?**

- a. Einstein's theory of black holes.
- b. Einstein's theory of baby universes.
- c. Einstein's theory of space and time.

**30. Stephen had two dreams; one was to become a mathematician, what was his other dream?**

- a. He wanted to walk on the moon.
- b. He wanted to travel in space.
- c. He wanted to build a space-craft.

**31. Why did Stephen believe that humans should leave the earth and find another planet to live on?**

- a. There is a better world for us in the universe.
- b. To become space and time travellers.
- c. There will be no room left on earth.