

**ESOL Skills for Life
English Reading Assessment – Level 1**

Centre No.	Candidate Run No.
Centre Name	
Candidate Name	
Candidate Signature	

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Do not open the paper until you are told to do so.

Write your name.

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

You must **not** use a dictionary.

There are 4 tasks, 6 questions per task; 24 marks

You have 1 hour to finish the assessment.



L1Read B2FD 022017

Task 1 Read the text then answer the questions. Circle the correct answer.



Switzerland is not only well-known for chocolate and its watch-making industry but it is also famous for its unique banking and financial system. Banks play an important role in Switzerland's economy. Swiss banks have been considered to be the most secretive in the world for many centuries as they do not share bank data, however in 2017 new tax rules were introduced. The FBI investigated the banks and found billion dollar tax evasion cases so a move was made to stop this activity through these rules. About a third of all money held outside a person's home country is deposited in Swiss banks.

Banking in Switzerland goes back to the 18th century. In the past, not only rich people but also authoritarian regimes and dictators have secured their money in Swiss banks as well as criminals. Foreigners who live in unstable and troubled areas also tended to keep money in secure Swiss banks instead of banks in their own countries. Now, there is a rigorous checking procedure you have to go through before a Swiss bank will accept your money, due to the cost of this it is not worth their time unless you have a large amount of money.

Switzerland has two large banks - UBS and Credit Suisse. Currently, about 130,000 people work in the banking sector with major banks having overseas branches.

Switzerland's popularity as a safe bank haven has many reasons. Firstly, the country has a very stable and prosperous economy and one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Switzerland has been neutral for many centuries, especially during the two world wars. In addition, the Swiss franc is one of the most stable currencies in the world.

- 1. What is the main point of the text?**
 - a. Fraudulent banking in Switzerland
 - b. Credit cards in Switzerland
 - c. Swiss banking
 - d. Swiss holidays

- 2. What is the purpose of this text?**
 - a. To inform
 - b. To entertain
 - c. To instruct
 - d. To encourage

- 3. What will end tax evasion?**
 - a. The FBI
 - b. Switzerland does not have secure banks
 - c. Non sharing of bank data
 - d. New tax rules

- 4. What is an “authoritarian regime”:**
 - a. Intelligent groups
 - b. Controlling organisations
 - c. High-end banking
 - d. Dangerous people

- 5. Who can open a Swiss bank account?**
 - a. only criminals
 - b. charities
 - c. only wealthy people
 - d. anyone

- 6. Swiss banks claim to have the most stable _____ in the world:**
 - a. bank data
 - b. per capita income
 - c. economy
 - d. currency

Task 2 Read the text then answer the questions. Circle the correct answer.



Planning a low-budget wedding

There are numerous ways to have the wedding of your dreams, as long as you don't demand real diamonds and a gourmet 5-course dinner, you should be able to celebrate the happiest day of your life with style and class without becoming penniless in the process.

Start by deciding on what you both want. If you want a religious service, then that usually comes at a higher cost, if you aren't concerned about matching flowers, or bridesmaids' dresses, you could lower the cost. It is easy to get sucked into the vortex of wedding sales; everything seems glamorous until the bill comes along.

Wedding rings are the symbol of commitment and can be expensive but you can buy vintage rings of exceptional quality for the same price or less and the return on these can be quite significant.

Your guests are going to want food. It is important not to skimp on giving guests a meal. It doesn't have to be anything fancy but this is something that guests will understandably expect, especially those who have made an effort to travel a great distance to see you get married.

Music and dancing can be costly. If you are absolutely set on dancing, then you should think about having a wedding with a buffet rather than a set dining menu in order to keep costs down. Do not allow cost to escalate out of control- if you feel as though someone is being pushy, be brave and say 'no!' Always remember, your wedding day is yours, it is about you and your partner.

Good luck!

- 7. Which word below is a synonym for ‘numerous’ in paragraph 1?**
- a. many
 - b. noisy
 - c. expensive
 - d. empty
- 8. Define the phrase ‘sucked into the vortex’ in this article in paragraph 2:**
- a. Persuaded to spend more money
 - b. Pushed into buying glamorous wedding items
 - c. Pulled into shops offering wedding discounts
 - d. Told you need all kinds of items for your wedding day
- 9. What does ‘the return can be quite significant’ mean in paragraph 3?**
- a. Your partner will love you more
 - b. You get a better quality ring
 - c. You can take it back after the wedding
 - d. It becomes more valuable in the future
- 10. Define the word ‘skimp’ in paragraph 4:**
- a. Spend a lot of money
 - b. Save money
 - c. Be fancy and expensive
 - d. Be generous
- 11. Define ‘escalate’ in paragraph 5:**
- a. To be unsure of something
 - b. To be afraid of being late
 - c. Something happens quickly
 - d. Not able to stop something happening
- 12. What is the article talking about:**
- a. Making your wedding day the best day of your life
 - b. Saving money on your wedding day
 - c. How to spend a lot of money on your wedding day
 - d. Advising you to be careful on your wedding day

Task 3

Read the texts then answer the following questions. Circle the correct answer.

Text 1:

Every weekday in the mornings at Rushden community centre:

Children's toy library is open for lending- for a small £1 contribution.

Pop in and have a look!

Text 2:

Paddington Eco March

For the sake of our planet we must march together to save our world! Bring your friends and flags so we can march for a better environment!

We will begin marching from Wellesley Way on Saturday 9th June @ 9:00am

See you there!

Text 3:

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES SUMMER SALE

WOW Store is selling high-end kids wear at **REDUCED** prices this week only!

Some lines are **REDUCED** by as much as 50%! You won't get branded goods anywhere else for our **REDUCED** prices!

Hurry up and check us out before everything is sold out!

Text 4:

What are the benefits of drinking water?

- helps maintain body fluids
- speeds up weight loss
- revitalizes muscles
- cleans out your kidneys
- maintains bowel function
- good for your skin

So, pick up a glass and drink some water today.

Text 5:

50% off 6 months Gym membership when you and a friend sign-up together

Come inside to Fit4u gym and make friends and get fit together!

- 13. Which text is asking for donations?**
- a. Text 1
 - b. Text 3
 - c. Text 4
 - d. Text 2
- 14. Which text is meant to encourage the reader?**
- a. Text 4
 - b. Text 3
 - c. Text 5
 - d. Text 1
- 15. In text 4, what textual feature suggests it's giving you important information?**
- a. underlining
 - b. capital letters
 - c. bullet points
 - d. exclamation marks
- 16. What type of text is TEXT 3?**
- a. persuasive
 - b. informative
 - c. descriptive
 - d. informative
- 17. Which text has no numeric characters?**
- a. Text 1
 - b. Text 2
 - c. Text 3
 - d. Text 4
- 18. Which text states a specific time and date?**
- a. Text 5
 - b. Text 4
 - c. Text 2
 - d. Text 1

Task 4 Read the text then answer the following questions.

Circle the correct answer.



Dogs and Your Positive Health

Dogs have long been known to make great companions, but did you know that they actually improve your mood? Research has shown that it only takes a mere 15–30 minutes with your pet to feel more relaxed and calm. Playing with your dog gives your brain higher levels of dopamine and serotonin, which are neurotransmitters that are associated with pleasure and tranquillity.

Psychologists from Miami and St. Louis Universities found that the benefits of having a canine companion can be equivalent to having a human companion. Looks like pooches can get your tail wagging!

In addition to boosting your mood, your dog is also great for your health. Your body reaps a lot of benefits from having your fur baby around. Dog owners have been found to have lower cholesterol, lower blood pressure, fewer heart attacks, and according to a study by the British Journal of Health (2004), dog owners also have the added benefit of having fewer medical problems than those without pets.

An added unexpected benefit of having a dog is that he encourages you to exercise more! Taking your dog on walks and throwing the ball around makes for good exercise. Apart from the dog walking alone, dog owners were also found to achieve more advanced stages of movement compared to those who own dogs and do not walk them.

The Journal of Physical Activity and Health (2010) concluded that dog walkers generally walked about an hour longer than their non-dog walking counterpart.

- 19. Which paragraph informs you on how dogs have a calming effect?**
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
- 20. Which paragraph discusses the fitness benefits of having a dog?**
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
- 21. According to the article people have more advanced _____ when walking their dog**
- a. back pain
 - b. relaxation
 - c. movement
 - d. exercise
- 22. Playing with a dog also raises _____ in the human body**
- a. tranquillity and dopamine
 - b. serotonin and exercise
 - c. exercises and relaxation
 - d. dopamine and serotonin
- 23. What do dog owners tend to have?**
- a. fewer medical problems
 - b. more medical problems
 - c. less stressful life
 - d. more stressful life
- 24. What is the purpose of this text?**
- a. To describe what it is like to have a dog
 - b. To give advice about having a dog
 - c. To inform you about the benefits of having a dog
 - d. To persuade you to have a dog

END OF ASSESSMENT

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