

**ESOL International**  
**English Listening Examination**  
**Level C2 Proficient**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on the mark sheet.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use pencil.

Total marks available: 31

You have **40 minutes** to finish the examination.

**Part 1**

You will hear 10 sentences twice. Choose the best reply in each situation.

Now look at the replies. You have two minutes to read the replies.

Now listen to the sentences and select the best reply. Mark the answer on the mark sheet.

- |    |                                                                                                           |     |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | a. Too much.<br>b. Really well, thanks. And you?<br>c. I went there by train.                             | 7.  | a. Oh, yes. I'd love to!<br>b. Oh, yes. I am!<br>c. Oh, yes. I like that!                                                                        |
| 2. | a. It took thirty minutes.<br>b. Yes, it was quite fast.<br>c. Yes, I have.                               | 8.  | a. It's too far from my house.<br>b. It's been great until now.<br>c. No, it's not so far.                                                       |
| 3. | a. Yes, from here to London!<br>b. Yes, ages!<br>c. Yes, I was waiting.                                   | 9.  | a. Yes, it looks very nice.<br>b. Yes, you've been here for a long time.<br>c. Yes, it looks quite familiar.                                     |
| 4. | a. It suits you perfectly.<br>b. I don't like dresses.<br>c. Yes, it's the same as mine.                  | 10. | a. Ah you're right! I always go the wrong way.<br>b. Ah you're right! I always make up the way.<br>c. Ah you're right! I always take up the way. |
| 5. | a. I already finished.<br>b. Where are you eating?<br>c. Great, I'm really hungry.                        |     |                                                                                                                                                  |
| 6. | a. Fifty pages, more or less.<br>b. It's a story of two sisters in Paris.<br>c. The book is on the table. |     |                                                                                                                                                  |

**Part 2 – Conversations**

You will now hear two conversations. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to **Conversation 1**. Record your answers to the questions on the mark sheet.

1. **Why is Mark excited?**
  - a. He is going to get some dogs.
  - b. He is moving into a new apartment.
  - c. He has a new friend.
2. **What kind of breed would Mark like to get?**
  - a. Yorkshire Terrier.
  - b. Labrador.
  - c. Both of the above.
3. **What are two problems of having these pets?**
  - a. They are very big and noisy.
  - b. They are very expensive and smelly.
  - c. They require a lot of attention and food.
4. **The phrase “down the line” means:**
  - a. From the bank.
  - b. In the future.
  - c. If you are unlucky.
5. **What are two benefits of having these pets?**
  - a. They never get bored of games and are always there for you.
  - b. They love football and watching TV.
  - c. They listen to your problems and help you save money.

**Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.**

Now listen to **Conversation 2**. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **According to Alice Stevens, having a business plan is:**
  - a. Very important.
  - b. Somewhat important.
  - c. Not important.
2. **When should you study the market?**
  - a. Day 1.
  - b. Day 2.
  - c. Day 3.
3. **What do you do on day four?**
  - a. Study the market.
  - b. Work the media, build websites and social media links.
  - c. Find a solicitor or lawyer.
4. **What is meant by the phrase “fake it to make it”?**
  - a. Over charge people.
  - b. Have the confidence to succeed.
  - c. Set up your premises.
5. **What should you do on day 10?**
  - a. Relax and thank the people who helped you.
  - b. Spend all your profits on a party.
  - c. Call all your family to tell them about your business.

**Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.**

### **Part 3 – Debate and Discussion**

You will now hear a debate and a discussion. You will hear them twice. You have two minutes to look at the questions for both the debate and the discussion.

Now listen to the **Debate**.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **Why does James believe reality TV is becoming more offensive?**
  - a. People nowadays don't mind being offended sometimes.
  - b. The shows have to continually adapt in order to entertain.
  - c. There is a conspiracy to dumb down the nations.
2. **What is Andrea's counter argument to the above?**
  - a. People are becoming stricter on what should be shown on TV.
  - b. People are too easily offended nowadays.
  - c. People are finding more and more things acceptable.
3. **According to James, what does reality TV make people believe?**
  - a. They don't have to work hard to become successful.
  - b. They will be able to meet famous people.
  - c. If they study hard in school, they will become famous.
4. **Andrea's final argument for reality TV is:**
  - a. It is becoming more and more entertaining.
  - b. It helps people come together as they can discuss shared interests.
  - c. Parents should decide what their children watch.
5. **James' main argument against Reality TV is that:**
  - a. It is damaging people's minds and ethics.
  - b. It is a bad influence for children.
  - c. It is impossible to control.
6. **Which TV programme is mentioned in this debate?**
  - a. Big Brother and The Simpsons.
  - b. Survivor and The Simpsons.
  - c. Big Brother and Survivor.

**Listen to the Debate again and check your answers.**

Now listen to the **Discussion**. Record your answers on the mark sheet.

1. **What does caller one think that 16 year olds should not be considered as:**
  - a. more civic knowledge
  - b. more capable
  - c. less capable
2. **How much more access to information do today's 16 year olds get in relation to their parents?**
  - a. 10 times and in some cases 100 times.
  - b. 10 times and in some cases 90 times.
  - c. 100 and 10 times
3. **What is the bigger question about lowering the voting age?**
  - a. know what parties to vote for.
  - b. understanding 16 year olds.
  - c. relationship between youth and adulthood
4. **What word could replace the words 'counter intuitive'?**
  - a. longer productive
  - b. counter productive
  - c. counter instinctive
5. **What elections have seen the age lowered to 16?**
  - a. EU elections
  - b. national elections
  - c. local elections

**Listen to the Discussion again and check your answers.**

**End of Examination for Listening –  
Level C2**

**ESOL International**  
**English Reading Examination**  
**Level C2 Proficient**

**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 below and answer the questions.

|                                                                                                |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>The RSPCA- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</b>                       | 1  |
|                                                                                                | 2  |
| We were founded in a London coffee shop in 1824. The men present knew they were                | 3  |
| creating the world’s first animal welfare charity, but they couldn’t have imagined the size    | 4  |
| and shape that the charity would become today. Back then we were the SPCA - Society for        | 5  |
| the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Royal patronage followed in 1837 and Queen Victoria      | 6  |
| gave permission to add the royal R in 1840, making us the RSPCA as we’re known worldwide       | 7  |
| today.                                                                                         | 8  |
| When we were founded, our focus was working animals, such as ‘pit ponies’, which were          | 9  |
| worked down the coal mines. But we've changed with the times. <b>Making</b> the First and      | 10 |
| Second World Wars we worked to help the millions of animals enlisted to serve alongside        | 11 |
| British, Commonwealth and Allied forces. And, our work with pets that we’re best known         | 12 |
| for today, only developed with the trend to keep them.                                         | 13 |
| We've always been influential in forming and improving animal welfare law. In 1822, two        | 14 |
| years before we were founded, ‘Martin’s Act’ was passed. It was the very first animal          | 15 |
| welfare law and it forbade ‘the cruel and improper treatment of cattle’.                       | 16 |
| Thirteen years on, in 1835, and ‘Pease’s Act’ consolidated this law. The prohibition of        | 17 |
| cruelty was extended to dogs and other domestic animals; bear-baiting and cock-fighting        | 18 |
| was forbidden, it incisted on better standards for slaughter houses. Other successes along     | 19 |
| the way have included laws for lab animals, the abolition of fur farming in the UK, the ban    | 20 |
| of fox hunting with dogs and the Animal Welfare Act.                                           | 21 |
| The greatest’s shift across the times has been in attitude. In the UK we’re known as ‘a        | 22 |
| nation of animal lovers’ but it wasn’t always that way. When we were founded it was a          | 23 |
| challenge to get the British public to recognise animals as emotional creatures - and not just | 24 |
| commodities for food, transport or sport.                                                      | 25 |
| It’s inspiring to think how much more of a difference we can make.                             | 26 |

1. **Where was the organisation founded?**
  - a. in a coffee shop in New York
  - b. in a church in London
  - c. in a coffee shop in London
  
2. **What was the name of the company when it began?**
  - a. RPCA
  - b. SPCA
  - c. CPCA
  
3. **Which member of the royal family gave permission for the charity to use the “R” for “Royal” at the start of the name?**
  - a. Queen Elizabeth
  - b. Queen Victoria
  - c. King Charles
  
4. **What did the charity do during the first and second world wars?**
  - a. give animals to the army
  - b. helped animals enlisted into the army
  - c. sold animals for food for soldiers
  
5. **In which year was “Martin’s Act” passed?**
  - a. 1822
  - b. 1835
  - c. 1840
  
6. **A spelling error has been made on:**
  - a. Line 20
  - b. Line 19
  - c. Line 25
  
7. **A grammatical error has been made on:**
  - a. Line 19
  - b. Line 22
  - c. Line 26
  
8. **The word “commodities” has been used on line 25, it can be replaced with:**
  - a. helpful animals
  - b. workers
  - c. possessions
  
9. **The word in bold on line 10 is incorrect, what word should be in its place:**
  - a. During
  - b. Forgetting
  - c. Describing
  
10. **The word ‘influential’ as used on line 14, can be best replaced by:**
  - a. able
  - b. uninterested
  - c. powerful

**Text 2**

Read the text below and answer the questions.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Shakespeare and his contributions to English phrases</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 2  |
| William Shakespeare gave the world more than just the plays, poems and verses he brought to the stage and printed word, but also the phrases and words he created, are used in every day confersation. You may recognise most of them, but never knew where they came from. The names of each play have been put in bold next to the quote.                | 3  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 4  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 6  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 7  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 8  |
| 1. "To be, or not to be: that is the question." <b>Hamlet</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 9  |
| 2. "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts." <b>As you Like it</b>                                                                                                                                                                         | 10 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 11 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 12 |
| 3. "O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" <b>Romeo and Juliet</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 13 |
| 4. "Now is the winter of our discontent." <b>Richard III</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 14 |
| 5. "Is this a dagger which I see before me, the handle toward my hand?" <b>Macbeth</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 15 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 16 |
| 6. "Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em." <b>Twelfth Night</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 17 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 18 |
| 7. "If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge!" <b>The Merchant of Venice</b>                                                                                                                                                                        | 19 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 20 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 21 |
| 8. "The course of true love never did run smooth." <b>A Midsummer Night's Dream</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 22 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 23 |
| 9. "If music be the food of love, play on." <b>Twelfth Night</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 24 |
| 10. "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate." <b>Sonnet 18</b> (Poem)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 25 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 26 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 27 |
| These are taken from across all of Shakespeare's plays, and these are only a few of his quotes and sayings. It is estimated that Shakespeare gave us 100s of phrases, words and idioms, although some scholars may contest that a lot of them were phrases which were popular at the _____, then merely written into the plays to entertain the audiences. | 28 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 29 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 30 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 31 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 32 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 33 |
| So, should you ever find yours 'tongue-tied' or a "green-eyed monster", remember you are speaking the language of Shakespeare.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 34 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 35 |



11. **The purpose of this text is to:**  
a. persuade people to speak like Shakespeare  
b. educate people on Shakespeare's language  
c. inform people of a local performance of a play
12. **Which quote in the text is not from a play:**  
a. Hamlet (1)  
b. Sonnet 18 (10)  
c. Romeo and Juliet (3)
13. **According to the text, what do scholars contest about Shakespeare's quotes:**  
a. Shakespeare did not write his own plays  
b. his well-known phrases were popular at the time  
c. his quotes are incorrect
14. **What is meant by the phrase 'brought to stage and printed word'**  
a. developed into plays and books  
b. spending money on Shakespeare at the theatre  
c. writing poetry in the style of Shakespeare
15. **The word 'idioms' on line 30 can be replaced with:**  
a. expressions  
b. thoughts  
c. ideas
16. **A punctuation error has been made on Line 20, what should be in place of '!':**  
a. .  
b. ?  
c. -
17. **A word has been deleted from line 31. It should be:**  
a. time  
b. event  
c. play
18. **A spelling mistake has been made on:**  
a. Line 3  
b. Line 4  
c. Line 5
19. **A grammatical error has been made on:**  
a. Line 31  
b. Line 22  
c. Line 34
20. **What does 'tongue-tied' mean:**  
a. At a loss for words  
b. Talking too fast  
c. Expressing yourself

### **Text 3**

Read the text below and answer the questions.

#### **The #Hashtag**

When Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey (@jack) sent the first Tweet on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006 by posting "just setting up my twttr" Dorsey and his colleagues were simply looking for a way to send text messages on their cell phones.

There was no need for any sort of organisation or classification system for posts on the newly launched social networking site, that's how Twitter was designed.

Fast forward to 2011, where almost 200 million worldwide users send over 140 million tweets daily, the need for some sort of tool to bring order to all of this information is clear as there were 340 million Tweets a day in March, 2012.

Thanks to a Tweet by Chris Messina (@chrismessina), a Twitter user from the early years, the hashtag was successfully pitched to the online community as a way to organise messages into meaningful groups. Hashtags have since been embraced by users worldwide as a way to classify the often frantic exchange of thoughts and information on the social networking site.

Today, the use of hashtags on Twitter continues to be an evolved practice, growing in much the same way it began. Users of this social media site continue to explore the different applications of hashtags, collectively controlling the future of channel tagging on Twitter.

- 21. When was the first tweet sent?**
- a. March 26<sup>th</sup> 2001
  - b. March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001
  - c. March 21<sup>st</sup> 2006
- 22. What was happening in 2011 for twitter?**
- a. The hashtag has been in use for 5 years already
  - b. There were 200 million users, over 140 million tweets per day
  - c. Jack Dorsey sent a tweet saying "just setting up my twttr"
- 23. How many tweets were there per-day by March 2012?**
- a. 340 million
  - b. 200 million
  - c. 140 million
- 24. What is meant by 'Hashtags have since been embraced by users':**
- a. The users cannot use the hashtag on Facebook
  - b. People have been using hashtags
  - c. Nobody likes the hashtag
- 25. Define 'frantic exchange':**
- a. Discussing ideas and thoughts in an excitable way
  - b. Getting angry at twitter users tweets
  - c. Slow connections on twitter
- 26. In paragraph 5, which word is incorrectly used in the past tense?**
- a. applications
  - b. continue
  - c. evolved

## **Text 4**

Read the text below and answer the questions.

### **Country life or City Buzz?**

In recent years there has been a surge of people moving out of London to a more quiet and slower-paced lifestyle in the British countryside. However, it must also be noted that more and more people are moving to London from other parts of the world, and living the dream in England's capital. So, what, in reality are the pros and cons of either lifestyle?

City:

A city will offer you everything: 24-hour food delivery, everything will be within walking distance; transport, shops, schools, culture and museums to name a few. Cities can be a hub of diversity and excitement, but with it comes great financial strain unless you are wealthy enough to enjoy a good quality of life. High-levels of pollution and a lack of above average schools for the average income family are reasons to shy away from a bustling city life.

The countryside:

The countryside is essentially the exact opposite of a city: food delivery after 11pm is rare and exotic or unusual cuisines are not common place, transport is predominantly reliant on driving and having your own car, although not exclusively, communities are tight-knit at times and it can seem harder to settle into a new rural location when neighbours are sparser than in a city. On the plus-side, history is ever-present as old castles and local museums litter the landscape, fresh air, locally-grown affordable food and more space are definite pluses of a rural lifestyle.

It is hard to decide, at one point in our lives, a city is what we aspire to, and some wish to continue that pace for the rest of their days. Others, may view the city life as something to enjoy before starting on the road to having children and growing a family; after that, more space and affordability could be needed.

- 27. Which statement best describes this article?**
- a. To give you facts about the best way to live your life
  - b. Opinions on different environments for living
  - c. To discuss the perks of living in the city
- 28. In the first line, choose another word for 'surge'**
- a. interest
  - b. rush
  - c. beginning
- 29. 'neighbours are sparser' means what?**
- a. there are too many
  - b. the neighbours are rude
  - c. there will be fewer neighbours who may live further away

- 30. In the city, in order to have a good quality of life you:**
- a. need to use public transport
  - b. should eat out often
  - c. will need to have a lot of money
- 31. What is not discussed in the city paragraph?**
- a. restaurants
  - b. late night transport
  - c. schools

**End of Examination  
Reading – Level C2**

**ESOL International**

**English Writing Examination**

**Level C2 Proficient**

**Instructions to learners**

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on your answer booklet.

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

There are two tasks. You must attempt both tasks.

Formal writing Task 1, 200- 250 words, you must complete **either**  
Option 1 **OR** Option 2.

Informal writing Task 2, 250-300 words, you must complete the set  
task.

You may NOT use a dictionary.

Total marks available: 40

Allow time to check your work before the end of the examination.

You can ask for more writing paper if you need it.

You have **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

**Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow around 40 minutes for this task.

Your local community is in need of improvement. You want to write a letter to your local councillor to discuss what can be done to make the neighbourhood better.

Your ideas could include:

- The lack of small businesses
- Damaged roads and pavements
- Loss of community centre and children’s playground

**OR**

**Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1** – Allow around 40 minutes for this task.

A new library has been built in your town. You feel as though the sense of community has increased greatly and the activities on offer are great for people of all ages. Write an article for a magazine, reviewing your experience at the new library.

Your ideas could include:

- The children’s reading area
- Book groups for elderly people
- Collection of local art work on display
- Support groups for people at university

Write 200-250 words

(20 Marks)

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**Informal Writing Task 2** – Allow around 35 minutes for this task.

You recently won a creative writing competition in which you had to tell a fictional story of someone on an adventure around Europe. Write a letter to your friend to tell your friend about the competition and the story you wrote.

You could write about:

- What the prize was
- How you were inspired to write the story
- What research you had to do
- How the story made you feel

Write 250-300 words

(20 Marks)

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**You will be assessed on:**

- **Content**
- **use of appropriate tenses**
- **word order**
- **use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary**
- **legibility of writing**

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