ESOL International

English Reading Examination

Level B2 Independent User

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.

Record your answers on the mark sheet.

Total marks available: **31**

You have **60 minutes** to finish the examination.

Text 1

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

<u>Producing leather products</u>	1
	2
Tejaswini Pillai runs a small bisiness creating high-quality leather items, such as wallets and her products are of the highest standard. This article will explain the whole process, from choosing the leather to the finished product.	3 4 5
	6
Making leather goods starts with picking good-quality animal skins, which are then turned into finished leather. The skin's go through many treatments, including dying to get the right colour. After dying, the leather is treated with a buffing machine to smooth the surface and refine its texture.	7 8 9 10
	11
Getting the leather to be the right thickness is very important. A shaving blade is used to make sure the leather is just right for each product. Then, workers sort the leather and decide which parts are best for different parts of the item they're making.	12 13 14
	15
Workers follow a set of instructions for each product to track each stage of production. These instructions tell them what materials to use, what size to make things, and other important details. Machines is set up carefully to match these instructions.	16 17 18
	19
To put the items together, workers often use sewing machines. Sometimes, they need hand crafting with a thread cutter for finer details. They also stretch the leather to make sure it fits well. After sewing, they trim off any extra bits. The _____ is a well-made, long lasting leather item.	20 21 22 23

1. **How are Tejaswini's products described?**
   a. Finished.
   b. Good quality.
   c. High quality.

2. **What is used to smooth the leather?**
   a. A finishing machine.
   b. Dye solution.
   c. A buffing machine.

3. **Which tool is used to change the thickness?**
   a. A shaving blade.
   b. A placing blade.
   c. A thickness blade.

4. **Why are instructions followed?**
   a. To track each stage.
   b. To check the size is correct.
   c. To change important details.

5. **What is used for sewing finer details?**
   a. A human hand.
   b. A thread cutter.
   c. A sewing machine.

6. **Which word would best replace 'refine' on line 10:**
   a. Upgrade.
   b. Improve.
   c. Taint.

7. **Which line has a spelling mistake?**
   a. Line 3.
   b. Line 7.
   c. Line 9.

8. **Which word is missing from line 22?**
   a. Solution.
   b. Answer.
   c. Result.

9. **Which line has a grammar mistake?**
   a. Line 16.
   b. Line 17.
   c. Line 18.

10. **Which line has a punctuation error?**
    a. Line 8.
    b. Line 12.
    c. Line 14.

Text 2

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

The Laboratory	1
	2
Bright Futures Laboratory has been operating for 25 years. It used to be called Arya Scientific, but changed its name two years ago when new managers came. Harish, the director, said they considered several diffrent names, such as Vivo Scientific and the Bio Group, but chose Bright Futures because it sounded modern.	3
	4
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	6
	7
The laboratory does scientific testing. They focus on cleaning and carefully handling sensitive equipment for local hospitals. They also plan to grow their business to help the environmental agency in the _____.	8
	9
	10
	11
Agnes, who is a senior supervisor and university teacher, talked to 'Scientific Today' magazine. She said the lab is known for its strict safety rules. All staff must follow exact guidelines when working with chemicals. Agnes said, "This is one of the main reasons I work here."	12
	13
	14
	15
	16
Properly cleaning equipment like glassware and measuring tools is very important. It stops contamination that could affect test results. There are different ways to clean equipment, such as using steam, chemicals ultraviolet light or gas. Each method has specific rules, depending on what's being cleaned. The lab mostly uses steam, but sometimes they use chemicals too.	17
	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
The laboratory is now hiring new people, including two technicians and a junior researcher. They prefer people who have worked in similar jobs before, but new graduates can apply if they has some recent work experience.	23
	24
	25

11. **What did the laboratory used to be called?**
    a. Bright Futures.
    b. Vivo Scientific.
    c. Arya Scientific.

12. **Who does the laboratory provide scientific testing for?**
    a. Universities.
    b. Hospitals.
    c. Environmental Agencies.

13. **Why does Agnes like working at the laboratory?**
    a. She likes interviews with 'Scientific Today'.
    b. She likes cleaning.
    c. They have strict safety rules.

14. **Which approach does the laboratory use most for cleaning?**
    a. Steam.
    b. Chemical.
    c. Gas.

15. **Who is the laboratory hiring?**
    a. Junior graduates.
    b. Technicians.
    c. Cleaners.

16. **Which word would best replace 'operating' on line 3:**
    a. Trading.
    b. Controlling.
    c. Driving.

17. **Which line has a spelling mistake?**
    a. Line 5.
    b. Line 8.
    c. Line 13.

18. **Which line has a punctuation error?**
    a. Line 17.
    b. Line 18.
    c. Line 19.

19. **Which line has a grammar mistake?**
    a. Line 25.
    b. Line 24.
    c. Line 23.

20. **Which word is missing from line 10.**
    a. Past.
    b. Future.
    c. Office.

Text 3

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

Mohamed is responding to a job advertised at Threads Ltd for the position of Pattern Maker. He saw the advertisement on 'Jobeka'. He gained a distinction in his Diploma, Garment Design and Making, from the Madras Institute of Fashion in 2016, where he did extremely well. His senior lecturer put his name forward for 'outstanding student of the year'.

After that, he worked at Mill Ltd, located in Pune, until 2021, where the emphasis was on cost saving. There he fine-tuned his body measurement skills to minimise errors, learnt precision cloth cutting and paid close attention to faulty material, to avoid waste. He is passionate about creating sustainable garments and is dedicated to minimal waste. On leaving Pune, he gained a glowing reference from his manager.

Then he spent a year in Australia because he wanted to improve his English skills. And it really helped! He is now fluent. He worked part-time in a restaurant and took a college course in sustainable design.

He is applying for a job at Threads Ltd because they specialise in researching and working with environmentally friendly materials. He has asked Mr Lomax to provide a reference for his recent studies.

21. **What is the purpose of this text?**
    a. To describe.
    b. To inform.
    c. To instruct.

22. **Where has the job been advertised?**
    a. Jobeka.
    b. Threads Ltd.
    c. Mill Ltd.

23. **Where was Mohamed's first job?**
    a. Pune.
    b. Australia.
    c. England.

24. **Why was it important to avoid waste at Mill Ltd?**
    a. To gain a glowing reference.
    b. To create sustainable garments.
    c. The emphasis was on cost saving.

25. **Where did he improve his English skills?**
    a. In a restaurant.
    b. At college.
    c. In Australia.

26. **Who should be contacted for a recent reference?**
    a. Mr Lomax.
    b. His senior lecturer.
    c. His manager.

Text 4

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

Ali is a web designer. Every week she works two days in an office, while on the other three days she stays at home. Every other month she is required to go in for three days, to attend compulsory meetings.

This suits her well as her parents are elderly, so she can help them. Ali lives in the suburbs, so the journey to work can be difficult. However, she misses the buzz of office life, so she always looks forward to returning there and she is glad she doesn't work at home full time.

While flexibility is an advantage, maintaining a work-life balance is a challenge. In her role, creativity and focus are essential, and working on many projects can lead to long hours at her computer. Without the clear separation of leaving the office, she often finds herself working late.

In addition, her parents sometimes forget that she's working and try to talk to her when she is in important meetings. Fortunately, her colleagues are very supportive, though sometimes she worries that her clients might think she is unprofessional.

To help create some balance, she is trying to set clear boundaries – such as maintaining specific work hours. But what she finds most helpful is taking part in regular meditation.

27. **How many days does Ali usually work in the office?**
    a. Two days.
    b. Three days.
    c. Four days.

28. **Why is she glad she doesn't work from home full time?**
    a. She lives in the suburbs.
    b. She misses the buzz of the office.
    c. She misses her colleagues.

29. **What does she find challenging?**
    a. Maintaining work-life balance.
    b. Working on many projects.
    c. Being creative.

30. **Why does she worry her clients may think she's unprofessional?**
    a. She works too late.
    b. Her colleagues don't support her.
    c. Her parents talk to her in meetings.

31. **What helps her to feel the most balanced?**
    a. She works specific hours each day.
    b. She sets clear boundaries.
    c. She does regular meditation.

End of Examination

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