ESOL International

English Reading Examination

Level C1 Advanced

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 **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

Text 1

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

Common Career Missteps	1
	2
People today make a range of mistakes when planning their careers. One common error	3
is relying excessively on traditional education, assuming that a degree guarantees	4
success. However, in todays changing job market, practical experience and soft skills are	5
often just as _____ . Speaking of soft skills, neglecting these can also prevent career	6
growth, as qualities like communication and teamwork are crucial for success.	7
	8
Another frequent mistake is ignoring personal passions. Many people opt for careers	9
based on external factors, such as salary or job security that can lead to dissatisfaction	10
in the long run. It is also unrealistic to assume that a single career path will be enough	11
for life. The modern job market is flexible, with frequent career shifts and an increasing	12
number of people pursuing portfolio careers.	13
	14
A comon issue today is failing to adapt to technology. With industries rapidly evolving	15
due to technological advancements, failing to keep up can quickly made one's skills	16
obsolete. Moreover, many people neglect networking, believing that their skills alone	17
will get them ahead. However, a thriving professional network can provide critical career	18
opportunities.	19
	20
Another mistake is chasing trendy careers before doing enough research. While	21
certain industries may seem appealing due to their popularity, they may not follow with	22
an individual's interests or long-term goals. Jumping into a field without fully	23
understanding its demands can lead to poor career decisions.	24
	25
In the past, people often made career planning mistakes that were specific to their era.	26
One was staying loyal to a single employer, believing that this would ensure career	27
growth. Ignoring work-life balance was another issue, with many people focusing on	28
their careers at the expense of their well-being. Additionally, many assumed that a	29
degree alone would guarantee career success, which wasn't always the case. Resisting	30
change, especially technological advancements, and strictly following fixed career paths	31
also limited opportunities. But the main issue was overly prioritising job stability at the	32
cost of personal passion or professional growth.	33

1. **What can be the result of neglecting one's interests in career planning?**
   a. Unhappiness later on.
   b. Slower progress in career.
   c. Relying on external motivations.

2. **Individuals planning their careers may place too much importance on:**
   a. Career growth.
   b. Academic success.
   c. Practical experience.

3. **What mistakes do people make when pursuing trendy careers?**
   a. Earning a poor salary.
   b. Focusing on their personal passions.
   c. Not researching the industry requirements.

4. **Why is networking important, according to the text?**
   a. It guarantees job security.
   b. It helps improve career prospects.
   c. It provides better communication skills.

5. **What was the overall issue in the past regarding career planning?**
   a. Sacrificing work-life balance.
   b. Excessive focus on job stability.
   c. Emphasis on loyalty to one employer.

6. **The word 'obsolete' on line 17 means:**
   a. Unreal.
   b. Inactive.
   c. Outdated.

7. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
   a. Line 5.
   b. Line 18.
   c. Line 29.

8. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
   a. Line 10.
   b. Line 16.
   c. Line 26.

9. **Which word best fills the gap on line 6?**
   a. Weighty.
   b. Trivial.
   c. Important.

10. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
    a. Line 7.
    b. Line 15.
    c. Line 32.

Text 2

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

Agricultural Technology Updated	1
	2
Agricultural technology is changing how we grow food, especially as the world faces	3
issues like climate change, soil damage, and water scarcity. Innovations in this field are	4
essential for making farming more sustainable. For example, precision farming uses data	5
to increase crop yields, while advanced irrigation systems help manage water use more	6
effectively.	7
	8
In Saudi Arabia, where the climate is very dry and water is limited, agricultural technology	9
is particularly important. The country has adopted methods like hydroponics and vertical	10
farming to grow crops efficiently in small spaces. Greenhouse farming is also used to	11
control the environment and protect crops from harsh weather. Saudi Arabia's Vision	12
2030 plan supports these advancaments, emphasising improving agricultural technology	13
and food security to enhance local production and reduce dependence on imports.	14
	15
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) also faces similar issues and is making significant strides	16
in agricultural technology. The country has invested in vertical farming and hydroponics,	17
and notable projects include the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture, which	18
develop technologies for growing crops in salty conditions. The UAE also hosts the	19
world's largest vertical farm, which aims to reduce water usage and the environmental	20
impact of food production, while improving food security.	21
	22
Australia provides another good example of effective agricultural technology use.	23
Australian farmers utilise drones and remote sensing technology to gather detailed data.	24
Drones can fly over large areas to capture images and data, while remote sensing	25
technology uses sensors to detect changes in the environment, such as moisture levels or	26
nutrient deficiencies. This information allows farmers to apply water, fertilisers, and	27
pesticides with greater precision, targeting only the areas that need them. This approach	28
reduces waste, lowers costs, and improves overall efficiency.	29
	30
_____, there are also risks involved. The high cost of these technologies can be a	31
barrier, especially for smaller farms. There is also a need for ongoing maintenance and	32
technical skills, which might not be available everywhere. Plus, the environmental impact	33
of some technologies, such as their energy use and dependence on synthetic chemicals	34
needs to be managed carefully to ensure they are truly sustainable.	35

11. **What innovative approach is mentioned that uses data to enhance productivity?**
    a. Vertical farming.
    b. Precision farming.
    c. Greenhouse farming.

12. **How do drones and remote sensing technology help farmers?**
    a. They replace traditional farming equipment.
    b. They increase the size of the available farming area.
    c. They help in exact application of water and pesticides.

13. **In Saudi Arabia, to increase agricultural efficiency in limited areas they use:**
    a. Fertilisers.
    b. Hydroponics.
    c. Greenhouses.

14. **Biosaline agriculture is a technology aimed at managing:**
    a. Salty conditions.
    b. The water.
    c. The weather.

15. **What is a potential risk of using advanced agricultural technologies?**
    a. Managing the farms.
    b. They do not always result in increased crop yields.
    c. They can be costly and require continuous upkeep.

16. **There is a spelling mistake on:**
    a. Line 13.
    b. Line 20.
    c. Line 28.

17. **There is a grammar mistake on:**
    a. Line 9.
    b. Line 19.
    c. Line 27.

18. **Which word can replace 'detect' on line 26?**
    a. Comprise.
    b. Cultivate.
    c. Recognise.

19. **Which word best fills the gap on line 31?**
    a. Finally.
    b. However.
    c. On balance.

20. **There is a punctuation mistake on:**
    a. Line 4.
    b. Line 18.
    c. Line 34.

Text 3

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

The E-Waste Crisis

E-waste has become a major environmental problem due to the rapid growth of technology. The issue started in the late 20th century as electronic devices became cheaper and more common. By the early 21st century, the amount of e-waste truly exploded with the rise of new consumer electronics.

In response, many countries have set up recycling programmes to tackle the problem. These initiatives aim to recover valuable materials like gold, silver, and copper, and prevent harmful substances from causing environmental damage. For example, the European Union introduced the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive in 2003, which has improved recycling rates across Europe. While some northern European countries have seen notable results from these efforts, some Eastern and Southern European countries still lag behind.

Despite these improvements, e-waste remains an environmental threat in many developing regions, where regulations are often weak. Countries in Africa and Asia frequently become destinations for illegal e-waste shipments from wealthier countries. In places like Ghana, one of the largest e-waste sites in the world, workers face dangerous chemicals like lead and mercury. The informal recycling methods used there and other parts of the world can harm both health and the environment.

Globally, around 50 million tonnes of e-waste are produced each year, but only a small portion is properly recycled. In countries with poor regulations, much of this waste ends up in landfills or is handled unsafely. Without stronger laws and international cooperation, these countries will continue to struggle with the e-waste crisis.

22. **Countries become destinations for illegal e-waste shipments because they:**
    a. Lack effective legal actions.
    b. Make huge profits from the waste.
    c. Offer incentives for e-waste.

23. **The impact of the WEEE infers:**
    a. E-waste recycling rates have risen across Europe.
    b. Some countries have achieved considerable success.
    c. European countries have underperformed despite efforts.

24. **When did the e-waste problem become particularly serious?**
    a. In the early 20th century.
    b. In the late 20th century.
    c. In the early 21st century.

25. **What is the primary goal of e-waste recycling programmes?**
    a. To recover valuable components.
    b. To lower the cost of electronics.
    c. To clear toxins from the environment.

26. **What is the major problem in countries like Ghana?**
    a. Illegal e-waste recycling.
    b. Contact with toxic chemicals.
    c. Lack of recycling programmes.

27. **What do countries with poor regulations need?**
    a. Larger e-waste landfill sites.
    b. Advice on how to recycle.
    c. More international cooperation.

Text 4

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

The Rise of Multidisciplinary Studies

Multidisciplinary studies began gaining attention in the mid-20th century. The idea became more popular in the 1960s and 1970s as people saw the need for more holistic approaches to problems like urban planning, environmental issues, and public health.

A major step in the development of multidisciplinary studies was the creation of interdisciplinary centres and programmes in universities. These centres aimed to bridge gaps between different fields of study. For instance, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford University started programmes that combined engineering, science, and the humanities.

Over the past few decades, multidisciplinary approaches have become common worldwide. Many universities in the United States and Europe have set up interdisciplinary programmes and research centres, showing a trend toward more collaboration across academic areas. Institutions like the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Amsterdam have been leaders in this movement.

However, there is some debate about multidisciplinary studies. Critics argue that this approach might lead to less in-depth knowledge in any one field because the focus shifts to combining various areas rather than specialising deeply. Some worry that the push for collaboration could weaken traditional academic disciplines and reduce the rigorous study each field needs.

While multidisciplinary studies are widely adopted, their success varies by region. Some countries have fully integrated these approaches into their educational systems, while others are still working on how to implement and manage them effectively.

27. **What has been the trend regarding multidisciplinary studies in recent decades?**
    a. The removal of academic boundaries.
    b. The collaboration between universities.
    c. The spread of interdisciplinary research.

28. **What kind of approach was realised in the 60s and 70s that was needed?**
    a. The establishment approach.
    b. The holistic approach.
    c. The common approach.

29. **A leader in the movement of programme and research centres has been:**
    a. University of Amsterdam.
    b. Stanford University.
    c. Massachusetts University.

30. **A criticism about multidisciplinary studies is that they:**
    a. Hinder traditional academic methods.
    b. Overemphasise some technological aspects.
    c. May result in shallow expertise in one area.

31. **What can be inferred about multidisciplinary studies?**
    a. Some countries face challenges.
    b. They need full integration of disciplines.
    c. They are only effective in large universities

End of Examination.

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