



IESOL Assessment Reading

RQF Level: Entry 3

(CEFR Level: B1)

Candidate Booklet – Reading

SAMPLE 2

The following details must be completed:

Candidate Name:

Candidate Date of Birth:

DD / MM / YYYY

Examination Date & Time:

DD / MM / YYYY

HH:MM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

- Do NOT turn over the page until instructed.
- This examination is made up of 3 TASKS.
- Answer all the questions.
- If you change your mind about an answer, initial your corrections.
- Use only black or blue PEN.
- Dictionaries are NOT allowed.

Time allowed: 40 minutes

Total marks available: 34

Reading Task 1

Read the text and circle the best option to complete each gap – a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

Hi Kuba,

How are you? I want to tell you about my holiday in London, which I **0**) _____ with my family. The **1**) _____ day was when we went to Hamleys – it's the biggest toy shop in London!

We walked up to the front door of Hamleys, and a very friendly man wearing a Hamleys' uniform said 'hello' and then put his hat on my head. We were all **2**) _____ about it! The shop was huge! Did you know it has seven floors? It's full of toys and games for children of all ages.

It was very busy on the first floor, so we walked around the other floors. There were lots of very friendly people **3**) _____ there showing us the toys. One woman was doing magic tricks and there was also a man who showed us how to fly a toy helicopter. He gave me the helicopter controls to try for myself. I felt very special **4**) _____ not being very good at it.

The shop has a café on the fifth floor, **5**) _____ we stopped for mum and dad to have a cup of tea, and I had a milkshake. Then we discovered the LEGO pool which I jumped in straight away.

Dad told me Hamleys' toys are very expensive and that we **6**) _____ buy the same toys for less money if we went to our local shops or bought them online.

It's a great place to visit if you ever go to London. Maybe we'll go together one day?

With love, Marco

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Example: | a) left | b) spent | c) went | d) started |
| 1. | a) worst | b) best | c) keen | d) essential |
| 2. | a) hurrying | b) agreeing | c) laughing | d) liking |
| 3. | a) working | b) visiting | c) exercising | d) relaxing |
| 4. | a) because of | b) besides | c) despite | d) even so |
| 5. | a) however | b) when | c) but | d) so |
| 6. | a) must | b) mustn't | c) couldn't | d) could |

(6 marks)

Reading Task 2

Read the text and answer the questions below. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

patent – a document which confirms your right to be the only person to make, use, or sell an invention

siblings – brothers and sisters

The life of Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison (1847 – 1931) was an American inventor and businessman who developed many important inventions. He applied for over 1000 patents for a variety of different inventions. Edison thought it was essential to make the products he invented available at low cost to people across America, and this is what he did. His most important inventions include the electric light bulb, a basic video camera, the electric car and the electric power station.

Thomas Edison was born in Milan, Ohio, on the 11th February 1847, and he was the youngest of seven siblings. Although his parents and grandparents belonged to the middle class, the family were not wealthy. In particular, they found it very difficult when the railroad built in the area didn't go through their town, despite the original plans. Because of this, they had to move to Port Huron, in the state of Michigan.

Edison only attended three months of formal schooling. He used to irritate his teachers by asking too many questions during classes. Also, he is believed to have been very bad at following instructions at school. He was extremely intelligent, but just didn't like to be told what to do. He had very little interest in school, but enjoyed studying in his own time and managed to educate himself by reading lots of books.

Apparently, he made a promise to read every book on the shelves of the local library! By the age of 12, he was reading Sir Isaac Newton's famous work – Principia Mathematica. However, Edison thought that the maths presented by Newton was too complicated. He decided that he would try to make science easier to understand for ordinary people.

As a teenager, he tried various jobs to make some money. He sold sweets, vegetables and newspapers. He had a talent for business, and he was successful at printing newspapers too. He spent the money he earned on a chemistry set, which he then used for various experiments.

One day, an unusual event changed Edison's life a lot. He saved a young boy from being hit by a (runaway) train. His grateful father, J.U. McKenzie, paid for Edison to train as a telegraph operator. At the age of 19, Thomas moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to work as a telegraph operator.

From a very early age, Edison loved to experiment, especially with chemicals. These experiments often got him into difficulties. A chemistry experiment once went wrong when Edison was working a night shift as a telegraph operator at Western Union. The chemicals from the explosion leaked through the floor onto his boss' desk. The boss got angry, and told Edison there wasn't a job for him any more at the company.

Still, Edison was very passionate about his work: experimenting and inventing new things. Even though he was poor, he spent most of his time over the next few years working on new inventions. By 1877, he invented the phonograph – a simple device used to play and record music. The phonograph received a lot of interest, and people were really impressed with it. Although the device was quite simple to start with, it would later be improved by others. And it was an important first step in creating a music recorder.

Example: The text above is a part of:

- ☒ a) a biography.
- ☐ b) a news story.
- ☐ c) a letter.
- ☐ d) an instructional text.

1. According to the text, Thomas Edison's inventions:

- ☐ a) were not expensive.
- ☐ b) were only available in America.
- ☐ c) all received a patent.
- ☐ d) they were not very useful.

2. Which is true about Edison's family?

- ☐ a) His parents were rich.
- ☐ b) He lived with his grandparents.
- ☐ c) He had six younger siblings.
- ☐ d) He had six older siblings.

3. Why did Edison only attend school for a short time?

- ☐ a) He was often ill.
- ☐ b) He learnt better by himself.
- ☐ c) His family couldn't afford school.
- ☐ d) His family travelled too much.

4. Why did Edison dislike Newton's maths?

- a) It had some mistakes.
- b) It was difficult to follow.
- c) It was too simple.
- d) It had no real-life examples.

5. Who was J. U. McKenzie?

- a) A well-off family member.
- b) A telegraph operator.
- c) A stranger who offered help.
- d) A young boy who had an accident.

6. What happened after a chemical experiment went badly?

- a) Edison's boss got injured.
- b) Edison got injured.
- c) Edison lost his job.
- d) Edison left his job.

7. What did the general public think about the phonograph?

- a) They really liked it.
- b) They thought it was too simple.
- c) They thought it was too expensive.
- d) They didn't know how to use it.

8. What is the main purpose of this text?

- a) To entertain.
- b) To inform.
- c) To persuade.
- d) To explain.

(8 marks)

Reading Task 3

A) Read the three texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, or C.

An example has been done for you.

Text A

The Isle of Gigha is a small island off the west coast of Scotland. The number of people on Gigha peaked at over 700 in the 1700s. In 2002 the people who lived on the island bought it for themselves and today about 160 people live on the island.

Gigha is 5 kilometres off the Scottish coast. A ferry service runs every day to the Scottish mainland. The climate is surprisingly mild, with more hours of sunshine than average. Because of this weather Achamore Gardens has many rare and interesting plants. There is lots of wildlife, especially seabirds, and unspoilt beaches and countryside.

Gaelic was the language of Scotland before the arrival of English, and Gigha has always been a very strong Gaelic speaking area. In 1921, the island was reported to be over 75% Gaelic speaking, though by 2001 the percentage of Gaelic speakers was just 14%.

Text B

Helensburgh is 40 km north-west of Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland. It is a seaside town on the Scottish mainland. In 1752 Sir James Colquhoun bought the land and used his wife's name, Helen, to give it a new name.

In 1812 Henry Bell, a local hotel owner, introduced the steam ship called "Comet" to bring guests from Glasgow. Today there is no boat, but the railway means people can live in Helensburgh and commute to the big city of Glasgow.

Helensburgh is home to the famous Hill House, designed by the famous Scottish designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. He also designed many other buildings around Glasgow. It is thought to be one of the best examples of his style. It has many very modern rooms, full of amazing furniture. Visitors can tour the house if they pay an admission fee. However, the number of visitors is controlled, with a maximum number each day, because so many people want to visit.

Text C

Berwick-upon-Tweed is the most northern town in England, on the River Tweed on the east coast. Because it is on the border of Scotland, the two countries have argued and gone to war many times over who really owns it.

Today Berwick is a small town with a lot of tourists. Its castle was built in the 1200s. The castle was in a poor condition by the 1600s and it was demolished in the 1800s so that the railway could be built. Nowadays, only its ruins remain near the railway.

Tourists come to see the city walls, and to follow the 'Lowry Trail', looking at places painted by the famous English artist, L. S. Lowry. He lived in Manchester and visited Berwick every year for his holidays. He painted pictures of parts of the town and copies of these can be seen on the walk.

Which text does the following?

Text

Example	Gives information about the languages spoken in the area.	A
1.	Describes a place where the population has decreased.	_____
2.	Talks about a town named after a person.	_____
3.	Describes the place best suited to people who like nature.	_____
4.	Mentions a historical building that has been destroyed.	_____
5.	Describes a location outside of Scotland.	_____
6.	Lists an attraction that limits visitor numbers.	_____
7.	Describes a place which was fought over in the past.	_____
8.	Talks about a place with interesting architecture.	_____

(8 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT