



## INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT (IELCA)

### SAMPLE PAPER

#### GENERAL READING (with answers)

**LRN Entry Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (IELCA CEF B1)**

**LRN Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (IELCA CEF B2)**

**LRN Level 2 Certificate in ESOL International (IELCA CEF C1)**

**LRN Level 3 Certificate in ESOL International (IELCA CEF C2)**

**(CEFR Level B1-C2)**

**\*IELCA - INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT**

**1 HOUR 20 MINUTES**

**Do not open this paper until you are told to do so**

**Instructions**

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number on your answer sheet.
- Read the instructions for each section before answering the questions.
- Mark your answers on the mark sheet in pencil.

## Reading passage 1

Read the 4 passages below and answer the questions that follow.

### A

Mind the gap, London famously reminds its residents and visitors when travelling on the Underground. But the narrow space between the Underground platform and Underground car was nothing compared with the gap that London had to “mind” in staging the planet’s biggest event: essentially 26 simultaneous world championships and two large-scale ceremonies over 17 days in a city of more than seven million people that is already bustling with enough challenges in the usual summer fortnight. But the lead-up to these Olympics was stressfully frantic with challenges: an economic downturn in Britain that made cost-cutting a leading theme for the new Conservative government; rioting of the previous summer that shook London’s sense of well-being and only contributed to the fast-climbing security budget for the Games themselves. As the preparations continued, one would not have been surprised to see more street riots over the online Olympic ticketing process, but at least Britons’ disenchantment with the ticketing reflected a mass interest in actually buying the tickets. That should have been a hint of the enthusiasm to come, but in the weeks immediately before the Games, the focus remained largely on dark doom clouds like missing security guards and on plenty of real clouds, as rain continued to pelt the soon-to-be Olympic city in such large amounts there was worry that some of the venues would sink into the mud.

### B

Mind the gap indeed, but in the end it was all water under the many new bridges that decorate the vast Olympic Park. Despite the obstacles and the shadow of the successful, state-backed 2008 Games in Beijing, the London Organizing Committee, headed by Sebastian Coe, undeniably renowned for setting three world records in the mere space of 41 days, said “Today sees the closing of a wonderful Olympic Games in a wonderful city,” Coe said at the wrap-up ceremony on the Sunday night. “We lit the flame, and we lit up the world.” So they did with plenty of help from outsiders like the Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, the American gymnast Gabby Douglas and the Kenyan middle-distance runner David Rudisha, who broke a world record in the 800 meters.

### C

London 2012, unlike Beijing or the next Olympic host city, Rio de Janeiro, lacked an overarching geopolitical theme. The Beijing Games were a symbol of China’s emergence as a global superpower. The Rio Games, the first in South America, should be a symbol of Brazil’s rise and a continent’s possibilities. London had to be

content with putting on such a superb sporting event, and though there were the odd complaints to be heard — mostly concerning the empty seats in some venues despite voracious public demand — there was plenty of contentment to go around on the last Sunday. “I am such a grateful and happy man,” said Jacques Rogge, who was attending his last Olympics as president of the International Olympic Committee. “London promised athletes the Olympic Games, and that is exactly what we got. A splendid village, state-of-the-art venues, 44 world records, 117 Olympic records and I would say that history has been written by many, many athletes”. London Olympic Committee chairman, Sebastian Coe, said during the closing ceremonies, “To all the Olympians who came to London to compete, thank you...those of us who came to watch witnessed moments of heroism and heartache that will live long in the memory of the Olympics.”

## D

All good things must come to an end and so did the Games that were defying predictions of such gloom and fear. But ultimately, London’s crowning achievement was that they were Games and only Games in the best sense of the term: happily devoid of a grand scandal that originally caused anxiety and distraction; happily devoid of terrorist activity or ancillary violence. This biggest show on the earth has crowned London to be the only city in the world in which the Olympic Games were held three times (1908, 1948, 2012) making it incomparable. As for London 2012, if it had a spiritual Olympic cousin, the closest would seem to be Sydney in 2000. The two shared popular fervour, a rich cultural attachment to sports, astute planning and a vast Olympic Park built on what was unused, contaminated land: Homebush in the west for Sydney; Stratford in the east for London.

## Questions 1 – 14

*Choose the correct option*

*Note questions are not necessarily in the same order as the text.*

1. *One of the biggest challenges Britain had before holding the Olympics 2012 was*

- a. growing number of street riots
- b. organising 26 world championships
- c. **the economic recession**
- d. increasing population of over 7 million people

2. *Sebastian Coe was*

- a. head of the Beijing Olympics 2008
- b. **a successful sportsman**
- c. a performer at the closing ceremony London 2012
- d. president of the International Olympic Committee

3. *The empty seats in most of the London Olympic venues were because*

- a. of problems with online ticketing
- b. games were held on Sundays
- c. people were not interested in most games
- d. **none of the above**

4. *The London Olympic Park was built*

- a. **on a less developed part of the city**
- b. in the centre of the city
- c. near Homebush
- d. in between the city's busy Underground stations

5. *According to the writer of the article, London has gained a great status because*

- a. the Olympics 2012 were without a grand scandal
- b. it had a spiritual element in it
- c. it has a rich cultural attachment to sports
- d. **it has hosted the Olympics three times**

## Questions 6 - 10

*Do the following statements agree with the view presented?*

Write **TRUE** if the statement is in agreement.

Write **FALSE** if the statement is not in agreement.

6. The London Olympics 2012 were continuous for 17 days. **T**
7. Britons showed the least interest in buying tickets because of the security concerns. **F**
8. The venues built for the Olympics actually sank into the muddy water just weeks before the opening ceremony. **F**
9. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, the American gymnast Gabby Douglas and the Kenyan middle-distance runner David Rudisha were helpers of the London Olympics 2012. **T**
10. Forty-four Olympic records were made during the Olympics 2012. **F**

## Questions 11 – 14

*Choose the correct statement that best summarises each paragraph A-D from the list below. Write the correct number i-vi in the space given. There is one more statement than you need.*

- i. Insufficient budgets to deal with street riots. (no answer given)
- ii. A glorious accomplishment. A well deserved applause for London 2012 for fulfilling its promises. (C)
- iii. Proving all predictions wrong, London came out victorious and put on a show that earned it an unmatched status. (D)
- iv. The grand show that lit up London and the world (B)
- v. There were clouds of doubt and fears at the start of the London Olympics 2012 (A)

11. Paragraph A \_\_\_ **v** \_\_\_\_\_

12. Paragraph B \_\_\_ **iv** \_\_\_\_\_

13. Paragraph C \_\_\_ **ii** \_\_\_\_\_

14. Paragraph D \_\_\_ **iii** \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading passage 2

Read the 4 passages below and answer the questions that follow.

### A.

Ofcom, the UK government communications regulator, says one in three adults and most teenagers classify themselves as highly addicted to their smartphones such as iPhones, Blackberrys and Androids and in many cases are understood to be our 'closest companion'. Britons' appetite for Facebook and social networks on the go is driving a huge demand for smartphones – with 60% of teenagers describing themselves as "obsessed with" their device – according to new research by Ofcom. Almost half of teenagers and more than a quarter of adults now own a smartphone, with most using their iPhone or BlackBerry to browse Facebook and email. The study also shows that smartphones have begun to intrude on our most private moments, with 47% of teenagers being reluctant to own up to taking a sneak peek at their 'best friend' when retiring for the night. Only 22% of adults confessed to the same habit. Unsurprisingly, mobile-addicted teens are more likely than adults to be distracted by their phones over dinner and in the cinema – and a further number of this age bracket would answer their phone if it woke them up. Separate figures shared exclusively with the Guardian newspaper show that, for the first time, smartphone sales outstripped sales of regular mobiles in the first half of this year as the enormous demand continues to rise. Just over half of the total 13.6m mobile sales from January to June 2011 were smartphones, according to research by GfK Retail and Technology UK. Of the new generation of smartphone users, 60% of teenagers classified themselves as "highly addicted" to their device, compared to 37% of adults. Ofcom surveyed 2,073 adults and 521 children and teenagers in March 2011. The regulator defines teenagers as aged between 12 and 15, with adults 16-years-old and above.

"Ofcom's report shows the influence that communication technology now has on our daily lives, and also on the way we behave and communicate with each other," said James Thickett, director of research for Ofcom. "Our research into the use of smartphones, in particular, reveals how quickly people become reliant on new technology – to the point of feeling addicted. As more and more people acquire smartphones, they are becoming an essential tool in peoples' social lives whether they are out with friends socialising or using Facebook on the move."

### B.

Facebook remains far and away the most frequented website for mobile users, with users spending almost four times the amount of time socialising online than using any other social networking website or browser – ie. Yahoo, Google, Ask Jeeves. Unsurprisingly, multi-tasking teenagers said they were less likely to read books if they owned a smartphone but they also said that owning a smartphone made them more likely to ditch games consoles like the PS3 and the computer, in favour of their pocket-sized handset." The research is saying that people are keeping their phones

on longer and becoming addicted to them. This isn't a problem now but something we need to be aware of. Operators have responded by upgrading their networks so it is being coped with," Thickett said.

**C.**

Despite being a nation of mobile addicts, Ofcom found that truisms still apply when it comes to more old fashioned, traditional media like TV and radio. Some of their other findings show that an increased amount of viewers are spending more time in front of the TV (at least four hours a day last year, compared to 3.8 hours in 2009). This is partly due to the rise of on-demand viewing, most notably Sky+ where past programmes can be re-viewed within a set time window, and an increase in the number of homes with high-resolution TVs (HD) for substantially clearer viewing. Two newcomers to the HD market, Freeview HD and Freesat HD, have established themselves as more-affordable competitors to Virgin Media and Sky.

**D.**

With regard to broadband, the new generation of broadband, enabling fast delivery through sophisticated fibre-optic cables, is now available for 57% of UK households – of which over 50% have adopted. Just over one in 10 said they browse the web via their games console, while 9% use it to watch BBC iPlayer. Finally, Britons sent an average of five text messages a day last year, contributing to a total of 129bn texts sent – up by 24% in 2009. However, Ofcom have warned that older Britons risk being left behind in the "digital revolution". While 90% of adults aged 35-44 have the internet at home, this falls to just a quarter of over 75s. Ofcom said that, for the first time, more than half of 65 to 74 year-olds have access to the internet at home, while just over three quarters own a mobile phone.



## Questions 15-18

Choose the correct title for each paragraph A-D from the list below. Write the correct number i – vi. There are two more titles than you need.

### List of Titles

- i. The advantages of Facebook and Twitter
- ii. Ignoring some other forms of technology (B)
- iii. The need for smartphones and user behaviour (A)
- iv. Mobile networking and traditional TV
- v. Numbers of households that use technology (D)
- vi. Higher Definition recruits more audiences (C)

15. Paragraph A    \_\_\_ **iii** \_\_\_\_\_  
16. Paragraph B    \_\_\_ **ii** \_\_\_\_\_  
17. Paragraph C    \_\_\_ **vi** \_\_\_\_\_  
18. Paragraph D    \_\_\_ **v** \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions 19-23

Do the following statements agree with the view presented in Reading Passage 2?

Write **TRUE** if the statement is in agreement.

Write **FALSE** if the statement is not in agreement.

Write **NOT GIVEN** if the statement does not represent a view expressed in the passage.

*Note questions are not necessarily in the same order as the text.*

19. Over half of teenagers who own a smartphone admit to being addicted to using it. **T**

20. The demand for Google is higher than that for Facebook. **F**

21. Over 50% of 80 year olds have broadband at home. **F**

22. TV and radio are becoming more popular. **NG (**

23. Adults were too embarrassed to admit to using their smartphone while in bed. **F**

## Questions 24 - 27

Complete the sentences below with words taken from the passage. Use **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

24. Game consoles and computers are decreasing in fashion and demand with teenagers, thus making them more \_\_\_\_\_ these for a smartphone. (**likely to ditch** – paragraph B)

25. The \_\_\_\_\_ for smartphones has overtaken mobile sales. (**enormous demand** or **demand** – paragraph A)

26. Despite the voracious popularity of the mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ to what could be called outmoded forms of media such as TV and radio. (**truisms still apply** – paragraph C)

27. Over half of the UK households have access to fast and effective broadband, however not as many \_\_\_\_\_ this new technological innovation. (**have adopted** or **adopted** – paragraph D)

### **Reading Passage 3**

*Read the 5 passages below and answer the questions that follow.*

#### **A**

The architect, Renzo Piano, has a clear vision of the positive impact he thinks the tower will have on the city. "The building will be atmospheric as it interacts beautifully with the city so that it can unite. It will be a symbol of lightness," he said. Mr Piano said the tower was not meant to dominate the skyline and its sophisticated use of glazing would reflect light and the changing patterns of the sky. "After a shower it will be blue. In the evening it will become warmer and more red," he said. "You can't be narcissistic and say I'm going to make an iconic building," said Mr Piano. "But it may become iconic in time."

#### **B**

The Shard has been designed to be a vertical city that has many functions. It is supposed to be alive 24 hours a day and intensify city life. Officially known as London Bridge Tower, it stands 87 storeys high and house offices, flats, a viewing deck and a five-star hotel. A new concourse and a piazza links it to London Bridge station. At the very pinnacle, 310 metres up, a "radiator" catches cooling breezes as part of the project's effort to be credible. Increasing density in central London, particularly near major public transport nodes, is key to London's future development. Given the location of The Shard above one of London's key commuter stations, a bus interchange and two main underground lines, a high density development was deemed not only possible but very desirable.

#### **C**

Britain is a nation stunned into acceptance of every soulless monstrosity so long as they are told it is modern. They seem happy to see taste, style and proportion go out of the window and they cannot tell the difference between a beautiful modern building that adds to the visual interest of London, and an aggressive piece of egotism. The Shard and the unneeded grandiosity it will unleash can only impoverish a great city. English Heritage has said it is disappointed with the outcome and the building is "inappropriate". Similar views can be found in the streets surrounding it. "I would have liked to see something more materially interesting and elegant," said Philippa Grantham, 31. "In my opinion, towers don't usually have a front or a back but this building certainly has a back side and it's fairly crude."

## D

Key objections to The Shard include concerns over the effect of the panorama of St Paul's Cathedral. Conservationists say it has already impacted on London's skyline. English Heritage has criticised the location of the Shard because of the "colossal" impact on one of the capital's most famous landmarks and questions whether it will be as venerated in 300 years as St Paul's is today. A spokeswoman for the conservation group said: "English Heritage is not against tall buildings, they are a part of London's skyline. The existing skyline is a positive but vulnerable asset which deserves care and respect. It should be managed sensitively."

## E

The Shard is a symbol, but of what? Not of an ideal or a heroic event, obviously, but not exactly of the inexorable march of economics, either. It is not a pure expression of land values or of profit-and-loss calculations. It's more eccentric than that, something that popped through a gap in London's wonky, many-layered planning system. If anyone had sat down to plan the most sensible distribution of towers in London, they would not have come up with the Shard, standing alone on a crowded site in a location that is still a bit rickety, with little apparent relation to the things around it. But no one plans London like this and it's unlikely to happen any time soon. Meanwhile, the startling, part-graceful, part-clunky, impressive, slightly nutty Shard is a true monument to the city that made it.

## Question 28

Choose the best title for the text from the options below:

- a) The Shard – A Glorious Celebration of London
- b) The Shard – A Monstrosity Blighting London’s Skyline
- c) The Shard – Another High-Rise Wonder
- d) **The Shard – Functional Elegance or Hideous Eyesore?**

## Questions 29 - 33

*Which statement (i – vii) is referred to in each paragraph A – E? Write the correct number i – vii in the space given. There are two more statements than you need.*

- i. The Shard is distasteful and insipid. **C**
- ii. The Shard damages the overall appearance of London. **D**
- iii. The Shard boasts with the most modern 5-star hotel in London.
- iv. The Shard is designed to augment the appearance of London. **A**
- v. The Shard is a true reflection of the British taste in architecture.
- vi. The Shard is intended to concentrate people near transport. **B**
- vii. The Shard is a consequence of London’s planning system. **E**

29. Passage A      \_\_\_\_\_IV\_\_\_\_\_
30. Passage B      \_\_\_\_\_VI\_\_\_\_\_
31. Passage C      \_\_\_\_\_I\_\_\_\_\_
32. Passage D      \_\_\_\_\_II\_\_\_\_\_
33. Passage E      \_\_\_\_\_VII\_\_\_\_\_

## Questions 34-37

*Choose the correct option.*

34. What does the word *venerated* in passage D mean?

- a) Ruminated
- b) **Revered**
- c) Invigorated
- d) Perturbed

35. What is the author’s purpose in paragraph C?

- 1) To describe the Shard and its view from the surrounding streets
- 2) **To criticize people’s acceptance of unfitting buildings**
- 3) To inform about the modern look and material of the Shard
- 4) To explain how the Shard is viewed by English Heritage

36. What can be inferred from paragraph E?

- 1) London's planning system has continually deteriorated in recent years.
- 2) Other tall buildings are been built to accommodate London's growing population.
- 3) It is likely that London's planning system will continue into the future.**
- 4) With economic development, London's new developments may become more appealing.

37. *The London skyline is*

- a) ugly
- b) completely destroyed
- c) vulnerable**
- d) colossal

### Questions 38 - 40

*Match the statements i - v to the people or organisations on the left mentioned in the text. Write the correct number i-v in the space given. There are two more statements than you need.*

38. Renzo Piano <b>iv</b>	<b>i.</b> The Shard has an aberrant look. <b>ii.</b> The Shard is a really iconic building. <b>iii.</b> The Shard has a radiator on the roof. <b>iv.</b> The Shard is really meant to blend in. <b>v.</b> The Shard is tall, which would be fine if it were in a different place.
39. English Heritage <b>v</b>	
40. A local person <b>i</b>	