



# Sample Assessment Material

ES1C23 – VTCT (ITEC) Level 1 Certificate in ESOL  
International (B2)

## 1. Sample assessment

### Time allowed:

Listening	20 minutes
Reading	45 minutes
Writing	70 minutes
Oral Examination	6 minutes (Assessment)

### 1.1. Listening

In Parts One, Two and Three, you will hear some recordings. You will hear each recording **twice**.

At the end of the recordings, you will have time to transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet. Use a **black pen only**. Please ask any questions before the examination starts.

#### 1.1.1. Part One

You will hear 7 sentences or questions. Listen to each sentence or question then choose the correct response to each sentence or question from the options A), B), C) or D).

You will hear the recording **twice**.

1)

- A) Yes, ordering online is easy.
- B) Yes, that would be really helpful.
- C) Yes, I'm an experienced online teacher
- D) I just don't have time to look for it.

2)

- A) The planet is in so much trouble.
- B) It's just too much trouble for me.
- C) Recycle bins are emptied weekly.
- D) Which recycling bin is plastic?

3)

- A) I didn't go to the yoga class last week.
- B) I am a dance teacher actually.
- C) I agree, I feel much better after the yoga classes.
- D) There are many yoga teachers there.

4)

- A) That's right, I think there's a problem with it.
- B) The computer was in the shop sale.
- C) My computer is the latest model.
- D) My friend told me about her problems.

5)

- A) Great, I'll try them on as soon as I get home.
- B) I will go into town to buy some clothes.
- C) Would you like to buy a new jacket?
- D) The clothes arrived this morning and I stored them away.

6)

- A) I was taught how to write at school.
- B) Yes, I am ready for the performance.
- C) Yes, I enjoy reading about walking.
- D) I want to help you learn how to drive.

7)

- A) The nurse lives down the road.
- B) She had just qualified as a teacher.
- C) It has taken you three years.
- D) I hope she enjoys her new career.

### 1.1.2. Part Two

#### Part A

Listen to a conversation, then select the correct answer for questions 8-13 by choosing from A), B), C) or D).  
You will hear the conversation **twice**.

- 8) What is the name of the shop?
- A) Daisy's clothing
  - B) Mike's clothing
  - C) Rose's clothing
  - D) Maxi's clothing
- 9) Which items is the woman unhappy with?
- A) All of the clothes
  - B) The skirt and trousers
  - C) The skirt and shirt
  - D) The shirt and trousers
- 10) What is the reason why the man does not want to give the woman a refund?
- A) The item was checked before delivery
  - B) The size is stated in the brochure
  - C) The size is stated on the packaging
  - D) It's not his problem
- 11) How does the woman know she ordered the correct size?
- A) She used a measuring service
  - B) She does not make mistakes
  - C) She measured herself
  - D) She has ordered before
- 12) Why does the man think he can help?
- A) Because the woman explained the situation
  - B) Because the woman is rude to him
  - C) Because he is doing his job properly
  - D) Because he feels very bad
- 13) What was the length of the skirt she ordered?
- A) 106 cm
  - B) 101 cm
  - C) 161 cm
  - D) 96 cm

## Part B

Listen to an interview, then select the correct answer for questions 14-19 by choosing from A), B), C) or D). You will hear the interview **twice**.

14) Where is Jack?

- A) Ottawa
- B) Madrid
- C) New York
- D) Sydney

15) Why did Jack decide to be an online teacher?

- A) He wanted to teach history.
- B) He didn't like working in schools.
- C) He wanted to travel.
- D) He wanted to teach more students.

16) What is the most important part of the online teaching selection process?

- A) Learning the skills to teach kids
- B) Showing your certificates
- C) The teaching session
- D) The online interview

17) Where are the children who Jack teaches based?

- A) Hong Kong
- B) Malaysia
- C) Thailand
- D) England

18) Why is it important to have a background on the screen?

- A) The map shows your location.
- B) It shows you are enthusiastic.
- C) To make your classes look more exciting.
- D) You can use the whiteboard.

19) Why didn't Jack like working from Brazil?

- A) He doesn't know the language.
- B) He prefers to live in Asia.
- C) The WiFi was too slow.
- D) He had to work at 4 am.

### 1.1.3. Part Three

Listen to a broadcast, then select the correct answer to questions 20-30 by choosing from A), B), C) or D).  
You will hear the broadcast **twice**.

20) Where was Dr. Seuss born?

- A) Geisal
- B) Henrietta
- C) Springfield
- D) Marchmont

21) What was Dr. Seuss' sister known by her family?

- A) Marnie
- B) Theodora
- C) Margareta
- D) Christine

22) What was his favourite pastime?

- A) Going to the zoo
- B) Sketching animals
- C) Going to forest park
- D) Visiting Fairfield

23) What year did he begin to use the surname Dr. Seuss?

- A) 1921
- B) 1927
- C) 1925
- D) 1937

24) Where did he meet his wife?

- A) Dartmouth College
- B) New York College
- C) Oxford College
- D) Lincoln College

25) Why did it take so long to publish his first book?

- A) It was rejected by publishers
- B) He was scared to publish it
- C) The book was too clever
- D) Children didn't like it

26) What was his first book about?

- A) A street in New York
- B) A mulberry tree
- C) Beatrix Potter
- D) His childhood

- 27) When did Dr. Seuss meet Chuck Jones?
- A) 1937
  - B) 1943
  - C) 1957
  - D) 1969
- 28) What was How The Grinch Stole Christmas made into in 1966?
- A) A successful film
  - B) A children's book
  - C) A musical play
  - D) A TV special
- 29) Why did Dr. Seuss write How the Grinch Stole Christmas?
- A) He didn't like Christmas
  - B) To help children to read
  - C) He thought it was funny
  - D) He liked Christmas
- 30) What did Dr. Seuss think was boring?
- A) He didn't like Christmas
  - B) To help children to read
  - C) He thought it was funny
  - D) He liked Christmas

## 1.2. Reading

### 1.2.1. Part One

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 31-38 by choosing from A), B), C) or D). Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**. There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

1	Many seabirds spend nearly entire year out at sea, far from land. There
2	they can fish for food, sleep on the water's surface and even drink seawater,
3	thanks to their bodies ability to remove salt from the blood.
4	However, there's one major thing seabirds cannot do at sea: lay an egg.
5	This needs to be done on land, but seabirds don't like to be too far from the
6	sea, so they build their nests on the coast or on small islands. It _____
7	sense for them to stay as close to the water as possible, since they needn't
8	fly so far to find food for their young, that saves them energy. However, the
9	birds are still at risk when bringing food back to the nest because other
10	birds might try to steal them as an easy meal.
11	Seabirds lay their eggs straight onto the ground; making it easy for foxes,
12	rats or other predators stealing. To protect their eggs and the young
13	chicks, most seabirds build their nests on steep cliffs that predators
14	struggle to climb, or on islands where these predators aren't found. They
15	may hide the eggs in holes as _____ protection. Another way many
16	seabirds protect their egg's is by nesting in large groups. With more birds
17	around, there are more pairs of eyes to spot danger coming.



- 31) Which line contains a grammar error?
- A) Line 1
  - B) Line 2
  - C) Line 3
  - D) Line 4
- 32) Which line contains a spelling error?
- A) Line 1
  - B) Line 2
  - C) Line 3
  - D) Line 4
- 33) Which line contains a punctuation error?
- A) Line 2
  - B) Line 3
  - C) Line 4
  - D) Line 5
- 34) Which word would fill the blank space in line 6?
- A) has
  - B) does
  - C) makes
  - D) brings
- 35) Which line contains a grammar error?
- A) Line 5
  - B) Line 7
  - C) Line 8
  - D) Line 9
- 36) Which line has a grammar error?
- A) Line 10
  - B) Line 11
  - C) Line 12
  - D) Line 13
- 37) Which word would fill the blank space in line 15?
- A) fresh
  - B) other
  - C) further
  - D) distinct



38) Which line contains a punctuation error?

- A) Line 14
- B) Line 15
- C) Line 16
- D) Line 17

### 1.2.2. Part Two

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 39-49 by choosing from A), B), C) or D). Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**. There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

I spent most of my life in a one-season city. I owned no winter coat and never really had to think about the weather. Now I live somewhere with four distinct seasons and winter has the biggest impact on my work as a photographer.

More than just cold fingers, winter brings shorter days and weaker light, meaning careful planning is needed: the right clothing, equipment and scheduling to ensure I get pictures of what I need.

Selecting a camera with larger controls which are easy to access, even with thick gloves, is key. I don't want to be struggling in the cold, so it's got to be one I'm used to. Putting the camera outside a while before I need it, so it adapts to the temperature, is essential.

The grey skies of winter provide both risk and reward. The former in the form of flat, dull images, while the latter comes from discovering how to take advantage of a less varied scene.

There's always the risk of falling on snow or ice while trying to get good pictures. I know that from painful experience. Apparently, extreme cold can even make cameras stop working, which must be extremely frustrating if you've already taken loads of great shots.

Winter means more time spent indoors, which gives me more time to create albums of my photos, so winter's very productive in that respect. It's when I create simple designs, almost like a reflection of winter.

I love looking at winter photos too. I have one of a woman by an ice-covered window and another of a Tokyo winter which makes me feel I'm right there. Quiet winter landscapes are totally unlike my own work, which may be why I love them. They make me look at the world in a new way, and that's a good thing.

I take photos at other times of year, too. I'm always willing to travel to find the best location. I go for places with lots to look at, while avoiding busy city streets or vast landscapes.

It's taken time to build up my skills. There are plenty of books and some excellent teachers out there, but I've found that just trying things out and looking online for quick tips works best for me.

For newer photographers, there's no shame in taking pictures on your phone, if that means you can get lots. You may find they're better than you expected. It's tempting to rush out and buy the latest camera, but there's plenty of time for that when you know what kind of photography you enjoy doing.

- 39) What does the writer say about winter?
- A) He appreciates the variety it brings
  - B) It's the season he enjoys the most
  - C) It is something he has limited experience of
  - D) He pays close attention to the weather forecast
- 40) What worries the writer most about photography in winter?
- A) The choice of things to photograph.
  - B) How much time is available to him.
  - C) The amount of equipment he needs with him.
  - D) How early he has to get up to start taking pictures.
- 41) The camera the writer uses in winter
- A) can only be the most basic model.
  - B) needs to be one he is familiar with.
  - C) has to be designed for winter weather.
  - D) should not be too heavy to hold.
- 42) What does the writer say about the photos he takes in the winter?
- A) They are usually of the same view.
  - B) They are more suited to black and white images.
  - C) They require him to learn new skills.
  - D) They are less interesting than the other ones he takes
- 43) What problem has the writer experienced while taking photos in winter?
- A) He has injured himself.
  - B) He has damaged his equipment.
  - C) He has been unable to get the pictures he wants.
  - D) He has destroyed some of the pictures he's taken.
- 44) According to the writer, being a photographer in winter means
- A) he appreciates his home more.
  - B) he's less involved with photography.
  - C) he can experiment with different forms of art.
  - D) he has more opportunities to display his photos.
- 45) The writer generally prefers to take photos
- A) in crowded places.
  - B) with plenty of details.
  - C) of wide, open spaces.
  - D) in his local area.

- 46) The writer developed his skills as a photographer by
- A) Attending a computer course.
  - B) working with a private tutor.
  - C) teaching himself the techniques.
  - D) reading manuals and guides.
- 47) The writer particularly enjoys looking at photos
- A) which he took on his travels.
  - B) which have people in them.
  - C) which remind him of places he has been.
  - D) which give him something to think about.
- 48) How would the writer summarise his feelings about taking photos in winter?
- A) It has its highs and lows.
  - B) It's when he takes some of his best pictures.
  - C) It's ideal for beginner photographers.
  - D) It's a good opportunity to take more photos inside.
- 49) What advice does the writer give to new photographers?
- A) Invest in the best equipment.
  - B) Take photos whenever you can.
  - C) Be ready to reject more photos than you keep.
  - D) Develop your own style.

### 1.2.3. Part Three

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 50-60 by choosing from A), B), C) or D). Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**. There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

An online study created by a university team launched a nationwide survey into kindness. People could choose to get involved, and as more than 60,000 did, this became the world's largest in-depth study on kindness to date.

People involved did not need to identify themselves, leading to some concerns they might pretend to be kind just to look good. In fact, it seems that in this and previous studies, people are good at judging their own levels of kindness, and plenty of them were prepared to admit to not being generous.

The survey revealed that, whatever people's age or background, kindness mostly comes from close friends and family. And, happily, it's not rare: with many people surprised to be asked to think about such a common event and others able to point to an act just minutes earlier.

We feel good when people are kind to us, but people who make a habit of being kind, or even just notice other people doing so, also tend to have higher levels of well-being. This fits with a number of previous studies into the positive feelings we get from being kind.

Kindness needn't be raising thousands for charity, as the survey showed how simple, and often unnoticed, most kind acts are. Helping people when asked was the most common, followed by doing favours for friends, opening doors for strangers and showing concern for people less fortunate than themselves.

The main reason people might hesitate to be kind is the fear of being misunderstood or rejected, although time and social media also have an impact. Confident, open people tend to be kindest, and we're more likely to experience kindness at home than in public, although that's not to say kindness isn't valued at work.

The longer we have to think, the less kind we're likely to be, despite studies showing that kindness comes naturally. Even young children choose to help when they feel connected to someone. Being kind has a positive effect on our brain, giving a warmth we can actually feel.

I wonder if it's possible to create a kinder world. It can't simply be a case of telling people. What's needed is a change in society so that kindness becomes normal. With every word and action, we should ask, 'Is that kind?', and this message needs to be spread throughout schools and workplaces.

These minor changes in behaviour may be what we need to create an environment of kindness, like a beach made up of millions of grains of sand. We need to believe that we can, at any moment, contribute to someone's

happiness and to making the world a better place.

- 50) What do we learn about the research in the first paragraph?
- A) The popularity of the study was unexpected.
  - B) People were invited to the university to take part.
  - C) Everyone who was interviewed was a student.
  - D) The people completing the survey were all volunteers.
- 51) When the research was carried out,
- A) some people gave some false information.
  - B) the information gathered reflected earlier research.
  - C) people refused to share their personal details.
  - D) kind people were more willing to participate.
- 52) What did the study reveal about kindness?
- A) People experience kindness frequently.
  - B) Large families are most likely to be kind to each other.
  - C) Those who live alone miss out on kindness.
  - D) Kindness is dependent on how old people are.
- 53) In the fourth paragraph, what does the writer say about the benefits of kindness?
- A) People are sometimes unaware of the benefits.
  - B) Previous understanding of the benefits was inaccurate.
  - C) Regular kindness is needed for full benefits to be experienced.
  - D) Being kind brings more benefits than receiving kind behaviour.
- 54) In the fifth paragraph, we learn that kind behaviour
- A) may be linked to wealth.
  - B) can take many different forms.
  - C) ought to be something private
  - D) should happen without being asked for.
- 55) What point does the writer make in paragraph six?
- A) There is a lack of kindness in business.
  - B) People don't always know how to be kind.
  - C) Not everyone accepts someone being kind to them.
  - D) Personality has an impact on people's kindness.
- 56) In paragraph seven, the writer states that
- A) kindness is something we all have to work at.
  - B) children don't need to be shown how to be kind.
  - C) kind people are always very decisive.
  - D) kindness brings about a physical response.

- 57) What message does the writer give in paragraph eight?
- A) We should have realistic expectations of kindness.
  - B) Kindness is an ordinary part of our lives.
  - C) It's important to keep reminding people to be kind.
  - D) Teachers have a role to play in setting a good example.
- 58) What point does the writer make in the final paragraph?
- A) Being kind may give us a feeling of relaxation.
  - B) It is easier to be kind in more pleasant surroundings.
  - C) Significant changes are only possible if we all act in the same way.
  - D) A more positive environment can be created from small acts.
- 59) What is the purpose of this article?
- A) To report a change in attitudes.
  - B) To share information and ideas.
  - C) To describe a personal experience of kindness.
  - D) To suggest ways in which people should be kind.
- 60) According to the article, which of these statements is correct?
- A) Kindness is part of human nature.
  - B) Kindness makes people more popular.
  - C) People are kinder than they think they are.
  - D) The world is a kinder place than it used to be.



## 1.3. Writing

### 1.3.1. Part One

Choose **ONE** of the following tasks between A, B, C and D.

Write a **formal** response in the correct format for the type of text. Please pay attention to the required word count for your text.

For your chosen **ONE** option, you must write between 150 and 200 words.

Write clearly and use a **black pen only**.

Option A	<p>You visited a tourist attraction in your area and were disappointed with your experience. You decide to write an article for your local newspaper about your experience. Include in your article:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Details of the tourist attraction you visited</li><li>• Why you felt disappointed</li><li>• How the attraction could be improved</li><li>• Whether it is important to attract tourists to the local area</li></ul>
Option B	<p>You have recently tried out a new app designed to help with studying, and you decide to write a review for a magazine. Include in your review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The features of the app</li><li>• Who the app would be particularly suitable for</li><li>• What you found useful about the app</li><li>• Some suggestions for improving the app</li></ul>
Option C	<p>You have a blog which you use to give your opinion on different topics. You decide to write on the topic 'Music in my life'. Include in your blog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How important music is in your life</li><li>• When you prefer to listen to music</li><li>• How you discover new types of music</li><li>• Whether you sing or play any instruments</li></ul>
Option D	<p>Your college wants to update its website. You decide to write a proposal about how the website should be updated. Include in your proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who uses the website</li><li>• The information that needs to be included</li><li>• What will encourage more people to use the website</li><li>• An offer to help with the update.</li></ul>

### 1.3.2. Part Two

Write an informal response in the correct format for the type of text. Please pay attention to the required wordcount for your text.

You must write between 150 and 200

words. Write clearly and use a **black**

**pen only.**

You have a friend who will finish school next year and is trying to decide whether to go straight to university or to take a year off to do something else. You decide to write to your friend and give some advice.

Include in your email:

- Ask what your friend is planning to study
- Explain why going straight to university may be best
- Recommend good ways of spending a year off
- Suggest who to talk to for more advice.