



Sample Assessment Material

ES3C25 – VTCT (ITEC) Level 3 Certificate in ESOL
International (C2)

1. Sample assessment

Time allowed:

Listening	30 minutes
Reading	60 minutes
Writing	90 minutes
Oral Examination	6 minutes

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 8 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) No, sorry, I don't know anything about it.
- B) Of course you can, see you tomorrow.
- C) Certainly, what can I do for you?
- D) Thanks very much, I have everything I need.

2)

- A) It was the goalkeeper's fault.
- B) I don't understand the game.
- C) There was an injury in the first half.
- D) It was the home team.

3)

- A) A few new films have been released.
- B) Yes, I am going to go next weekend.
- C) No, though I saw a very good play.
- D) I don't travel far in order to see a film.

4)

- A) You can drive there in half an hour.
- B) It runs from Edinburgh to London.
- C) It is best to take the motorway.
- D) I'm afraid there isn't one near here

5)

- A) We were at university together.
- B) We now live in the countryside.
- C) We met some new friends at a party.
- D) Very well thank you.

6)

- A) I went for a walk in the town.
- B) I would like to go for a walk in the hills.
- C) I had to work so couldn't go out.
- D) I prefer to relax as I'm usually very tired.

7)

- A) It's not my dog, it's my neighbours.
- B) I would prefer to have a cat.
- C) We adopted it a few years ago.
- D) I've had dogs ever since I can remember.

8)

- A) I don't think they make them anymore.
- B) They look fantastic, I'd love a test drive.
- C) I needed to replace it last year.
- D) It really takes too much petrol.

1.1.2. Part Two

Part A

Listen to a conversation, then select the correct answer for questions 9-14 by choosing from A), B), C) or D).
You will hear the conversation **twice**.

- 9) What does the salesman do first?
- A) He explains the range of kitchens on offer.
 - B) He shows the customer some brochures.
 - C) He offers the customer a seat.
 - D) He asks about the dimensions of the room.
- 10) Installing an appliance is difficult because
- A) it would have to go in front of a window.
 - B) the existing appliance cannot be moved.
 - C) it has to fit into a tight space.
 - D) there are no electrical sockets available.
- 11) What is not needed in the kitchen?
- A) A larder
 - B) A table
 - C) A dishwasher
 - D) A washing machine
- 12) What material does the customer prefer?
- A) Wood
 - B) Oak
 - C) Marble
 - D) Formica
- 13) What is the problem with the sink suggested by the salesman?
- A) It is much too high.
 - B) It does not drain well.
 - C) It is too large for the kitchen.
 - D) It is not suitable for its cabinet.
- 14) Environmental issues lead to what decision?
- A) To avoid the use of wood.
 - B) To purchase eco-friendly equipment.
 - C) To make the kitchen smaller.
 - D) To use sustainable materials.



Part B

Listen to an interview, then select the correct answer for questions 15-20 by choosing from A), B), C) or D). You will hear the interview **twice**.

- 15) Which of the following does the smoke NOT contain?
- A) Small particles
 - B) Gases
 - C) Irritants
 - D) Nicotine
- 16) What is the expert's main worry about health issues?
- A) People moving back into the affected area
 - B) Polluted water supplies
 - C) Fine particle matter
 - D) Chemicals used to tackle the fire
- 17) Why is it difficult to calculate wildfire pollution?
- A) Lack of instruments to measure the pollution
 - B) Identifying whether pollution has come from wildfires
 - C) Variability in pollution levels
 - D) Lack of expert knowledge of this type of pollution
- 18) Which of these Indonesian groups were most affected by wildfires?
- A) Younger people exposed to the smoke
 - B) Male members of the population
 - C) People with pre-existing cardiovascular conditions
 - D) Those living in rural areas
- 19) Which of the following views does the interviewer hold concerning wildfires?
- A) The issue needs more coverage
 - B) Side effects of the fires have been ignored
 - C) The problem is well known
 - D) They are not common outside the US and Australia
- 20) What advice is given to help in this situation?
- A) Stay inside and avoid the smoke
 - B) Wear cloth masks when outside
 - C) Keep houses ventilated
 - D) Consult a doctor if affected

1.1.3. Part Three

Listen to a broadcast, then select the correct answer to questions 21-30 by choosing from A), B), C) or D). You will hear the broadcast **twice**.

- 21) What were Malthus' concerns about population growth?
- A) The industrial revolution could cause famine
 - B) Technology could not grow fast enough to support the population
 - C) Food production could not grow as fast as the population
 - D) Population growth was linear
- 22) According to the broadcast, what was one advantage of the industrial revolution?
- A) A dense population was able to produce more food
 - B) Infant mortality fell uniformly
 - C) The population decreased
 - D) Shipping improved
- 23) What do the statistics reveal?
- A) We are less overpopulated than in Malthus' time
 - B) Overpopulation causes a decrease in average wealth
 - C) Population levels are no longer relevant
 - D) Density of population does not correspond with poverty
- 24) Which part of the population is growing the fastest in Britain?
- A) Those born in other countries
 - B) Infants
 - C) People of retirement age
 - D) People of working age
- 25) What does England need to plan for by 2040?
- A) It will be the most densely populated country in Europe
 - B) There will be more babies than old people.
 - C) It will have a smaller population than Holland.
 - D) There will be an increase in poverty levels
- 26) Why is the 18th century definition of overpopulation questioned?
- A) Populations are now more spread out
 - B) It is not mathematically sound
 - C) Because it does not consider wellbeing
 - D) Food production is now much more efficient



27) Why is the birth rate not a problem?

- A) It is balanced out by those of retirement age
- B) It is not high enough to cause an increase in the population
- C) The data is likely to be inaccurate
- D) More workers are needed to improve the economy

28) What does the broadcast say about wellbeing?

- A) It questions whether it is the top priority
- B) It says that people need space in order to be happy
- C) It says it is a misleading concept
- D) It says it is a matter for the health service

29) What is the fertility rate for women between 15 and 44 years old?

- A) 2.1
- B) 1.5
- C) 1.6
- D) 4.4

30) What was ironic about Malthus's findings?

- A) He advised against acting on the information
- B) It coincided with the industrial revolution
- C) It contradicted his own views
- D) It led to a decrease in prosperity

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	In a quiet aisle of a small supermarket in Tokyo, a robot dutifully
2	goes about its work. Reaching down, it grabs yet another bottle
3	of a flavoured drink that humans like, lifts it and places it on the
4	shelf of a refrigerated unit. Then the next one. People come and go.
5	It looks like a well-integrated autonomous mechanical worker,
6	but that is something of an illusion. This robot doesn't have a
7	mind of its own. Several miles away, a human worker is
8	controlling its every movement remotely and watching via a
9	virtual reality headset that provides a robot's eye view.
10	This is the work of Japanese firm Telexistence, whose Model-T
11	robot is designed to allow people to do physical labour in
12	supermarkets and other locations from the comfort of their
13	own homes. In this case, the robot is working at a FamilyMart shop
14	in Tokyo. Eventually, it will handle more than just drinks bottles.
15	Rice balls, bento boxes and sandwiches should all be within its
16	grasp. The inventor explains that the Model-T is a human avatar
17	which allows it's controller to go anywhere without moving.
18	The concept is called telerobotics or teleoperation.
19	Japan is currently faces a labour shortage, particularly with regard
20	to low-income jobs. This could be partly___through deploying
21	thousands of robots in locations where physical work occasionally
22	needs to be carried out, and allowing companies to remote-hire
23	people in order to operate a robot when needed.



- 31) Which of the following words describes the robot's tasks?
- A) autonomous
 - B) automatic
 - C) varied
 - D) repetitive
- 32) Which line contains a spelling error?
- A) Line 1
 - B) Line 2
 - C) Line 3
 - D) Line 4
- 33) Which word has a similar meaning to the word "physical" on line 11?
- A) arduous
 - B) imaginary
 - C) muscular
 - D) manual
- 34) Which line contains a punctuation error?
- A) Line 15
 - B) Line 16
 - C) Line 17
 - D) Line 18
- 35) Which word would fill the blank space in line 20?
- A) described
 - B) paid
 - C) solved
 - D) explained
- 36) Which line has a grammar error?
- A) Line 19
 - B) Line 20
 - C) Line 21
 - D) Line 22

37) Which is the correct definition of the word “deploying” (line 20)?

- A) Moving equipment into position
- B) Losing a job
- C) Adding to the workforce
- D) Withdrawing troops

38) What is the writer’s attitude to Telerobotics

- A) Enthusiastic
- B) Hostile
- C) Neutral
- D) Indifferent

1.2.2. Part Two

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 39-46 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.

"Eat your spinach," is a common refrain from many people's childhoods. Spinach, the hearty, green vegetable chock full of nutrients, doesn't just provide energy in humans. It also has potential to help power fuel cells, according to a new paper by researchers in AU's Department of Chemistry. Spinach, when converted from its leafy, edible form into carbon nanosheets, acts as a catalyst for an oxygen reduction reaction in fuel cells and metal-air batteries.

An oxygen reduction reaction is one of two reactions in fuel cells and metal-air batteries and is usually the slower one that limits the energy output of these devices. Researchers have long known that certain carbon materials can catalyse the reaction. But those carbon-based catalysts don't always perform as well as or better than the traditional platinum-based catalysts. The AU researchers wanted to find an inexpensive and less toxic preparation method for an efficient catalyst by using readily available natural resources. They tackled this challenge by using spinach.

"This work suggests that sustainable catalysts can be made for an oxygen reduction reaction from natural resources," said the lead researcher, a chemistry professor." The method we tested can produce highly active, carbon-based catalysts from spinach, which is a renewable biomass. In fact, we believe it



outperforms commercial platinum catalysts in both activity and stability. The catalysts are potentially applicable in hydrogen fuel cells and metal-air batteries."

Catalysts accelerate an oxygen reduction reaction to produce sufficient current and create energy. Among the practical applications for the research are fuel cells and metal-air batteries, which power electric vehicles and types of military gear. Researchers are making progress in the lab and in prototypes with catalysts derived from plants or plant products such as cattail grass or rice. The work is the first demonstration using spinach as a material for preparing oxygen reduction reaction-catalysts. Spinach is a good candidate for this work because it survives in low temperatures, is abundant and easy to grow, and is rich in iron and nitrogen that are essential for this type of catalyst.

The scientists created and tested the catalysts, which are spinach-derived carbon nanosheets. Carbon nanosheets are like a piece of paper with the thickness on a nanometer scale, a thousand times thinner than a piece of human hair. To create the nanosheets, the researchers put the spinach through a multi-step process that included both low- and high-tech methods, including washing, juicing and freeze-drying the spinach, manually grinding it into a fine powder with a mortar and pestle, and treating the resulting carbon nanosheet with extra nitrogen to improve its performance. Significantly, the measurements showed that the spinach-derived catalysts performed better than platinum-based catalysts that can be expensive and lose their potency over time.

39) According to the article, what could spinach do?

- A) Stop metal from corroding
- B) Increase stamina
- C) Power fuel cells
- D) Replace many other vegetables in recipes

40) What is spinach transformed into?

- A) Carbon nanosheets
- B) High energy supplements
- C) Fuel for vehicles
- D) Electricity

- 41) What is the disadvantage of carbon- based catalysts?
- A) They cause pollution
 - B) They can be outperformed
 - C) They are unreliable
 - D) They take too much time to source
- 42) Why were researchers thinking of using spinach?
- A) It has similar chemical properties.
 - B) It is cheaper and less harmful than carbon-based catalysts.
 - C) There is a shortage of conventional materials.
 - D) It is rich in vitamins.
- 43) What is a carbon nanosheet compared to in the text?
- A) A mortar and pestle
 - B) A vegetable
 - C) A piece of paper
 - D) A metal-air battery
- 44) Which of the following words has a similar meaning to the word “efficient” (underlined in the text)?
- A) Dense
 - B) Powerful
 - C) Productive
 - D) Arduous
- 45) According to the text, which of the following is true of platinum catalysts?
- A) They can be dangerous
 - B) They can slowly become weaker
 - C) They are widely available
 - D) They are no longer used
- 46) How does the article introduce the topic?
- A) By outlining a scientific problem
 - B) By detailing its properties
 - C) By dispelling a myth about its energy giving properties
 - D) By referring to a familiar saying

1.2.3. Part Three

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 47-54 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.

Intense heat waves

Marine researchers have reported that when an intense heat wave strikes a patch of ocean, overheated marine animals may have to swim thousands of kilometres to find cooler waters.

Such displacement, whether among fish, whales or turtles, can hinder both conservation efforts and fishery operations. According to oceanographers, to properly manage those species, we need to understand where they are.

The effect of climate change

Marine heat waves, defined as at least five consecutive days of unusually hot water for a given patch of ocean, have become increasingly common over the past century. Climate change has increased the intensity of some of the most famous marine heat waves of recent years, such as the Pacific Ocean Blob from 2015 to 2016 and scorching waters in the Tasman Sea in 2017.

We know that these marine heat waves are having lots of effects on the ecosystem. For example, researchers have documented how the sweltering waters can bleach corals and wreak havoc on kelp forests. But the impacts on mobile species such as fish are only beginning to be studied.

Geographical effects

The species are appearing far north of where we expect them. For example, in 2015, the Blob drove hammerhead sharks, which normally stay close to the tropics, near Baja California in Mexico, to shift their range at least hundreds of kilometres north, where they were observed off the coast of Southern California.

To see how far a mobile ocean dweller would need to flee to escape the heat, scientists compared ocean temperatures around the globe. First, they examined surface ocean temperatures from 1982 to 2019 compiled from satellites, buoys and shipboard measurements. Then, for the same period, they identified marine heat waves occurring around the world, where water temperatures for a region lingered in the highest 10 percent ever recorded for that place and that time of year. Finally, they calculated how far a swimmer in an area with a heat wave has had to go to reach cooler waters, a distance the team dubs thermal displacement.

47) What is the purpose of this text?

- A) To explain an environmental effect on sea life.
- B) To describe the usual habits of marine mammals.
- C) To improve conservation methods.
- D) To measure swimming distances of fish.

48) What is the effect of intense heat waves?

- A) An increase in the amount of pollution in the area.
- B) It drives fish and animals away from the area.
- C) It is followed by a cooling of seawater.
- D) Thunderstorms and other atmospheric changes.

- 49) Why did scientists compare different ocean temperatures?
- A) Because of an increase in global warming.
 - B) To calculate how far marine species have to travel.
 - C) To find which temperatures were most suited to species.
 - D) To calculate a decrease in marine populations.
- 50) What is necessary to manage sea species?
- A) To monitor the levels of fishing
 - B) To stop global warming
 - C) To locate where they live
 - D) To reduce the temperature of the seas
- 51) What other effects of these heat waves are mentioned?
- A) Damaging tourism
 - B) Lowering sea levels
 - C) Changing the colour of coral
 - D) Destroying forestry
- 52) Which of the following equipment was not used in the research?
- A) Thermometers
 - B) Buoys
 - C) Satellites
 - D) Submarines
- 53) How can 'thermal displacement' be defined?
- A) The change in temperature of the seas
 - B) The change in the geographical position of the seas
 - C) How far marine life has to travel
 - D) The change in population of sea life
- 54) Which part of the oceans did the scientists measure?
- A) Coastlines
 - B) The surface
 - C) Where marine life lives
 - D) An average depth



1.2.4. Part Four

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 55-60 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.

They say a dog is a man's best friend. This saying was evidently true even in the Stone Age when, about 8,400 years ago, a man was buried with his dog in a village's graveyard.

According to ABC News, archaeologists uncovered the remains at a human burial site located near the town of Solvesborg in southern Sweden. One of the graves held the remains of a man and his dog which were preserved thanks to a flash flood that swept the area a long time ago.

As an expert on bones, both human and animal, osteologist Ola Magnell of Sweden's Blekinge Museum said "The dog is well preserved, and the fact that it is buried in the middle of the Stone Age settlement is unique." Researchers noted that families typically leave items that are considered valuable or sentimental with their deceased loved ones. In this case, the sentimental token may have been the man's domesticated canine.

"A buried dog somehow shows how similar we are over the millennia when it comes to the feelings like grief and loss," said Carl Persson, the museum's project manager. He went on to say that such findings during excavations "makes you feel even closer to the people who lived here."

Work at the Swedish site, one of the largest archaeological digging sites to exist in the region, involved digging out layers of sand and mud that built up after a flood. Experts suspect the site was once a settlement of hunters during the Stone Age. Now, researchers are working to excavate the canine remains so they can be taken to the museum for further study.

An animal osteologist who examined the dog's bones said it wasn't exactly like any modern breeds but was comparable to "a powerful greyhound." The tradition of being buried with items from the deceased person's life has been found in various cultures dating back thousands of years. Archaeologists and anthropologists call these items "grave goods."

Viking warriors, both men and women, were commonly buried with a plethora of weapons to denote their warrior status. Members of Japanese nobility during the Edo period were buried with mounds of valuables like gold coins and religious artifacts, symbolizing the wealthy pedigree of their families.

In some ancient cultures, customs dictated the deceased be buried with animal sacrifices to guide their spirit or offer appeasement to the gods for safe passage to the afterlife.

Pigs and dogs were common animals used for sacrificial rites in China before growing animal farming production shifted to using livestock animals like sheep, goats, and cattle. Elaborate burials containing similar animal sacrifices were also found in ancient burials of the Germanic states.

- 55) Where was the dog discovered?
- A) In Japan
 - B) In the middle of an ancient settlement
 - C) Under a museum
 - D) On a battlefield
- 56) The project manager's comments about the find were:
- A) It had been found in an unexpected location.
 - B) It was an important discovery for osteologists.
 - C) There had been many similar discoveries in recent years.
 - D) It showed a connection between ancient and modern times.
- 57) What is the animal osteologist's view of the dog?
- A) It was financially valuable
 - B) It was not like modern breeds
 - C) It was a greyhound
 - D) It had perished with its owner
- 58) Which of the following is another word for 'token' (underlined in the text)?
- A) A preference
 - B) An article
 - C) A gift
 - D) A punishment
- 59) What changed the use of animals in China?
- A) Local customs
 - B) The development of farming
 - C) Government policy
 - D) Foreign influence
- 60) How was the dog discovered?
- A) It was uncovered at the site of an ancient flood
 - B) By farmers ploughing the land
 - C) An expedition was launched to search for it
 - D) During the building of a museum

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 250 and 300 words.

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

Option A	<p>Write a letter to the editor of a magazine you enjoy reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain that you are a subscriber, describing what you like about the magazine• Describe improvements that could be made to the magazine• Mention the kinds of articles that you like or do not like• Suggest ideas for new content that today's readers would enjoy
Option B	<p>Write an article for a magazine discussing why it is important to preserve old buildings and how they could be renovated or adapted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain why you think it is important to preserve old buildings• Suggest any environmental benefits that this could have• Suggest how they could be used• Describe the benefits to the community of renovations and improvements to buildings
Option C	<p>Your local council are trying to increase the number of visitors to your area. Write an email to your local government or council to suggest how to attract more visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain why people should visit the area• Describe new shops, attractions or facilities that could be built• Suggest how to improve transport for visitors• Describe how they could advertise the area
Option D	<p>Your local council is considering closing the municipal theatre. Write a letter to the council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the importance of this amenity to the community• Explain the types of entertainment that can be provided there• Mention ways to increase involvement in the theatre• Suggest ways to raise money for the theatre

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 250 and 300 words. Write clearly and use a **black pen only**.

You are a member of a club which organises an annual camping trip for their members. Respond to an email invitation you received to go on the camping trip.

- Explain why you would or would not like to go on the trip
- Describe what you liked or did not like about the previous year's trip
- Make suggestions for activities to make the trip better
- Suggest alternatives to a camping trip