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

Sample Assessment Material – Pack BB

Exam Paper

Instructions

- Use black ink.
- Answer all questions, all of which are held in the exam paper booklet.
- Use the VTCT Theory Examination Answer Sheet to record your answers for the multiple choice questions (MCQ), which are identified by four circles on the examination paper.
- Use the VTCT Writing Booklet provided for the writing section.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Advice

- Ask any questions before the examination starts.
- Please read each question carefully before answering.

LISTENING – 24 MARKS

Part One – 7 marks

Listen to a conversation, then select the correct answer for questions 1-7 by choosing from A), B) or C).

You will hear the conversation **twice**.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1	What is implied about Horton Park?
A	It's a costly place to live.
B	It's a small neighbourhood.
C	It's located near to Wellton.
2	What was Andy's colleague opinion of Wellton?
A	It's busy.
B	It's shabby.
C	It's ugly.
3	Olga implies her new flat
A	has good security.
B	lacks sufficient storage space.
C	needs some modernisation.
4	How does Andy describe the day he moved house?
A	Chaotic.
B	Disastrous.
C	Distressing.

5	How does Olga feel about moving?
A	Rushed.
B	Uptight.
C	Untroubled.
6	Olga
A	hints that Andy should help her move.
B	is hoping her move goes well.
C	wants Andy to message her at the weekend.
7	What does Olga's choice of flat suggest about her priorities?
A	She chose Horton Park because it was the most affordable option
B	She regrets not choosing Wellton, as it offers a more dynamic lifestyle.
C	She values modern amenities and a pleasant environment over space.

Part Two – 7 marks

Listen to an interview, then select the correct answer for questions 8-14 by choosing from A), B) or C).

You will hear the interview **twice**.

For each sentence or question, place **a black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

8	What makes it difficult to measure solar energy production?
A	Countries often overstate their production.
B	Data may not consider minor producers.
C	Statistics are not always kept in all countries.
9	How does the interviewer react to the mention of the UK?
A	With embarrassment.
B	With frustration.
C	With scepticism.
10	What does Sally say about the UK?
A	It has a restricted capacity for solar production.
B	Its ability to produce solar power has gone down.
C	Its solar energy production compares well with other countries.
11	What is Sally's attitude towards Australian solar energy production?
A	Curious.
B	Irrational.
C	Judgemental.

12	What is one problem of solar power that is mentioned?
A	Lack of space to install the panels.
B	The capacity of power storage.
C	The size of the batteries needed.
13	What environmental problem is mentioned?
A	Dangerous waste products are produced in manufacturing.
B	Harmful substances used during production of solar energy systems.
C	Waste generated by installing the panels.
14	What does Sally suggest about solar energy's environmental impact?
A	It causes just as much pollution as fossil fuels.
B	It has some environmental drawbacks, but less than other energy sources.
C	It is completely clean with no negative effects.

Part Three - 10 marks

Listen to a broadcast, then select the correct answer to questions 15-24 by choosing from A), B) or C).

You will hear the broadcast twice.

For each sentence or question, place a **black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

15	What kind of tasks do space station astronauts have to do?
A	Ensure the air is clean.
B	Report on crew activities.
C	Update records and programmes.
16	What duties do astronauts undertake outside in space?
A	Install updated equipment.
B	Monitor previous repairs.
C	Run different types of tests.
17	Who funds some of the research carried out on space stations?
A	Political organisations.
B	Private individuals.
C	Space agencies.
18	What example of research is mentioned?
A	Building 3D printers.
B	Cultivating plants.
C	Testing vaccines.

19	An objective of space research is to
A	assist astronauts in their work.
B	better understand the benefits of zero gravity.
C	improve life on Earth.
20	Members of the space crew
A	are involved in lifelong experiments.
B	are the subject of medical research.
C	have carried out gravitational experiments.
21	A consequence of spending a long period of time in space is
A	bone mass decreases.
B	lower back pain occurs.
C	muscles start to ache.
22	Astronauts exercise by
A	doing sit ups using handles.
B	using specially-designed weights.
C	walking or running on a machine.
23	Irregular blood movement in the body means astronauts
A	have flushed faces.
B	may develop heart problems.
C	may look bloated.

24	A common phenomenon for astronauts is to
A	have fluctuating weight.
B	have mental health issues.
C	suffer from insomnia.

SAMPLE



READING – 24 MARKS

Part One - 8 marks

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 25-32 by choosing from A), B), or C).

Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**.

There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

For each sentence or question, place **a black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE

<p>1.</p>	<p>Most people think democracy is something that only relates to adults and deem the prospect of children voting as too inane to even contemplate. In the early 20th century, many democracies began operating with universal suffrage, ensuring voting rights were no longer withheld from adults on the basis of wealth, gender or race. Yet age thresholds have endured, and children continue to be excluded from democracy, based on their youth and adults' assumptions about what that youth means.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>A common protest to children voting is that they are too ill-informed to do it properly. Adults are considered capable of understanding what they are voting on, which is allegedly too much to expect of children, whose cognitive abilities are apparently much less developed. Children are unlikely to think for themselves, but rather mimic the views of authority figures such as parents and teachers. There may be some merit in this, but at what point does knowledge or rationality become relevant to voting, and what it is that voters need in order to vote "well" or "responsibly"? Is it the capacity to identify politicians or political parties? Or the ability to analyse politicians' past performances? Is there a necessity for voters to understand the legislative process and the roles of the various branches of government? Though these insights are probably useful, there's no consensus on what's crucial. Since we are not able to define what is required, it is impossible to say adults have the right knowledge (whatever that is) and children don't. In fact, adults don't need to show credentials to vote which indicates that voting is not a privilege of competency, but rather a right of citizenship. Therefore, this right should be for all citizens, including children.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Another argument precluding the child vote is that it would lead to policy chaos. If children are not always rational or coherent, but nevertheless allowed to vote, the outcome of elections, and the policy decisions they give rise to, would surely reflect their ill-conceived and incoherent votes. However, this misunderstands the role of elections. Voting is not the same as making law. To vote isn't to decide what happens or even to set the political agenda. This is why representative democracies can function with vast numbers of uninformed and irrational citizens.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Voting is considered a serious business and thus some say that the right to vote should correlate with the right to perform other activities of similar weight and consequence, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, getting married or joining the army. All of these have age restrictions. However, these rights are deferred as they are potentially harmful, so they are only conferred on individuals who are likely to be mindful of the risks. Children are denied harmful activities so as not to jeopardise their future and ensure they reach adulthood with as many life opportunities as possible. This rationale holds weight for the right to drink alcohol, perhaps, but it works less well with voting rights, which aren't obviously dangerous and pose no direct threat to children's future wellbeing.</p>

5.

It seems, therefore, that children are suffering an injustice: they are being denied the vote without adequate justification. At the same time, young people are dissatisfied with democracy, in part because they're overlooked in the decision-making process. Unless the place of children in democracy is improved and deepened, political division and democratic distrust will surely worsen.

SAMPLE

25	What does the writer imply in the first paragraph?
A	Adult voting rights should be reviewed.
B	Adults' assumptions are often proven correct.
C	Minimum age voting is no longer logical.
26	One objection to the child vote is that children
A	do not behave responsibly.
B	do not have sufficient interest in politics.
C	lack the intellectual qualities required.
27	The writer believes
A	comprehension of politics doesn't mean competent voting.
B	no particular political aptitude is required for adults to vote.
C	some understanding of politics is required to vote.
28	What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
A	To criticise how democratic voting works.
B	To debunk an argument against children voting
C	To evaluate how voting affects policy.
29	What does the writer say about other laws with age restrictions?
A	They are comparable to the age restriction for voting.
B	They can incite reckless and harmful behaviour.
C	They have more validity than the age restriction for voting.

30	According to the writer how do children feel about politics?
A	They are no longer interested in it.
B	They feel disappointed by it.
C	They think the system is unfair.
31	The tone of this text is
A	apathetic.
B	impartial.
C	persuasive.
32	The best title for this text is
A	The needs of children
B	The apathy of the young
C	Youth deserves a voice

Part Two – 8 marks

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 33-40 by choosing from A), B), or C).

Fill in the space on your answer sheet with a **black pen only**.

There is only **one correct answer** for each number.

For each sentence or question, place **a black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

SAMPLE

1.	Foreign accent syndrome (FAS) is a medical condition in which patients develop speech patterns that are perceived as foreign. It is different from their native voice, but has not been acquired in the new accent's place of origin. A famous case was of a Norwegian who started to speak with what sounded like a German accent. This condition most commonly materialises as a result of head injury, stroke, or some other type of trauma to the brain.
2.	Speakers with FAS acquire neither a specific foreign accent nor any additional fluency in a foreign language. There has been no verified case where a patient's foreign language skills have improved after a brain injury. They may not perfectly replicate the accent their speech resembles either. However, the changes in their speech tend to remain fairly consistent. People do not typically switch between accents or have an accent only sometimes.
3.	Researchers have found that specific parts of the brain were injured in some FAS cases, indicating that particular parts of the brain control linguistic functions. Damage could result in altered pitch and/or mispronounced syllables, causing speech patterns to be distorted. Vowels are more likely to be affected than consonants. There are also changes in intonation and pitch, such as monotonous intonation. One research study found subtle differences in the way people with FAS stress different words. They still use the same rising and falling intonation as healthy speakers, but they use it more. Also, instead of stressing some words, they stressed all of them. There are also difficulties in using stress to indicate meaning. Even so, people may not recognise a specific accent. Some may think a person with FAS sounds Russian; another, German and this will unconsciously colour their view of that person.
4.	Individuals with FAS don't exhibit their accent without any concern, these individuals feel as if they have a speech disorder. One sufferer says "It takes away your whole identity – you lose what was you."
5.	That is unsurprising, given the role the voice plays in forging our place in the world. The way we speak is a window onto our inner self. It marks social class, education level and where you come from – so consciously or subconsciously, we use accent to portray who we are.
6.	Compounding the issues with identity, these people also have to deal with sometimes derogatory responses from those around them and therefore deserve our sympathy. Accents are an important way for us to form boundaries between different social groups. Accordingly, some FAS sufferers report feeling marginalised and they have even experienced racism and abuse, leading to serious mental health issues. Fortunately, the condition is rare with very few cases reported but nevertheless scientists continue to study the phenomenon in order to assist those who are diagnosed.

33.	The first paragraph is
A	a definition of FAS and its origins.
B	a summary of how FAS affects the brain.
C	an explanation of how FAS develops.
34.	What is a feature of foreign accent syndrome?
A	The speaker could exhibit aspects of different accents in their speech.
B	The speaker may not unfailingly speak in the foreign accent.
C	The speaker's accent may not wholly match the foreign one.
35.	How can speech be affected by foreign accent syndrome?
A	Omission or addition of syllables.
B	Repetitive tone.
C	Stressing too few words.
36.	The tone of the third paragraph is
A	ambiguous.
B	objective.
C	sympathetic.
37.	Why is accent considered so important?
A	It affects how we think about society.
B	It can influence your decisions.
C	It reflects your personality.
38.	The writer's attitude towards people with FAS is
A	indifferent.
B	neutral.
C	supportive.

39.	What point is made in the final paragraph?
A	FAS may provoke negative behaviour in those who have it.
B	FAS sufferers often change their social identity.
C	Those with FAS may experience psychological trauma.
40.	Which paragraph discusses other's perception of those with FAS?
A	Paragraph 2.
B	Paragraph 4.
C	Paragraph 6.

SAMPLE

Part Three – 8 marks

Read the text below and then select the correct answer to questions 41-48 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.

For each sentence or question, place **a black mark** over the correct answer on your answer sheet.

1	The much-anticipated final novel <i>The Way Back</i> , in Jackie Lee's trilogy is finally out. Two years after the second book <i>Coming Home</i> was first published, we now have closure on the full story of the Chen family.
2	Without doubt it certainly has some of the redeeming features of the first two novels. We are once again presented with pages of vivid depictions of locations, scenes and events which enable the reader to feel as if they were actually there, experiencing that very moment so carefully captured in time. The ability to paint a picture in words is a rare quality which Lee has. That skill extends to the characters, who are painstakingly crafted in such a way that it's impossible not to identify with them. At times I was actually moved to tears, so convincing and meticulous were the portrayals of the people we have grown to know, adore or despise throughout the narrative. So, in those areas I can say the latest offering will not disappoint.
3	In my experience I have so often found that in other historical sagas the background is presented in such a way that it can bore. Excessive political detail or factual information which feels irrelevant and detracts from the story sometimes abounds. Yet Lee is able to redress the balance, contextualising in a manner that engrosses the reader rather than making them endure.
4	Much has been written by literary critics on the hidden themes in Lee's novels and this trilogy is no exception. While the cycle of nature is evident in the first two novels, there is more emphasis placed on rebirth in <i>The Way Back</i> which seems to go hand in hand with a message of serenity that leaves you with a sense of fulfillment.
5	I had presumed that, not unlike the first two novels in the trilogy, there would be a stimulating plot. Whilst that was delivered to some degree, the twists and turns and sheer number of characters involved was often superfluous in my opinion. It was taxing to keep up to say the least. I found myself incessantly leafing back to check on names and facts. This is probably one of the pitfalls of producing an epic which is far longer than the two which came before it. It undeniably distracted from the flow and for me that aspect was a bit of a letdown. It cannot be denied however, that it was still difficult to put it down, even if it was not quite as spectacular in some respects as what has gone before.

41.	What does the critic imply about the new novel?
A	More novels in this series may follow.
B	Questions about events may remain unanswered.
C	Readers have been waiting for it to be published.
42.	What attribute about the novel writer does the critic praise?
A	Her ability to entertain the reader.
B	Her aptitude for description.
C	Her imaginative and creative talent.
43.	What is the purpose of the third paragraph?
A	To compare historical representations in novels.
B	To criticise how historical novels are written.
C	To examine how <i>The Way Back</i> treats history.
44.	The critic says the book makes you feel
A	calm and peaceful.
B	like you've been reborn.
C	satisfied and contented.
45.	What did the critic disapprove of regarding the plot?
A	It was too long and repetitive.
B	The way the characters developed.
C	They found it too complicated.

46.	The critic says that <i>The Way Back</i>
A	has more strengths than shortcomings.
B	is less enjoyable than the others in the series.
C	is quite disappointing overall.
47.	What overall impression does the reviewer give of <i>The Way Back</i>?
A	It is a disappointing conclusion to the trilogy with little merit.
B	It is beautifully written but slightly overwhelming in complexity.
C	It surpasses the first two novels in every aspect.
48.	Which of the following would be the most suitable title for this review?
A	A Trilogy Concludes: A Flawed but Gripping Finale
B	Historical Fiction at Its Worst: A Disappointing End
C	The Way Back: A Masterpiece Without Fault



WRITING – 24 MARKS

There are 12 marks available for Part One and 12 marks available for Part Two.

Part One – 12 marks

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 350 words**.

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

SAMPLE

Option A - You have read an online article about the negative environmental impact of the tourism industry. You decide to write an article for a travel website about this topic.

Include in your article:

- What negative environmental impact tourism has had in your country
- How these issues could be resolved
- Whether the advantages of tourism outweigh the disadvantages
- How possible environmentally-friendly tourism really is

Option B - You recently downloaded a new app onto your phone. You have been asked to provide a review of the app.

Include in your review:

- The purpose of the app
- The strengths and weaknesses of the app
- Recommendations for improvements
- How it compares with other similar apps

Option C - You watched a news programme about government plans to increase spending on crime prevention. You decide to write an article for your local newspaper about this topic.

Include in your article:

- Whether crime prevention is a worthwhile use of government spending
- How money could be spent to reduce/prevent crime
- What factors have an impact on the level of crime
- The prevalence of crime in your area

Option D - You attend a local college. The principal wants to attract more students to the college and has asked students for their ideas. You decide to submit a proposal with your suggestions.

Include in your proposal:

- The benefits of offering online courses
- How easy it would be to implement these courses
- A way to attract students to attend in the college in person
- How increasing the number of students would benefit the college

Part Two – 12 marks

Write an informal response in the correct format for the type of text.

Please pay attention to the required word count for your text.

You must write between **250 and 350 words**.

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

Your friend has recently started a new job. They have contacted you to say they don't like the job and they want to leave and study full time. Write an email to your friend sympathising with their situation and advising them what to do.

Include in your email:

- Typical problems people may experience in a new job
- How these problems can be overcome
- The pros and cons of full-time study
- What you believe to be the best option for your friend

END OF EXAM

SAMPLE