

IESOL Assessment Reading

RQF Level: Level 3

(CEFR Level: C2)

Candidate Booklet – Reading

SAMPLE VERSION 1

The following details must be completed:

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate Date of Birth: _____ DD / MM / YYYY

Centre Name: _____

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: 55 minutes

Total marks available: 22

Reading Task 1

Read the article about the future of machines. Circle the best option to complete the gaps – a, b, c or d. An example has been done for you.

Fear of wrong social priorities

I am a scientist. I design and construct robots. Being a 0) _____, though, doesn't absolve me of my humanity. I must, at some level, reconnect with my hopes and fears. As a moral and political being, I have to consider the potential 1) _____ of my work and its potential effects on society.

As researchers, and as a society, we have not yet come up with a clear idea of what we want robots to do or become. In part, of course, this is because we don't yet know what they are capable of. But we do need to decide what the desired 2) _____ of advanced robotics is.

One big area people are paying attention to is employment. Robots are already doing physical work like welding car parts together. One day soon they may also do cognitive tasks we once thought were uniquely human. Self-driving cars could replace taxi drivers; self-flying planes could replace pilots.

3) _____ getting medical aid in an emergency room staffed by potentially overtired doctors, patients could get an examination and diagnosis from an expert system with instant access to all medical knowledge ever collected – and get surgery performed by a tireless robot with a perfectly steady "hand." Legal advice could come from an all-knowing legal 4) _____; investment advice could come from a market-prediction system.

Perhaps one day, all human jobs will be done by machines. Even my own job could be done faster, by a large number of machines tirelessly researching how to make even smarter machines.

In our current society, automation pushes people out of jobs, making the people who own the 5) _____ richer and everyone else poorer. That is not a scientific issue; it is a political and socio-economic problem that we as a society must solve. My research will not change that, though my political self – together with the rest of humanity – may be able to create circumstances in which robots become broadly beneficial instead of increasing the 6) _____ between the one percent and the rest of us.

- | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Example | <input checked="" type="radio"/> a) scientist | b) person | c) robot | d) constructor |
| 1. | a) reasons | b) implications | c) examples | d) influences |
| 2. | a) profit | b) cost | c) cause | d) function |
| 3. | a) Despite | b) Instead of | c) As a result of | d) In addition to |
| 4. | a) person | b) job | c) form | d) database |
| 5. | a) properties | b) machines | c) land | d) data |
| 6. | a) discrepancy | b) number | c) status | d) benefits |

(6 marks)

Reading Task 2

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

Super-Nutritious Fruit and Vegetables

To all the reasons you might choose to grow one vegetable variety over another - appearance, flavour, yield, pest resistance, or regional adaptation - now you can add enhanced nutrition. The vegetables you'll read about here aren't just good for you. They've been bred to be better for you.

As nutrition research makes clearer each year, good foods are the best way to supply nutrients to our bodies. So naturally a vegetable's nutrient content is becoming an important measure of its value. Research is also showing that fruits and vegetables provide us with important disease-fighting chemicals. So it makes sense that plant breeders would focus on making vegetables even healthier. Needless to say, home gardeners are best positioned to take advantage of these breeding advances. None of these varieties are any more difficult to cultivate than older ones and most are readily available.

Researchers have gradually increased carotene levels over the years, says Phil Simon, a plant geneticist at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. As recently as 1980, a typical hybrid carrot had 80 to 100 parts per million (ppm) of carotene. New high-carotene varieties have twice as much and breeders are testing varieties that have up to 480 ppm. Although dark leafy greens, sweet potatoes and winter squash are all good sources of carotene, carrots are the champs. If these carotene-rich carrots were widely available the positive impact would be immense. People rely on carrots for most of their dietary vitamin A. "With some standard varieties you'd have to eat 1 to 2 pounds of carrots a day to meet your dietary needs," Simon points out. "By comparison, you only need to consume as little as half a carrot of a high-carotene variety to meet your dietary need."

By the way, don't worry about eating too many carrots. While too much vitamin A in pill form can be harmful, you can't consume too much carotene. Your body just takes as much as it needs to make vitamin A and discards the rest (notable exceptions are babies and those individuals with an extra sensitivity to carotenoids: too many carrots can make their skin turn orange).

An unusually coloured, nutrient-enhanced, carrot will reach supermarkets in 2019. At Newtown University researchers have developed a purple-skinned, orange-cored carrot named 'BetaSweet', with carotene levels of 180 to 220 ppm. It will be test-marketed as pre-cut slices or "BetaBites". If you see them in the stores, give them a try and decide if you want to grow them; seeds will become available to home gardeners in 2020 or 2021.

In the meantime, here are three high-carotene carrots you can grow now. The number of days until harvest after sowing seed is listed in parentheses.

'Ingot' (63 days). This 6- to 8-inch-long, blunt-ended, Nantes-type hybrid carrot has a sweet flavour. Its carotene levels are between 120 and 170 ppm.

'Beta Champ' (74 days). This Emperor-type hybrid has 10-inch-long tapered roots. It is great for juicing. Testing shows it consistently contains 150 to 270 ppm carotene.

'Healthmaster' (110 days). These large, 3-inch-diameter and 10-inch-long, hybrid Danvers-type carrots take a long season to mature but are sweet-tasting. Carotene levels are between 60 and 95 ppm - about 35 percent higher than levels in older, open-pollinated Danvers varieties.

What about carrot flavour? Unfortunately, says Simon, when his team started selecting for high carotene levels it didn't simultaneously select for flavour. High-carotene carrots tend to also be high in turpenoids, a naturally occurring organic chemical that influences the scent, flavour and taste of a vegetable, which can make some carrots strong-tasting and bitter. "I'd have to say that the flavour of most of these high-carotene carrots is just average. But the genetics of the two characteristics are independent and there's no reason superior flavour can't be bred in." John Jones, vegetable breeder at Big Seeds in Mount Vernon, Washington, agrees. "I'm working on some material with over 250 ppm that will have great flavour and great eating quality."

Further to the vegetables that we eat, people need to consider the variety of fruit they consume. Though people are eating more fruit these days, more than half are the old standbys: bananas, apples and oranges. Yes, they're good for you - but you're missing out. "Different fruits provide an array of disease-fighting vitamins, minerals and antioxidants," says Joy Bauer, RD, author of Joy Bauer's Food Cures. In fact, broadening your horizons can measurably improve your health. Colorado State University nutritionists asked 106 women to eat 8 to 10 servings of produce daily for 8 weeks. Half the group chose from 18 different varieties, while the others ate the same 5 over and over again. Two weeks later, blood tests showed that the high-variety group reduced their rates of DNA oxidation, possibly making their bodies more resilient against disease; the other group had no change. 'We should all think about eating more figs, papaya, guavas and lychees, as these all have incredible health benefits,' Joy concluded.

Example: What is the main reason for growing the vegetables described in the article?

- a) They have a superior appearance.
- b) They produce a higher yield than traditional varieties.
- c) They have been specially created to have higher nutritional value.
- d) They are more pest resistant.

1) Which of the following is true about the new types of vegetables?

- a) Home gardeners requested that they were created.
- b) They are not available just yet.
- c) They will be the first vegetables to help humans fight diseases.
- d) They are not any more difficult to grow than standard varieties.

2) The level of carotene in carrots today is:

- a) 80 to 100 parts per million (ppm).
- b) slightly above 80-100 parts per million (ppm).
- c) significantly above 80-100 parts per million (ppm).
- d) on average 4800 parts per million (ppm).

3) Vitamin A:

- a) is beneficial for humans in any amounts.
- b) is safe regardless of its source.
- c) is usually safe in any amount if it comes from natural sources.
- d) usually lingers in the body of an average adult.

4) A nutrient-enhanced carrot, BetaSweet:

- a) will reduce the amount of carrots people consume by half.
- b) will look the same as a standard carrot.
- c) is likely to give your skin an orange tint.
- d) cannot yet be grown at home.

5) The best seeds to plant if you want to grow carrots which are best for making drinks are:

- a) BetaSweet
- b) Ingot
- c) Beta Champ
- d) Healthmaster

6) What is the main point about the flavour of the new carrots?

- a) It could be improved in the future.
- b) Efforts have failed to improve the flavour.
- c) Turpenoids could be used to improve it.
- d) They are sweeter than standard carrots.

7) Research conducted at Colorado State University showed that:

- a) only 18 varieties of fruit demonstrate clear health benefits.
- b) eating fewer than 8 servings of fruit a day will not benefit your health.
- c) increasing the variety of fruit consumed has potential health benefits.
- d) women's bodies are naturally more resilient against disease.

8) The writer's main reason for writing the article is to:

- a) discourage people from eating genetically modified vegetables.
- b) explain the increasing popularity of eating carrots.
- c) recommend further research into hybrid carrots.
- d) provide an overview of innovation in fruit and vegetable production.

(8 marks)

Reading Task 3

Read the four texts below and answer questions 1 – 8 by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, C, D or None. Please note that there are two questions which do not refer to any of the texts.

An example has been done for you.

Text A

Back in 1945, the USSR discovered oil just off the coast of Azerbaijan. The problem was that, at the time, no one had ever built an offshore oil rig before, so if they wanted to tap that ocean-bottom booty, they had to figure out how to do it from scratch. Not to be deterred by minor considerations such as reason, the USSR went ahead and built a massive multiplatform oil rig right out there in the middle of the ocean. When even more oil was discovered right next door, they didn't bother with a whole new platform; they just retired a boat, bolted it to the existing platform and started working on it. The Russians continued in this fashion until they wound up with Oily Rocks, a giant city of oil workers, with over 120 miles worth of road built into the middle of the Caspian Sea.

Text B

Miyake-jima is a small island off the coast of Japan untouched by tourists, despite the fact that it's only a few miles away from one of the densest populations in the world. But that's probably only because the whole thing is nature's chemical weapons factory. Miyake-jima is located at the base of an active volcano, but their chief concern isn't explosions, or lava, but the sulfuric gas that "frequently reaches lethal levels." And yes, people still live there full time, even during those times when you can't breathe the air. It's imperative that all citizens carry a gas mask with them at all times, since at any time, sirens may set off all across the island indicating fatal gas concentrations. So why do people still live there? For science! Or, more accurately: For the money that science pays them! The Japanese government gives each resident a yearly paycheck just for existing where they shouldn't exist, in order to test the effects of constant sulfuric gas exposure on a stable population.

Text C

Who needs to visit rural England? Now the Chinese can get a feel of the British countryside in their backyard. Thames Town is an abandoned city in China, located about twenty miles outside of Shanghai. The city is an almost identical replication of the real thing in England. The town is even complete with English culture, such as a pub where you can order classic meals. However, Thames Town is almost completely deserted, yet regular visitors, such as newlyweds, often get wedding photos taken there. It could be the strange vibe of cookie-cutter houses and perfect cobblestone streets. The town was built using five billion yuan and was completed in 2006. It was meant to help decrease the population in nearby Shanghai, but Thames Town boasts a population of about zero. Despite the lack of success, a similar town is being constructed near Beijing.

Text D

You may have heard of dumpster diving – rifling through other people’s rubbish in order to find some treasure. Yet, in Egypt, there is a Garbage City. Nestled in a pocket of Cairo, Manishiyat Naser is a city that flourishes on the profits made from rubbish. Residents here go through the garbage cans of Cairo’s citizens and use it to build an economy. In Garbage City there is tons of rubbish, but no amenities. Plumbing, electricity, and a sewage system are nowhere to be found. Despite the poverty and lack of modern appliances, the people of Garbage City have a system of collecting rubbish. Some focus on plastic, others on paper, metal, etc. A glimmer of hope: seven beautiful churches that resemble caves serve as a monastery and a school.

Which text does the following?

Text

Example Describes a type of experiment on human guinea pigs? .

B

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Describes an initiative that did not succeed in line with the original plans. | _____ |
| 2. | Describes people deprived of facilities the modern western world takes for granted. | _____ |
| 3. | States that the undertaking described had never been attempted before. | _____ |
| 4. | Describes citizens who are both impoverished and resourceful. | _____ |
| 5. | Describes a location sometimes visited by tourists. | _____ |
| 6. | Describes a city deserted as a result of ecological disaster. | _____ |
| 7. | Shows that people value their health more than money. | _____ |
| 8. | Illustrates that people don't always learn from previous mistakes. | _____ |

(8 marks)

END OF READING ASSESSMENT

CANDIDATE DECLARATION:

I confirm that the work contained in this booklet is my own and I had no prior knowledge of the content of this examination.

I declare that I will not divulge to any person any information about the questions and/or tasks.

Signed:	
Dated:	DD / MM / YYYY