

IESOL Assessment Reading

RQF Level: Level 2

(CEFR Level: C1)

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 and circle the best option to complete the text – a, b, c, or d. An example has been done for you.

Should I get a dog?

In the last decade there has been a lot of **0)**_____ indicating that the average domestic dog can provide many benefits to one’s mental and physical wellbeing. But we need to remember that dogs are not a miracle cure for mental or physical illness. Owning a dog is beneficial and comforting only for those who love and **1)**_____ domestic animals. And just as importantly, you need to have the time and money to keep a dog happy and healthy. If you’re simply not a ‘dog person,’ or are **2)**_____ time or financial resources, dog ownership is not going to provide you with any health benefits.

Even if you love dogs, it’s important to understand everything that caring for a dog entails. Owning a dog is a commitment that will last the lifetime of the animal. This is usually between ten and fifteen years. And at the end of that period, you’ll have to go through the grief and mourning that comes with **3)**_____ a beloved companion.

Dog ownership has other drawbacks too. Firstly, dogs require time and attention. As any dog owner will tell you, there’s nothing **4)**_____ to your mental health about coming home to a dog who has been locked up in the house on his own all day long. Dogs need daily exercise and mental stimulation. It helps them stay calm and well-balanced.

You also need to remember that owning a dog can get in the way of your social activity. It is your job to **5)**_____ you can handle your dog appropriately. It’s true that by training your dog, you’ll be able to take him with you to visit friends, run errands, or sit outside a coffee shop, for example. But you won’t be able to leave for a spur of the moment weekend away.

As many dog owners will testify, dogs can be destructive. Plus any dog can have an occasional accident at home. It **6)**_____ happens if he’s sick or been left alone for too long. Also, some dogs have a tendency to chew shoes or destroy cushions. You can control this negative, destructive behaviour by providing your dog with training and exercise, but if the dog is left alone for long periods of time these measures will be less effective.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Example: | a) talk | <input checked="" type="radio"/> b) research | c) hope | d) help |
| 1. | a) accomplish | b) appreciate | c) approve | d) maintain |
| 2. | a) lacking in | b) rich in | c) provided with | d) available to |
| 3. | a) giving away | b) choosing | c) preparing | d) losing |
| 4. | a) beneficial | b) fun | c) comparable | d) significant |
| 5. | a) find out | b) make sure | c) promise | d) train |
| 6. | a) rarely | b) never | c) usually | d) surprisingly |

(6 marks)

Reading Task 2

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

Delhi's Air Pollution Leading to a Health Crisis.

Experts have long suggested a link between Delhi's toxic air and allergies and other serious medical conditions. But evidence from a recent car-free experiment collected by Professor Raj Kumar, a specialist from the University of Delhi, suggests that action to cut pollution might be effective. For a few hours last week, all private cars were banned from driving into the heart of old Delhi. This so called 'car free day' experiment was considered a success: scientists monitoring the air found a dramatic 60% drop in the amount of dangerous pollutants compared to the previous day.

Professor Kumar claims that Delhi is the most polluted city in the world, with other doctors and scientists agreeing that the locals are facing a public health crisis because pollutants worsen health issues such as asthma or heart disease. Clinics have to open for double their normal working hours in order to keep up with demand. Even then, corridors are overrun with wheezing patients, queuing for oxygen masks to take respite breaths as they wait. It is the rapid development of the country in recent years that has led to India having 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities. The World Health Organisation found that Delhi had an average of 153 micrograms of the smallest particles*, known as PM2.5s, per cubic metre in its air. The international 'safe' level for these particles is only 6 micrograms per cubic metre.

'Scientists have different opinions about what is the main cause of this pollution,' said Professor Kumar. He continued, 'There are over 8m vehicles on the roads already, with 1,400 new ones added every day. Most of these new vehicles burn diesel and have poor emissions standards, belching out clouds of the tiny PM2.5 particles that can be most harmful to health. In addition to vehicles, there are an increasing number of diesel-burning electrical generators attached to modern apartment blocks in the capital. Farms and coal-burning factories around the region further worsen the air.'

Health problems are happening now but the vehicle and factory emissions also contain greenhouse gases such as nitrous oxide, ozone and carbon dioxide. These will remain in the atmosphere for many decades and contribute to future climate change across the planet. India's cities are facing the problems right now but the pollution (and its problems) is a warning about what many more developing nations will face in future.

The Indian government says it is aware of the issue. Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said he wants to fast-track the construction of a bypass that would enable around 50,000 polluting lorries to avoid driving into the city every day. And he wants the car companies to clean up their vehicles to the stricter standards in Europe. 'We want to migrate early but the auto industry is not ready,' said the Environment Minister. The car industry in India could produce vehicles which comply with the Euro-6 standard, he said, but they have been lagging behind. 'We will deal with this threat of air pollution and we will win the battle and we will see a marked difference in the next two years.'

Delhi did manage to clean up its air before. At the turn of the century, the local government moved polluting industries out of the city, shut down coal-burning power plants and forced public transport vehicles to move from diesel and petrol to cleaner alternatives. 'The air quality improved steadily until 2007', said Anumita Roychowdhury of the Centre for Science and Environment. 'But if you look at the data from 2009 onwards, you will find the levels are increasing again and have gone up so high that now what we are saying is that we have lost the gains of the action taken by the first generation.'

For Professor Kumar, all Delhi citizens need to do their part in dealing with the pollution problem resulting from increased industrialisation. Health professionals need to petition authorities to act and individuals must work out how to keep the city growing without just buying more cars.

**particle: (noun) - a minute portion, piece, fragment, or amount; a tiny or very small bit: a particle of dust.*

Example: The article blames the health crisis in Delhi on:

- a) polluted air.
- b) ineffective healthcare system.
- c) inadequate waste disposal.
- d) an experiment that went wrong.

1. Which of the following statements best describes Professor Kumar's view of the car-free day?

- a) It didn't work at all.
- b) It had some dramatic long term results.
- c) It produced promising scientific data.
- d) It should take place more regularly.

2. The health service in Delhi:

- a) has introduced new medical treatments specifically for asthmatics.
- b) struggles to cope with the number of patients.
- c) is considered to be the most inefficient in India.
- d) does not have the medical equipment to assist most patients.

3. The World Health Organisation discovered the quality of the air in Delhi:

- a) falls just below the international safety standards.
- b) is comparable with the majority of large cities.
- c) at times falls short of the international safety standards.
- d) drastically falls below the international safety standards.

4. The air quality in Delhi:

- a) hasn't improved, despite a decrease in the number of factories.
- b) is blamed entirely on vehicle emissions.
- c) has resulted in more electrical generators being installed.
- d) is partly blamed on farms.

5. According to the author, the situation in Delhi now:

- a) will have an impact on the rest of the world.
- b) will ensure other cities do not make the same mistake.
- c) directly contradicts the scientific data available.
- d) is so bad it cannot be reversed.

6. The delay in the introduction of the new standards for the car industry is caused by:

- a) the government.
- b) the industry itself.
- c) new standards being too demanding.
- d) consumers.

7. Anumita Roychowdhury believes that air pollution in Delhi is now:

- a) at an acceptable level, but worsening.
- b) deteriorating again after a period of improvement.
- c) at about the same level as it was in 2007.
- d) quickly improving due to the improvement work already undertaken.

8. Which statement best describes Professor Kumar's opinion?

- a) Polluting industries should be moved out of the city.
- b) The responsibility for addressing the issues rests with everyone.
- c) The pollution crisis needs further international media coverage.
- d) Pollution cannot be avoided due to industrialisation.

(8 marks)

Reading Task 3

Read the four texts and answer the questions below 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 – Tetley’s

This bar and restaurant at the former Tetley’s factory, in close vicinity of the city centre, is the product of heavy investment, and this newly refurbished space is now both a centre for contemporary art and a place to eat and drink. The interior of this distinctive red brick building is functional and stylish, cosy and welcoming. It offers a suitable option for a range of clientele; whether you’re treating your gran to lunch or just hanging out with friends, you won’t feel out of place. Plaques, flags and brewing posters cover the walls and pay tribute to the building’s rich manufacturing heritage, making a visit to Tetley’s as nostalgic an experience as it is a modern one.

The inviting space reflects the building’s industrial heritage, and the food and selection of alcoholic drinks on offer are sufficiently fashionable to entice trendy young professionals. Meals are served on homely earthenware; the couscous salad is warm and full of flavour – something the haddock and egg salad unfortunately lacks. Portions are a little ungenerous, but can be padded with snacks from the bar menu.

Text B – Café Moor

Found at the heart of the rough ‘n’ ready Kirkgate Market, Café Moor is not exactly embedded in glamorous surroundings. However, with its exotic eastern and North African cooking, amazingly cheap snacks and meals, and the freshness of everything served, it’s the sort of place where you’ll impress your dining companion with your knowledge of off-the-beaten-track and pocket-friendly cuisine.

Approaching the tiny, covered eatery is like stepping into a miniature version of a Moroccan souk, with all the energy, fantastic smells and vibrancy of the food on offer. The serving counter holds huge bowls of houmous sprinkled with paprika, as well as dolma, or stuffed vine leaves, dishes of salad and huge bunches of mint to make the free mint tea offered with any meal or sandwich. Olives, roasted vegetables, flatbreads and spices seem to fill every available space, ready to be whipped up into a tasty treat by the lightning-fast and cheerful staff.

Text C –The Arch Café

This light and airy café is adjacent to St John’s Church and works with some of the region’s best local and independent suppliers to serve seasonal and responsibly sourced food and drink. Not so quiet at the weekend when its tables fill quickly for lunch, Arch offers a welcome and peaceful break from similarly sized chain eateries. This is mostly due to its slightly concealed location and solid ethical business model. Those concerned about food miles can rest assured the café sources its meat, eggs, bread and mayo locally.

The countertop is laden with huge homemade cakes which go perfectly with tea or coffee, but more substantial lunches can consist of freshly made flans and tarts, a toasted ciabatta, a warming portion of soup or a crunchy green salad – all prepared in the small kitchen and priced at an average of £5. Cream tea will set you back a mere £3.50 (or £6.50 for two), and a full-blown afternoon tea costs a very reasonable £8.95 (£16.95 for two). You’ll wonder why you hadn’t stumbled upon it sooner.

Text D – NOM

Serving authentic and tasty Vietnamese street food, Nom is a safe bet for those who are on the hunt for a more exciting lunch than the usual soup or sandwich that’s not too heavy on the wallet. The café is light and bright with pictures of street food being sold in Vietnam, as a reminder of where the food originates. Nom’s owners – a husband and wife team – are passionate about the filling and flavoursome dishes they serve. Customers can choose from table seating, or watch the world go by from the counter, while takeaway service is also available for those in a rush.

The banh mi sandwiches (starting at £3.95) are very good, and feature a locally made baguette that’s crisp on the outside yet soft inside, packed with a choice of delicious fillings – either chicken, grilled fish, barbecue pork, duck or mushroom. Additional condiments such as coriander and chilli help to bring the food to life, and come as standard. The menu also features summer rolls, pho (Vietnamese noodle soup) and noodle salads, all of which are freshly made. Vegetarians or those with gluten intolerances will also find themselves well catered for.

Which text does the following?

Text

Example: Describes a venue which cost a lot to set up?

A

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Includes no information about the venue's location. | _____ |
| 2. | Describes a venue whose décor is inspired by its history. | _____ |
| 3. | Describes a venue offering surprisingly good value food. | _____ |
| 4. | Makes recommendations for the venue. | _____ |
| 5. | Criticises some of the food served at the venue. | _____ |
| 6. | Describes a venue not suitable for vegetarians. | _____ |
| 7. | States that the venue resembles another place. | _____ |
| 8. | Describes a business aware of its environmental impact. | _____ |

(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