

**ESOL International
English Reading Examination**

Level C2 Proficient

Instructions to learners

Check that you have the correct paper.

Please complete the information on your mark sheet.

Use black or blue ink. Do not use a pencil.

You may NOT use a dictionary.

There are 30 questions in this examination.

You must attempt all the questions. Record

your answers on the mark sheet. Total

marks available: 30

You have **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

Text 1

Read the text below and answer the questions.

Public health experts have warned that controversial experiments on mutant viruses could put human lives in danger by unleashing an accidental pandemic.	1
Several groups of scientists around the world are creating and altering viruses to understand how natural strains might evolve into more lethal forms that spread easily among humans.	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
But in a report published on Tuesday, researchers at Harvard and Yale universities in the US argue that the benefits of the work is outweighed by the risk of pathogenic strains escaping from laboratories and spreading around the world.	7
They calculate that if 10 high-containment labs in the US performed such experiments for 10 years, the chance of at least one person becoming infected was nearly 20%. If an infected person left the laboratory, the virus might then spread more widely.	8
	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
"We are not saying this is going to happen, but when the potential is a pandemic, even a small chance is something you have to weigh up very carefully," said Marc Lipsitch, an epidemiologist at Harvard School of Public Health, who wrote the report with Alison Galvani, an epidemiologist at Yale.	15
	16
	17
	18
	19
Those studies, led by Ron Fouchier at Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam and Yoshihiro Kawaoka at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where eventually published after months of delays. Other researchers have now begun similar experiments.	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
Last year, the US government, funds most of the work, revised it's guidelines for "dual-use research of concern", or DURC. Under the new rules, work can be funded if the potential benefits are substantial and the risks considered to be manageable.	25
	26
	27

1. What are the main purposes of the text?
 - a. To entertain and inform
 - b. To persuade and describe
 - c. To give facts and inform
 - d. To instruct and inform

2. The word 'eventually' as used on line 21 can be replaced by:
 - a. ultimately
 - b. finally
 - c. in the long run
 - d. eventfully

3. In paragraph two, which statement affirms they have some sort of control over the situation
 - a. The benefits of the work outweigh the risk
 - b. The US performed such experiments for 10 years
 - c. The change of one person becoming infected was nearly 20%
 - d. The virus might spread more widely

4. According to the text, which statement is true?
 - a. Researchers say that experiments on viruses are extremely risky.
 - b. Experiments on viruses are very safe.
 - c. Experiments on viruses have led to pandemics.
 - d. There is never 100% security when experimenting with viruses.

5. Last year the US government:
 - a. banned all work on viruses.
 - b. banned work on viruses conducted by universities.
 - c. said it will only fund work if the risk is minimal.
 - d. said it will not fund any work on viruses.

6. There is a grammatical error on:
- a. Line 2
 - b. Line 4
 - c. Line 8
 - d. Line 10
7. There is a spelling mistake on:
- a. Line 9
 - b. Line 11
 - c. Line 21
 - d. Line 28
8. A word has been correctly spelt but incorrectly used on:
- a. Line 16
 - b. Line 21
 - c. Line 25
 - d. Line 26
9. A word has been omitted on line 25. It should be:
- a. which
 - b. who
 - c. whose
 - d. where
10. A punctuation error has been made on:
- a. Line 10
 - b. Line 15
 - c. Line 25
 - d. Line 26

Text 2

Whether it is down to Hollywood blockbusters or Scooby Doo, our fascination with Egyptian mummies has lasted for more than 200 years. Now the latest generation of CT scanners - normally used to check living patients - have been used by the British Museum, in London, to shed new light on one of its most popular collections.	1 2 3 4 5
The findings show we share rather more with the ancient Egyptians than you might expect, including high cholesterol levels and agonizing toothache. Eight of the museum's mummies have been virtually unwrapped - revealing secrets they took to the grave thousands of years ago.	6 7 8 9
Each long-dead individual was painstakingly transported to hospitals across the capital and placed - out of hours and late at night - inside the latest generation of CT scanners.	10 11 12
The unprecedented levels of resolution have shown some unexpected developments. They include the revelation that one of the mummies, found in a woman's coffin and believed for hundreds of years to be female, was in fact a man. The first mummy entered the museum's collection in 1756, but, for the past 200 years, none of the mummies have been unwrapped because of the damage that would be done.	13 14 15 16 17 18
Now, cutting-edge visualisation techniques mean not only curators, but every visitor to the exhibition can peel away the wrappings and virtually explore what lies beneath.	19 20 21
All the mummies chosen once lived in the Nile Valley, between 3,500BC and 700AD. The exhibition reveals more about how they lived and died and shows the embalming process does not always go to plan - particularly for one man from Thebes.	22 23 24 25
Curator Daniel Antoine told Sky News, "Facial visualisation reveals a tool still stuck in his head. There had been an to remove his brain but, during it, one of the tools used to go through the nose appears to have snapped and surprisingly that tool is still lodged inside him."	26 27 28 29
Like all of the adult mummies, the same man was found to have advanced dental decay - with four separate abscesses in his mouth. Another two individuals still have calcified plaque on their bones, suggesting they may have suffered from cardiovascular disease.	30 31 32 33
Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum, said, "This new technology is truly groundbreaking".	34 35

- 11. According to the text, which sentence is true?**
- a. Mummies were unwrapped for the first time.
 - b. Mummies originated in 1756.
 - c. Mummies are all males.
 - d. CT scanners have been used on mummies.
- 12. What did the tests on mummies reveal?**
- a. Many people had their noses damaged.
 - b. Many people suffered from toothaches.
 - c. Many people had lung problems.
 - d. Many people suffered from cancer.
- 13. What is a CT scanner normally used for?**
- a. Medical tests on living patients.
 - b. Post-mortem examinations.
 - c. Tests on animals.
 - d. Test archaeological objects.
- 14. Have many mummies have been unwrapped?**
- a. Zero
 - b. Eight
 - c. Two hundred
 - d. Three thousand five hundred
- 15. The style used in the text can be described as:**
- a. Descriptive and instructive
 - b. Entertaining and instructive
 - c. Formal and persuasive
 - d. Informative and entertaining

- 16. The wrong tense has been used on:**
- a. Line 6
 - b. Line 8
 - c. Line 13
 - d. Line 24
- 17. A spelling mistake has been made on:**
- a. Line 15
 - b. Line 17
 - c. Line 20
 - d. Line 24
- 18. On line 27 a word has been omitted. The word should be:**
- a. effort
 - b. attempt
 - c. challenge
 - d. endeavour
- 19. The phrase 'cutting-edge' as used on line 19 means:**
- a. sharp
 - b. blunt
 - c. modern
 - d. old
- 20. There is a punctuation error on:**
- a. Line 15
 - b. Line 20
 - c. Line 22
 - d. Line 34

Text 3

British and American intelligence agents attempting to hack the "dark web" are being deliberately undermined by colleagues, it has been alleged.

Spies from both countries have been working on finding flaws in Tor, a popular way of anonymously accessing "hidden" sites.

But the team behind Tor says other spies are tipping them off, allowing them to quickly fix any vulnerabilities.

The agencies declined to comment.

The allegations were made in an interview given to the BBC by Andrew Lewman, who is responsible for all the Tor Project's operations.

He said leaks had come from both the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and the US National Security Agency (NSA).

By fixing these flaws, the project can protect users' anonymity, he said.

"There are plenty of people in both organisations who can anonymously leak data to us to say - maybe you should look here, maybe you should look at this to fix this," he said. "And they have."

Mr Lewman is part of a team of software engineers responsible for the Tor Browser - software designed to prevent it being possible to trace users' internet activity. The programmes involved also offer access to otherwise hard-to-reach websites, some of which are used for illegal purposes.

- 21. The text suggests, that:**
- a. British and American agents are intelligent.
 - b. British and American agents don't give away secrets.
 - c. There are a lot of spies in Britain and America.
 - d. Some spies pass on secret information.
- 22. The phrase 'tipping off' as used paragraph 3, is understood as:**
- a. get tips
 - b. get drunk
 - c. reveal secrets
 - d. tell lies
- 23. What has 'the dark web' been used for?**
- a. Entertainment
 - b. Criminal activity
 - c. Finding spies
 - d. Hacking private sites
- 24. What is the Tor Project?**
- a. Browser to access difficult sites
 - b. Secret organisation
 - c. British intelligence
 - d. American intelligence
- 25. Who recently questioned Mr Lewman?**
- a. Tor
 - b. BBC
 - c. NSA
 - d. GCHQ

Text 4

Every now and then a story pops up to crumble our hard city hearts and make us want to run away to Peru to look after a few hundred sick cats. Peruvian nurse, Maria Torero, has given a whole new meaning to the phrase 'cat lady'. The 45-year-old mum-of-three has adopted 175 poorly cats suffering from feline leukaemia and looks after them in her two-floor home in a kind of makeshift cat hospital - complete with food bowls and litter trays scattered around.

A nurse to humans by day, Torero explained to Associated Press that she's not interested in simply giving a home to healthy strays. "That's not my role. I'm a nurse. My duty is to the cats that nobody cares about," adding: "People don't adopt adult cats, especially if they are terminally ill."

She funds the hospital, which spreads throughout her eight-roomed apartment, partly out of donations and tops it up with money she makes from her own day job. And somehow manages to look after her three children (16, 14 and 6) too. Looking after the kitties she estimates costs \$1785 (£1070) a month.

For the past five years Torero and her family have cared for cats in the last stages of their lives. Feline leukaemia is a retrovirus that lowers the immune system and, though cats can survive for several years with it, their life expectancy is much shorter. The disease can be passed between cats (unlike human leukaemia), so Torero doesn't allow any kittens into her home. It doesn't affect humans or other species but can lead to a variety of other diseases, including a form of fatal blood cancer.

Torero finds the cats wandering around the capital, Lima and has them tested for the condition before bringing them home. The majority of the street cats test positive, as well as having a string of other problems including fleas and parasites. Torero administers medicine, sterilises the animals and gets rid of their fleas. Her arms bear the mark of scratches from reluctant felines.

The cats sleep in adorably cute plastic drawers instead of baskets and Torero has even sewn them cute cat jumpers to keep them warm in their illness.

- 26. Where does Maria live?**
- a. Mexico
 - b. Torero
 - c. Peru
 - d. Brazil
- 27. What did Maria do with the first 175 cats?**
- a. Took them to the vets.
 - b. Took them to her improvised hospital.
 - c. Took them to a cattery.
 - d. Looked after them in the streets.
- 28. Which statement is true, as stated in the text?**
- a. Maria looks after sick cats only.
 - b. Maria looks after all cats.
 - c. Maria looks after all old cats.
 - d. Maria looks after sick animals.
- 29. How does she fund her project?**
- a. Donations only
 - b. Her wages and money from the government
 - c. Donations and her wages
 - d. Donations and money from the government
- 30. How does Maria care for cats?**
- a. She gets rid of fleas.
 - b. She sterilises them.
 - c. She gives them medicine.
 - d. She does all of the above.


End of Examination for Reading - Level C2



NOCN
The Quadrant
Parkway Business Centre
99 Parkway Avenue
Sheffield
S9 4WG
UK


E-mail: nocn@nocn.org.uk

Tel: +44 (0)114 2270500
Fax: +44 (0)114 2270501

For Reading Paper

Instructions: Draw a line through either a, b, c, d or e to answer each question. 

If you change your mind black out the wrong answer  and choose a new one with a line. 

If you think your first answer was right, black out the wrong answer and circle your first answer. 

Insert Learner
Label Here

1	a	b	c	d	NOCN Use Only
2	a	b	c	d	
3	a	b	c	d	
4	a	b	c	d	
5	a	b	c	d	
6	a	b	c	d	
7	a	b	c	d	
8	a	b	c	d	
9	a	b	c	d	
10	a	b	c	d	
11	a	b	c	d	
12	a	b	c	d	
13	a	b	c	d	
14	a	b	c	d	
15	a	b	c	d	
16	a	b	c	d	
17	a	b	c	d	
18	a	b	c	d	
19	a	b	c	d	
20	a	b	c	d	
21	a	b	c	d	
22	a	b	c	d	
23	a	b	c	d	
24	a	b	c	d	
25	a	b	c	d	
26	a	b	c	d	
27	a	b	c	d	
28	a	b	c	d	
29	a	b	c	d	
30	a	b	c	d	

Total marks _____

Learner Signature _____

Date _____