

HIPPO 2019

7th International English Language Olympiad

IESOL Assessment Reading

RQF Level: Level 2

(CEFR Level: C1)

Hippo 5 – S1

Reading

Semi-final Round

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CANDIDATES:

- Do NOT turn over the page until instructed.
- This examination is made up of 3 TASKS.
- Answer all the questions
- Use only black or blue PEN.
- Remember to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Total marks available: 40

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.

The History of the Classroom Blackboard

Few people realise that the classroom blackboard is one of the most revolutionary educational **0)**_____ ever invented. And it may be hard to imagine that blackboards were unknown until relatively recent times.

The invention of the blackboard had an enormous **1)**_____ on classroom efficiency. Due to their simplicity, effectiveness, economy and ease of use, the simple blackboard and its cousin the whiteboard have substantial **2)**_____ over any number of more-complex modern technologies. It's unlikely they will ever become **3)**_____.

Blackboard classroom history begins in ancient times. Students in ancient Babylonia and Sumeria wrote down their lessons on clay tablets with a stylus (a tool used for writing before the pen and pencil). These could be used wet, and have the writing erased to be used again, or baked to create a **4)**_____ document. Also, in 11th century India, teachers used something similar to personal blackboards in their lessons.

At the end of the 18th century, students in Europe and America were still using individual slates or pieces of wood coated with paint and framed with wood. Paper and ink were expensive but slate and wood were plentiful and cheap, making them the **5)**_____ option. Unfortunately, they were also highly **6)**_____. Teachers had no way to present a lesson or a problem to the class as a whole; **7)**_____ they had to go to each individual student and write a problem or assignment on each one's slate.

In 1801, the rather obvious solution to the problem made its **8)**_____. James Pillans, headmaster and geography teacher at the Old High School in Edinburgh, Scotland, is **9)**_____ with inventing the first modern blackboard when he hung a large piece of slate on the classroom wall. In America, the first use of a wall-mounted blackboard **10)**_____ at West Point in the classroom of instructor George Baron.

Other schools rapidly **11)**_____ this new innovation. America's fast-growing railroad system **12)**_____ that by the middle of the 19th century, almost every classroom in America had a blackboard, mostly using slate shipped from quarries the Eastern USA. Businesses also started using them in their boardrooms.

Glossary:

slate: a type of rock which easily splits into smooth, flat plates.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Example: | a) ideas | b) methods | <input checked="" type="radio"/> c) tools | d) philosophies |
| 1. | a) impact | b) pressure | c) outcome | d) appeal |
| 2. | a) influence | b) choices | c) advantages | d) profits |
| 3. | a) up-to-date | b) common | c) obsolete | d) ancient |
| 4. | a) permanent | b) continuous | c) modern | d) temporary |
| 5. | a) economical | b) stingy | c) wasteful | d) difficult |
| 6. | a) competent | b) incapable | c) complicated | d) inefficient |
| 7. | a) alongside | b) instead | c) otherwise | d) yet |
| 8. | a) beginning | b) contribution | c) introduction | d) debut |
| 9. | a) credited | b) paid | c) tasked | d) surprised |
| 10. | a) turned up | b) visited | c) occurred | d) arrived |
| 11. | a) questioned | b) criticised | c) improved | d) adopted |
| 12. | a) ensured | b) resulted | c) promoted | d) demanded |

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.

History of the Pencil

1. Why are pencils yellow? Ask the Emperor.

Yellow pencils have been a tradition since the late 1800s, when the best graphite in the world was produced in China. Western pencil businessmen wanted their customers to know their pencils were filled with top-quality lead, so they painted their instruments in the colour associated with Chinese royalty: yellow. Remind your children of this regal heritage the next time they're scribbling stick figures all over their maths homework.

2. Without pencils, there would be no "rubber".

Before erasers became a common pencil **GAP 1** _____ in 1858, you would not have been surprised to see a writer carrying around a stale baguette with his papers and gear. That's because breadcrumbs were the writing world's most popular erasers from 1612 to 1770. The first rubber eraser was supposedly used by accident when a writer was reaching for his crumbs, and instead picked up a hunk of what the French called *caoutchouc*—a stretchy sample of the newly-discovered Para tree. The substance proved great for *rubbing* pencil marks off of paper. Since then, we've called it a rubber.

3. The pencil's journey into space.

As school-kids and space-explorers are well aware, pencils are amazing for their **versatility**: they can write underwater, upside down, and even in zero gravity. Despite myths that NASA spent millions developing a space-pen while cosmonauts relied on good old graphite, the agency was quick to realise the pencil's **GAP 2** _____. As *Scientific American* reports, "NASA ordered 34 mechanical pencils from Houston's Tycam Engineering Manufacturing in 1965. They paid \$4,382.50 or \$128.89 per pencil." Understandably, the general public strongly **GAP 3** _____ such wasteful use of money. And after the *Apollo 1* cabin fire of 1967 mechanical pencils were forever grounded for being too flammable.

4. Paragraph 4 title

A single pencil is said to hold enough graphite to draw a line 35 miles long, or write 45,000 words. If that's true, Ernest Hemingway could have written *The Old Man And The Sea* (27,000 words) in a single stroke—and for all we know, he did. "If you write with a pencil you get three different sights at it to see if the reader is getting what you want him to," Hemingway wrote in a 1935 *Esquire* article, "First when you read it over; then when it is typed you get another chance to improve it, and again in the proof. Writing it first in pencil gives you one-third more chance to improve it."

5. Is there lead in pencil lead?

Here's a myth buster: there is no lead in pencils. Rather, the core is made up of a non-toxic mineral called graphite, mixed with clay. The common name "pencil lead" is most likely due to an historic association with the stylus - a writing utensil that precedes the pencil - which was made of lead in ancient Roman times. Another theory says that the graphite that pencils have always been made of was so much like the lead ores found at the time that the residents called it 'plumbago' - which is Latin for lead ore, or colloquially, black lead. Legend has it that in 1564, some shepherds from Borrowdale, a small village in England, were looking for their lost flock in a storm when they stumbled upon a massive deposit of pure graphite under a lightning-scorched tree. Experts decided that it must be a rare vein of 'plumbago' - and an enormous mining industry exploded around it.

6. Stealing a pencil could earn you 7 years in prison.

In 1800, the price of England's rare 'plumbago' was set around £100 per ton—but after some savvy engineer discovered you could coat cannonballs in it, the price skyrocketed to £5,000 per ton by 1830. Armed guards were stationed outside the mine day and night, and workers forced to strip before heading home in case they tried to smuggle some valuable graphite flakes in their trouser pockets. A graphite black market emerged, and conmen made small fortunes selling fake pencils that were essentially just wooden sticks with blackened tips. The graphite boom got so rowdy that Parliament passed an act to make stealing 'plumbago' a crime punishable by seven years imprisonment.

7. Later, just owning a pencil sharpener could get you arrested.

...Or at least hit with a harsh fine. During World War II, rotary pencil sharpeners were banned in Great Britain because the waste of wood and graphite was considered **GAP 4** _____. If you had a blunt pencil, but you'd be far less likely to sharpen your pencil every five minutes if you had to sharpen it the old-fashioned way: with a knife.

Example: The main purpose of this text is to:

- a) advise.
- ☒ b) inform.
- c) caution.
- d) advertise.

13. Why are so many pencils yellow?

- a) Yellow dye is known for its superior quality.
- b) The Chinese emperor ordered the use of this colour.
- c) Historically, pencil makers relied on positive associations with the colour.
- d) To make the pencils stand out and therefore be less likely to be lost.

14. In paragraph 2, the best word to fit the gap is:

- a) accessory
- b) tool
- c) fashion
- d) user

15. What does the word 'caoutchouc' refer to?

- a) It is a French word for pieces of bread.
- b) A type of eraser popular between 1612 and 1770.
- c) The name of the material used to make a modern eraser.
- d) The name that the French tried to adopt for erasers.

16. In paragraph 3, the word 'versatility' means:

- a) the state of being frequently encountered
- b) the ability be used in many different functions or environments
- c) the quality of being easy to use
- d) the ability to learn something quickly

17. In paragraph 3, the best word to fit the first gap is:

- a) potential
- b) options
- c) improvement
- d) limitations

18. In paragraph 3, the best word to fit the second gap is:

- a) supported
- b) considered
- c) removed
- d) objected to

19. Why did NASA stop using mechanical pencils in the end?

- a) They did not work in space.
- b) They could only be produced by one company.
- c) Their development cost millions of dollars.
- d) Their elements are flammable.

20. Why was Hemingway a fan of writing with a pencil?

- a) Because he wrote one of his famous novels using just one pencil.
- b) Because you can easily erase the errors as you write.
- c) Because it gave him an extra opportunity to revise his work.
- d) Because an article he read recommended this method.

21. What is the best title for paragraph 4?

- a) Hemingway's best novel.
- b) The case against the pencil.
- c) Hemingway's secret to great writing.
- d) All writers love their pencils.

22. Why do some people think pencil core contains lead?

- a) Due to graphite's similarity to lead.
- b) As historians found references to this in Roman scripts.
- c) Because of how toxic the core is.
- d) Because of a mistake made by an engineer.

23. What does the text suggest Borrowdale is most known for?

- a) The many legends that originate from there.
- b) The great storm of 1564 that happened there.
- c) A large source of graphite was found there.
- d) It was the home of a well-known engineer.

24. The prices of 'plumbago' in the 1800's:

- a) remained stable.
- b) increased slightly.
- c) increased drastically.
- d) decreased to an affordable level.

25. Why were guards positioned outside of the mine?

- a) To protect workmen from conmen selling fake goods.
- b) To stop the workers from heading home early.
- c) To protect the cannonballs stored at the mine.
- d) To prevent the theft of the graphite.

26. In paragraph 7, the best word to fit the gap is:

- a) addictive.
- b) disadvantaged.
- c) exhaustive.
- d) excessive.

Reading Task 3

A) Read the four texts and answer the questions below by indicating which text each question relates to: A, B, C or D.

An example has been done for you.

Text A - Emperor penguins

The emperor is the largest living penguin species, standing around 115cm tall. Once they have found a partner they usually mate for life and work together to keep their young fed and safe.

They might look a bit clumsy on land, but penguins are brilliant swimmers. Emperor penguins can perform the deepest and longest dives of any bird, often reaching depths of over 200 metres. One bird has been recorded at a depth of 565 metres.

Emperors are well adapted to thrive in the freezing conditions of the Antarctic. To preserve heat, they have a dense double layer of feathers – about 70 feathers per square inch – large fat reserves and, proportionally, smaller beaks and flippers compared to other penguins. This all helps prevent heat loss. They also work together to keep warm by huddling up in large groups, shuffling around so each gets a turn in the warm centre.

Populations have declined by up to 50% in some places and one colony off the Antarctic Peninsula has disappeared completely. The biggest threat to them right now is climate change which causes changes in the sea ice they depend on.

Text B - Royal penguins

Royal penguins are mid-sized penguins. In many ways they look similar to macaroni penguins. However, royals are up to 20% larger than macaronis and also have tend to have white to pale grey faces, while macaronis have black faces. The yellow plumes on their heads meet on the forehead. It takes several years for the crests to develop fully. Thus, in young penguins the crests are not as lush as in adults. The sexes are similar but males tend to be somewhat larger than females.

Royal penguins are endemic to Macquarie Island where the vast majority lives, and the nearby Bishop and Clerk Islets where about 1000 pairs breed. Royals at Macquarie Island live in very large colonies. The largest colony at Hurd Point on Macquarie Island has around 500,000 pairs. Precisely how many royal penguins there are is unknown, but the population is thought to be currently stable. However, due to key populations existing on only 3 islands in close proximity, they are considered to have a more critical conservation status.

Text C - Gentoo penguins

Gentoo penguins are the third largest penguin species alive. Adults weigh 5–8 kg but how heavy they are depends on the phase in their annual cycle. Males tend to be larger than females but the difference can be difficult to see. A bright red-orange bill and conspicuous white eye patches make both adult and juveniles easily distinguishable from other species of penguin.

Gentoo penguins have a large geographical range GAP 1 _____ they breed on many sub-Antarctic islands and on the Antarctic Peninsula. The largest populations of gentoo penguins are found at the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula.

With a total breeding population of approximately 387 000 pairs, gentoo penguins are the least abundant of the penguins found on the sub-Antarctic islands. Around the Antarctic Peninsula, gentoo populations may be increasing. However, they may be decreasing in the southern Indian Ocean. GAP 2 _____, their global population is considered stable.

Gentoos build nests on beaches or amongst tussocks, and keenly defend their turf. Each year the location of their breeding colony is slightly different. While Adélie penguins, for example, often return year after year to the same nest sites, gentoos may occupy a new area near to that of the previous year. They generally occupy their islands all year round.

Text D - Adélie penguins

With their black back and head, and white front, Adélie penguins are like miniature men in evening dress. They are named after the wife of Dumont d'Urville, the French Antarctic explorer. Adélies are truly Antarctic penguins, restricted to Antarctic coastal waters. During winter they spend their time in the drift ice, then in the summer they move south, back to the Antarctic coast.

Adélies feed on tiny aquatic creatures, such as shrimp-like krill, but also eat fish and squid. Like other penguins, Adélies are sleek and efficient swimmers. They may travel 185 miles in a round-trip to find a meal.

During the spring breeding season, they GAP 3 _____ the rocky Antarctic coastline where they live in large communities called colonies. These groups can include thousands of birds. Once on land, Adélies build nests and line them with small stones. Though they move with the famed "penguin waddle", they are GAP 4 _____ walkers who can cover long overland distances. In early spring, before the vast sheets of ice break up, they may have to walk 31 miles from their onshore nests to reach open water.

Male Adélie penguins help their mates rear the young and, without close inspection, the two sexes are nearly indistinguishable. They take turns sitting on a pair of eggs to keep them warm and safe from predators. When food is short, only one of the two chicks may survive. After about three weeks, parents are able to leave the chicks alone, though the offspring gather in groups for safety.

Which text...

Text

Example: describes the largest species of penguin?

A

27. describe penguins whose entire population lives in a small geographical range?

28. includes information about the penguins' diet?

29. describes how the penguins cope with the cold?

30. gives the origin of the penguins' name?

31. says that the weight of the penguins changes during the year?

32. describes penguins whose numbers have drastically reduced?

33. compares the appearance of two penguin species?

34. describes penguins whose appearance is very different to other penguin species?

B) Now answer the following questions by circling the correct option.

35. In text A, the underlined word 'shuffle' refers to a type of:

- a) noise.
- b) movement.
- c) food.
- d) rock.

36. In text B, the underlined word 'crest' refers to:

- a) an element of appearance.
- b) an ability.
- c) a type of behaviour.
- d) a type of food.

37. In text C, the best word to complete gap 1 is:

- a) if
- b) but
- c) as
- d) once

38. In text C, the best word to complete gap 2 is:

- a) Equally
- b) In particular
- c) Inevitably
- d) Overall

39. In text D, the best verb to complete gap 3 is:

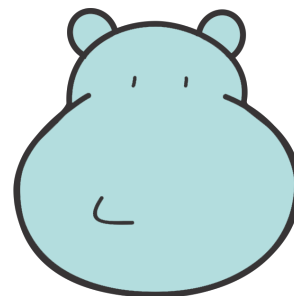
- a) take to
- b) take after
- c) take off
- d) take away

40. In text D, the best word to complete gap 4 is:

- a) considerate
- b) appalling
- c) distinctive
- d) capable

Semifinal Round

Time allowed: 45 minutes



Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

1. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. (Write about 140 words.)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2. Complete the second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between three and eight words in each gap.

1. Passengers can only board the plane when all bags have been checked. **AFTER**
Only _____ board the plane.
2. There was so much concern about the situation that the police were called. **SO**
The police were called, _____ there.
3. A test was planned for the following Monday so I spent the weekend revising. **GOING**
I spent the weekend revising because _____ the following Monday.
4. As far as I know, no one's talking behind your back. **BEST**
To _____, no one's talking behind your back.
5. Henry and his father are very similar, aren't they? **AFTER**
Henry _____, doesn't he?
6. 'Does Tony follow current affairs closely?' Asked Susie. **INTEREST**
Susie asked me _____ current affairs.
7. If the council stopped wasting money, more people might approve of them. **TO**
Were _____ money, more people might approve of them.
8. A friend of mine has fixed our gate for us. **HAD**
We _____ by a friend of mine.
9. We had to wait for two hours before they let us in. **WAITING**
We _____ before they let us in.
10. I didn't have enough money so I didn't go on holiday last summer. **HAD**
If I _____ on holiday last summer.

3. Decide if the sentences are correct or incorrect, cross out the incorrect part and write the correct version in the space provided.

11. If we all club together, we should be able to get him a nice present. _____
12. I'll give you the money, but you have to give me back in 20 days. _____
13. I like to grind my own coffee because it tastes much better. _____
14. That ugly new building is a real mark on the landscape. _____
15. His last film was nowhere close as good as this one. _____
16. It's not very good behaviour to eat with your mouth open. _____
17. It's fruitless even trying to help him, I am afraid. _____
18. Don't be so senseless, don't you see that he is pining for the fjords. _____
19. Fasten your seatbelt, because we are about to land. _____
20. It's such an ugly sculpture that it has no redeeming characteristics. _____

4. Fill in the gaps to complete the sentences. Use one word for each gap.

21. I am going to _____ up on my German before I go on holiday there.
22. You seem to have a lot of free time on your _____.
23. I really think you should _____ up a hobby.
24. We are still try to _____ together what went wrong.
25. I'll come _____ to the point, you're incompetent and...
26. Did you plan to meet in Rome or it was just a _____?
27. It would have been a boring play _____ for the main actor, who was brilliant.
28. I'll have to meet you another day, because something has _____ up.
29. Jane always _____ to her guns, when we have an argument.
30. This area used to be very _____ in tin and copper.