



AWDURDOD  
CYMHWYSTERAU,  
CWRICWLWM AC ASESU  
CYMRU  
QUALIFICATIONS,  
CURRICULUM &  
ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY  
FOR WALES



# Key skills communication Adult literacy ESOL Skills for Life Reading Unit Level 2 Test Paper

## YOU NEED

- This test paper
- An answer sheet

You may NOT use a dictionary

---

**Do NOT open this paper until you are told to do so by the supervisor**

**THERE ARE 40 QUESTIONS IN THIS TEST**

**Total marks available: 40**

**Try to answer ALL the questions**

**YOU HAVE 1 HOUR TO FINISH THE TEST**

---

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure your personal details are entered correctly on the answer sheet
  - Read each question carefully
  - Follow the instructions on how to complete the answer sheet
  - At the end of the test, hand the test paper, your answer sheet and all notes to the supervisor
- 

**REMEMBER: YOU HAVE 1 HOUR TO FINISH THE TEST**

---

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CENTRES

- This paper must not be photocopied

First published in 2005.

© Qualifications and Curriculum Authority 2005.

Reproduction, storage, adaptation or translation, in any form or by any means, of this publication is prohibited without prior written permission of the publisher, unless within the terms of licences issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency.

Printed in Great Britain.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is an exempt charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, 83 Piccadilly, London W1J 8QA. www.qca.org.uk

Ref: COM-L2-S1\_B-P8-v7.0-URN:366

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following document.



## Is School A Pain?

Modern students carry their lives on their backs, with bags and rucksacks full to bursting with what they need for the day. No wonder that, according to recent studies, about a fifth of students complain of back pain.

line 1  
line 2  
line 3

In a study of 1,400 students at Manchester University, Professor Garry MacFarlane did not find any relationship between the type or weight of bags and whether students went on to develop back pain. The study found that those reporting back pain were likely to have other problems such as headache or stomach problems, showing that one health issue is often linked to others. Most importantly it also showed that children who do not take much physical activity were at high risk of developing back pain.

line 4  
line 5  
line 6  
line 7  
line 8  
line 9  
line 10

It is clearly still not a good idea to go around with a heavy bag hanging off one shoulder; ergonomic school bags have been devised to distribute the load more evenly. Unfortunately, no one has as yet devised a strategy to persuade students to use them. Schools can ease the load by providing big enough lockers but perhaps the most productive thing will be for all of us to carry on nagging students to stay sporty and active to counteract any potential damage.

line 11  
line 12  
line 13  
line 14  
line 15  
line 16  
line 17

- 1 The document says the factor most linked to students' back pain is
  - A heavy school bags
  - B bags carried on one shoulder
  - C lack of physical activity
  - D headaches
  
- 2 The writer says that schools could reduce the probability of student back pain by
  - A providing special school bags
  - B encouraging students to carry bags only on one shoulder
  - C having adequately sized storage lockers
  - D nagging students to report back pain
  
- 3 The phrase nearest in meaning to 'ergonomic' on line 12 is
  - A attractive
  - B sensibly designed
  - C environmentally friendly
  - D cheap
  
- 4 According to the document, it is true to say that
  - A half of all students complain of back pain
  - B no students have lockers
  - C differently designed bags will stop back pain
  - D those with back pain can also have other health problems
  
- 5 The sentence beginning 'Unfortunately, no one...' on lines 13 and 14 is an example of a comment which is intended to be
  - A informative
  - B amusing
  - C persuasive
  - D descriptive

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following draft document.

<b>Work Experience Diary</b>	
My first day at the office of the computer business was very odd chaotic and strange, just like the first day at school, piles of really wierd people. I got lost as well on the way there. I was feeling pretty desperate by the time I arrived.	line 1 line 2 line 3 line 4
Once I got to reception they were very efficient, knew all about me and sent for my new boss Sam who seemed helpful. He said, “You’re going to be working with Jay and Cal,” and pointed to a couple, “Who are in the stationary department.” They showed me how to log on to the computer and where to find the database. What a relief, I’d done something at last.	line 5 line 6 line 7 line 8 line 9 line 10

6 There is a spelling mistake on

- A line 1
- B line 2
- C line 5
- D line 9

7 Which of these statements about the punctuation in the document is correct?

- A the full stop should be placed after the speech marks (line 8)
- B there should not be a comma after 'Cal' (line 7)
- C there should be a small 'w' for 'who' (line 7)
- D there should not be a comma after 'couple' (line 7)

8 There is a correctly spelled but incorrectly used word on

- A line 3
- B line 5
- C line 6
- D line 8

- 9 A comma has been missed out after
- A computer (line 1)
  - B odd (line 1)
  - C chaotic (line 1)
  - D day (line 2)
- 10 The best word to join the two sentences on line 3 and 4 is
- A but
  - B so
  - C although
  - D then

**Please go on to the next page**

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following document.

# The World at Your Fingertips at the Home of Natural History

## Welcome to your wonderful world

Ever stared into the gaping jaws of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, felt the devastating power of an earthquake or come face to face with a giant, moving scorpion? You will when you enter the amazing world of The Natural History Museum.



Whatever you want to know about the natural world, you'll find the answer here. It's a unique museum dedicated to the fantastic story of our planet. Step inside and we'll take you on an unforgettable journey into Earth's past, present and future, exploring its many natural wonders - and uncovering a few mysteries too!

## The pieces of life's jigsaw

Step into the leaf factory and discover how plants turn the sun's energy into food. The Ecology exhibition explores our complex environment and shows how all life on Earth is interlinked.

## Journey into the centre of the earth

Step onto the escalator and ride through the huge earth sculpture, suspended high above you. In the Earth Galleries, we'll reveal to you the many secrets of our planet from its beginnings in the 'big bang', to its certain death in the future.

## Feel the force

Explore the dynamic world beneath your feet, experience an earthquake and see what happens when a volcano erupts. Just remember to hold on tight!

## Close Encounters

You won't believe your eyes when you come face to face with the blue whale, the largest creature ever to have lived. Meet giant spider crabs, eyelash mites and insects galore and find out amazing facts about these important creatures.

## It's your world - so explore it!

- 11 The word 'fantastic', as used in the paragraph below the dinosaur picture could best be replaced by
- A imaginative
  - B fanciful
  - C exaggerated
  - D remarkable
- 12 According to the document, at The Natural History Museum you will see all of the following except
- A mites
  - B the blue whale
  - C spiders
  - D crabs
- 13 The writer states that
- A The Natural History Museum focuses on the past
  - B at some point in the future, the Earth might die
  - C the museum will inform you about the natural world
  - D on entering the museum you will feel an earthquake
- 14 The **most** suitable subheading for the bottom left-hand section is
- A A journey to remember
  - B Unsolved mysteries
  - C Meet a dinosaur
  - D A fantastic day out
- 15 This document is presented in the form of
- A a page from a history book
  - B a promotional leaflet
  - C an illustrated report
  - D a newspaper article

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following document.

# The **Ultimate** Fashion Accessory



Everyone who is anyone wants a baby nowadays; they seem to be the ideal addition to any situation. Janice Turner, a mother of two, wants another baby, but babies not only mean more expense, they mean crying, which equals chaos. Trying things out, she adopted an infant simulator, known as Charlotte, which 'has the vaguely satanic look of the horror film icon, Chuckie.'

line 1  
line 2  
line 3  
line 4  
line 5  
line 6

## **Home Sweet Home!**

During the evening film on TV, Charlotte goes off like a car alarm during all the best scenes and Janice is distraught. Ignoring the possibility that this will register as abuse on Charlotte's internal computer, Janice banishes her to the next room. It is not very successful.

line 7  
line 8  
line 9  
line 10  
line 11

This is the way it goes on and Charlotte spends the next two nights howling. She also grizzles constantly throughout the day, demanding attention for the simplest of problems and gets barely perfunctory care. The verdict? Janice concedes, 'After seven years of scaling the parental ladder, I just couldn't face sliding down the snake.' Never mind, she can always buy a real doll!

line 12  
line 13  
line 14  
line 15  
line 16  
line 17



- 16 The main point made by this document is that a baby is
- A a fashion accessory
  - B easy to look after
  - C difficult to look after
  - D good company for a mum
- 17 The phrase 'barely perfunctory' on line 14 means care that is
- A prompt and efficient
  - B only just adequate
  - C extremely poor
  - D almost perfect
- 18 The baby simulator "Charlotte" is likely to reveal that Janice
- A should never have undergone the experiment
  - B would enjoy having another child
  - C could easily afford to have more children
  - D would find it difficult to cope with another baby
- 19 The most suitable subheading for the concluding paragraph on line 12 is
- A An Expensive Luxury
  - B Charlotte Strikes Back
  - C More Nightmares
  - D Reality Dawns
- 20 The writer of this document is reporting on evidence that
- A suggests people think carefully before having a child
  - B provides technical information about a new computerised baby
  - C advises people how to care for their children
  - D persuades people to start a family

**Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following draft document.**

From: Bini Thondra	line 1
Sent: 28 <sup>th</sup> November	line 2
To: Admin Staff; Cleaning Staff; Senior Managers	line 3
Subject: Christmas meal	line 4
The Director, in keeping with the season's festivities, have decided to hold this year's celebrations in the company canteen at 12:30 on 18th December.	line 5 line 6
The company would like to show its gratitude by providing a free Christmas dinner for all staff. Attached is the menu for the meal.	line 7 line 8
Its important to book in plenty of time _____ please fill in your choice on the form at the end of the menu as soon as possible.	line 9 line 10
If you are vegaterian, please tick the box.	line 11
The forms, when completed, are to be left in Reception.	line 12

**21** There is a grammatical error on

- A** line 5
- B** line 8
- C** line 10
- D** line 12

**22** There is a missing or misused apostrophe on

- A** line 5
- B** line 6
- C** line 7
- D** line 9

- 23 The **best** word to fill the gap on line 9 is
- A alternatively
  - B however
  - C therefore
  - D otherwise
- 24 There is a spelling error on
- A line 5
  - B line 6
  - C line 8
  - D line 10
- 25 The word "vegaterian" on line 11 is incorrectly spelt. The correct spelling is
- A vegetarian
  - B vegatarian
  - C vegetarian
  - D vegeterian

**Please go on to the next page**

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following document.

# **SURVEY REVEALS NATION'S NOISIEST NEIGHBOURHOODS**



IS YOUR STREET plagued by aeroplanes, barking dogs, rowdy clubbers or thundering traffic? Well, we can now exclusively reveal Britain's top ten noisy roads.

First placed is the North Circular Road, a six-lane highway through residential north London, according to researchers, "a torrent of noise."

Not all the top ten are main roads. The chart includes Britain's noisiest avenue, Hever Avenue. This Kent street backs onto the Brands Hatch racing track, now home to an all-week racing school.

The noisiest close is Dockwell Close, at first glance a pleasant suburban street – until the roar of a jet engine shatters the quiet. The close is at the southern end of the runway for Heathrow Airport.

Meanwhile the ears of residents in Haydn Terrace in Merthyr Tydfil are bombarded by barking dogs and the racket of motorbikes using rough ground nearby.

UK Noise Association (UKNA) researchers compiled the list after receiving hundreds of nominations from all over the country, and judges spent the last few weeks trekking around Britain, listening.

UKNA is calling for the Government to invest in quieter road surfaces, to push for traffic reduction and to introduce 'noise audits' before planning

permission for major developments is granted. UKNA spokesperson, John Stewart, said: "We didn't use a noise meter. The level of annoyance or intrusion into people's lives was what we were looking for. We also took account of how long the noise lasted, the number of people affected by the noise and of course whether a road suffered from more than one annoying noise."

John Jones, who lives alongside the third placed A4, West London, said: "Residents are putting up with noise on a 24 hour basis and can only get by on sleeping pills."

"We were flooded with applications," said Stewart. "What really struck us is that the UK is a very noisy place – just ask our shell shocked researchers."

- 1. North Circular Road, London**
- 2. Parkfield Road, South East London**
- 3. A4 in West London**
- 4. A102 Blackwall Tunnel, North Approach**
- 5. M77, Glasgow**
- 6. Dockwell Close, Hatton Cross**
- 7. M25 and other motorways (joint)**
- 8. Stockport Road, Manchester**
- 9. Hever Avenue, Sevenoaks**
- 10. Headingley Lane, Leeds**

- 26 The UK Noise Association (UKNA) could **best** be described as an organisation which aims to
- A reveal to the public Britain's 10 noisiest roads
  - B compare the nuisance caused by different types of noise
  - C monitor noise levels at the southern end of Heathrow Airport
  - D persuade the Government to reduce noise levels
- 27 The UK Noise Association is calling for
- A a reduction in traffic
  - B the use of noise meters
  - C investment in new roads
  - D the closing of airports
- 28 The **main** purpose of this document is to
- A elicit sympathy for John Jones
  - B identify the people responsible for the UK's noise
  - C alert the public to a serious problem
  - D argue for a government ban on night time traffic
- 29 The **most** appropriate heading for the numbered list at the end of the document would be
- A The Noise Top Ten
  - B The UK Noise Association
  - C UK Motorways
  - D Britain's Roads
- 30 The quotations are effective because they
- A add supporting evidence to the UKNA's case
  - B present a contrast to the UKNA's point of view
  - C indicate that expert advice is being presented
  - D represent the worst examples of noise pollution

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following documents.

### Document A

**Brixton resident and sculptor, Fowokan George Kelly, talks about growing up in Brixton in the '50s and '60s.**

- **Where were you born and when?**

In Kingston, Jamaica in 1943. I lived there until I was 14, when I joined my parents who had come over to England in 1956. I certainly wasn't happy about leaving Jamaica.

- **Where did you stay?**

My father rented a double bed in a room which had three other beds in it. Having left our own house in Jamaica, it was a shock to find the family living in a house with about thirty people all sharing one toilet! We stayed there for six months before moving to a two bedroom flat.

- **Did any of your family travel back to Jamaica before your father died in 1965?**

No. People came to work to earn enough money to go back, build a big house and take life easier. This was the intention for our parents' generation but the younger ones, like myself, soon came to realise this would be our home.

- **What was the atmosphere like in Brixton in the early '60s?**

It was a very separate community. A lot of customs we had brought with us, like dressing up and going to church on a Sunday, were met with rejection from the indigenous community and so people would start up their own churches in their front rooms, barber shops in their basements. Of course, there were also the blues parties which, for me, defined Brixton in the 1960s.

### Document B

**Some thoughts from Audley Rodriguez, Deputy High Commissioner for Jamaica.**

- **How old were you when Jamaican independence was declared in 1962?**

I was only four. I was living in rural Jamaica at the time. I was born in Westmoreland and went back to visit in 2000. There has been significant development in this area that was pleasing to see.

- **Did you ever envisage playing such a high profile role in your country?**

No. I had no idea that I would come to such an office. I come from a humble background but always believed in, and concentrated on, self-improvement through education.

- **What is your message to first and second generation Jamaicans in Brixton and beyond?**

There is much to celebrate in our past and much to celebrate with the maturity of our democracy with significant achievement in the arts, music, writing and sport, amongst others. We have also a long way to go. Problems such as crime must be addressed forcefully. We need to find new ways for young people to secure a positive future, both on the island and in communities such as Brixton. In such ways, Jamaicans have a bright future.

- 31** Both documents are written in the form of
- A** scripts
  - B** formal reports
  - C** essays
  - D** interviews
- 32** Fowokan George Kelly says that
- A** he was pleased about moving to England from Jamaica
  - B** his father went back to Jamaica to live in a bigger house
  - C** the Brixton community rejected many Jamaican traditions
  - D** all he remembers about the 1960s is the blues parties
- 33** Audley Rodriguez believes that his success is because of
- A** his humble background
  - B** his attitude to education
  - C** his position in the government
  - D** Jamaica gaining independence
- 34** It is implied in the documents both Mr Kelly and Mr Rodriguez
- A** were born in Kingston, Jamaica
  - B** came to England in the 1950s
  - C** want to make their lives easier
  - D** have an interest in the arts
- 35** Compared with Document A, Document B gives more consideration to
- A** the future
  - B** the church
  - C** the past
  - D** Jamaica

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following document.

## BUYING A USED CAR - DOs AND DON'Ts

YOU'VE FOUND THE CAR YOU WANT, NOW FOLLOW THESE RULES TO SEE IF IT'S A GOOD ONE .....

### 1 BUY FROM A REPUTABLE SOURCE

If you're buying used, paying extra for a manufacturer's approved used scheme could be a smart move. Car supermarkets offer real bargains, with an element of risk - but nothing compared to the chances you take buying privately.

### 2 LOOK FOR A FULL SERVICE HISTORY

Full documentation is evidence that a car has been maintained. If it's not complete - just walk away.

### 3 SEE THE CAR ON A DRY DAY

Ideally it should be seen in daylight. Darkness can hide a myriad of problems with fit and finish. Dirt will hide these too, but at least it shows how well (or not) the vendor cared for the vehicle.

### 4 KNOW WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

A shiny steering wheel, worn pedal rubbers and carpets are all signs of high mileage - if the milometer says otherwise, be suspicious.

Run a magnet over the bodywork - it won't stick to large areas of filler. Verify the tyre tread - everywhere. You must have 1.6mm within the grooves to be legal.

Arrange to see the car started from cold - a warm engine can hide potential problems



### 5 ALWAYS, ALWAYS TEST DRIVE IT

Check that your legs aren't cramped and that your back won't ache after ten minutes behind the wheel. Insist on a proper drive, not once around the block. Take it on roads you know and appraise comfort, performance and handling.

Cover motorway speeds, back roads and traffic - the three key areas.

If the vendor accompanies you and keeps talking, ask them to be quiet, so you can listen to the car. Any rattles? Is the overall noise level too irritating?

### 6 BE A SMART HAGGLER

Decide on the upper limit you want to pay and remain resolute. In the meantime, however, open the bidding low enough to make the vendor think he or she has overpriced the car.



- 36 The author of this document suggests that buying a good used car is
- A a job for experts only
  - B difficult but possible
  - C unacceptably risky
  - D very straightforward
- 37 The document says that you should always inspect a car in daylight because
- A you can tell how dirty it is
  - B problems will show up more clearly
  - C you can take it for a longer test drive
  - D the vendor will be with the vehicle
- 38 According to the document, you should always test drive a car
- A on familiar roads
  - B for ten minutes
  - C with the vendor
  - D in a comfortable position
- 39 The word 'resolute' in section 6 could **best** be replaced by
- A flexible
  - B logical
  - C intelligent
  - D determined
- 40 The style of this document could **best** be described as
- A informal with some technical language
  - B persuasive with very complex sentences
  - C formal with descriptive language
  - D argumentative with supporting evidence

**End of test**

**BLANK PAGE**

**BLANK PAGE**

**BLANK PAGE**