

Introduction

The Edexcel IGCSE ESL is the International General Certificate of Secondary Education in English as a Second Language which is offered by the Edexcel Examination Board.

The examination consists of three papers:

- Paper 1 **Reading and Writing**
- Paper 2 **Listening**
- Paper 3 **Speaking**.

Paper 3 is optional.

All candidates take the same examination.

The Edexcel IGCSE ESL is widely recognised by universities where evidence of English language ability is an entry requirement.

This book provides practice in the tasks you have to complete for Paper 1 Reading and Writing.

A summary of the Edexcel IGCSE ESL examination

Paper 1 Reading and Writing

Time: 2 hours

There are six parts in this paper worth a total of 100 marks. Reading and writing are given equal weighting. Paper 1 is worth $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent of the total IGCSE mark.

Reading is tested in **Parts 1, 2 and 3**. These parts consist of a total of 40 questions and test a range of reading skills. Each question is worth one mark. The passages used in the paper are adapted from texts from newspapers, magazines, books and the Internet.

Writing is tested in **Parts 4, 5 and 6**, each of which is worth 20 marks. In **Part 4** you are given a situation which you have to respond to in an appropriate format and style such as a report or article. You will have information about who you are writing to as well as what you need to include in your response. In **Part 5** you are given a situation which you have to respond to in an appropriate format and style such as a letter, email or fax. You will have information about who you are writing to as well as what you need to include in your response. In **Part 6** you are given a passage to read from which you produce a summary of certain information contained in the text. You should use your own words and phrases as far as possible.

Paper 2 Listening

Time: 45 minutes

There are three parts in this paper and a total of 30 questions, each worth one mark. Paper 2 is worth $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent of the total IGCSE mark. A range of listening skills is tested. You will hear a variety of recorded texts including monologues and dialogues. As the examination progresses the texts and tasks become increasingly difficult. You will hear each recording twice. You will be given time at the start of

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each part to read the questions and you should write your answers as you listen. The practice tests in this book do not cover Paper 2.

Paper 3 Speaking

Time: approximately 12 minutes

This paper is optional and is separately assessed and endorsed by the Edexcel Examination Board. The practice tests in this book do not cover Paper 3.

The speaking examination consists of an interview between an interlocutor and a candidate and this interview is recorded and assessed by an examiner. There are three parts to the speaking examination. In Part 1 you are asked general questions about, for example yourself, your family, your friends and your studies. In Part 2 you are given a topic and have one minute to prepare during which you may take notes. You then have to talk on the topic for one to two minutes. In Part 3 you are asked questions on the topic provided in Part 2. As this part of the examination progresses the speaking questions become increasingly difficult and more abstract.

Paper 1 Reading and Writing in detail

Reading

The reading passages increase in length and difficulty and you will need to read efficiently in order to complete the paper in the time allowed. You will also need to use appropriate reading skills according to the task.

Questions

The questions include multiple-choice, multiple-matching, short-answer questions, sentence completion, note completion and True/False/Not given questions.

- **Part 1** The passage consists of a collection of short texts such as advertisements or leaflets giving advice. The tasks require you to match or locate information contained in the texts. Part 1 tests your ability to skim and scan a reading text.
- **Part 2** The passage consists of a longer piece of text such as a newspaper article, advertisement or leaflet. The tasks vary, but they test your ability to read both for gist and detail.
- **Part 3** The passage consists of a long piece of text such as a newspaper article. It could also come from an academic source, although it will be of general interest. The tasks vary, but they test your ability to read both for gist and detail, your ability to follow a line of argument, and your ability to identify attitudes and opinions expressed in the text.

General advice on Reading Parts 1, 2 and 3

Before the examination:

- Get into the habit of reading in English regularly.
- Read texts from a wide variety of sources such as newspapers, magazines and the Internet.
- Get plenty of practice in the types of questions used in the examination.

During the examination:

- Read all the instructions given at the beginning of each task.
- Take note of the number of words required to answer the questions. When you write your answer, do not exceed the required word limit.
- In your answers, use words and phrases taken from the passage. Do not provide your own words.

- Make sure when you copy the words from the text into your examination booklet that you spell them correctly.

Writing

- **Part 4** This is a piece of writing such as a report or article. For example, you may be asked to write a report for the school principal about a particular issue in the school and also suggest ways of dealing with it. You must write between 100 and 150 words for this part.
- **Part 5** This is a piece of writing such as a letter, email or fax. For example, you may be asked to write an email to a friend inviting them to stay during the holiday. You must write between 100 and 150 words for this part.
- **Part 6** This is a semi-formal piece of writing based on a reading passage from which you must produce a summary of certain information contained in the text. For example, you may be asked to read a passage containing a lot of information about parrots, and you must write a summary on where parrots live and what they eat. You must write between 100 and 150 words for this part.

General advice on Writing Parts 4 and 5

Before the examination:

- Get plenty of practice in the types of writing tasks used in the examination.

During the examination:

- Tone and register – remember who you are writing to and why you are writing. Use the correct words and expressions for the situation.
- Task requirements – make sure you have addressed all the points in the question.
- Organisation – make sure your writing is well organised with clear paragraphs and that your sentences are logically linked. You may want to use subheadings, as in the model answers, but these are not essential to success.
- Layout – make sure your answer is properly laid out according to appropriate conventions, e.g. a letter or a report.
- Proofread your answer – make sure you give yourself time at the end to read through and correct your errors.
- Word count – remember you must write between 100 and 150 words.

General advice on Writing Part 6

In addition to the advice on Parts 4 and 5 above, here is some general advice on writing a summary for Part 6.

- Paraphrasing – you must use your own words and phrases as far as possible. However, there may be some key words in the text that you will need to use.
- Copying – you must not copy sentences or chunks from the text.

Steps for writing a summary

- 1 Read the question carefully and identify the information required in the summary.
- 2 Read the text.
- 3 Underline the main points required for the summary.
- 4 Re-read the question and consider what the summary is for, who will read it and how formal the language needs to be.

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- 5 Write your summary in note form *in your own words*.
- 6 Put the original text to one side.
- 7 Write an introductory sentence for the summary.
- 8 Use your notes to write the summary. Make sure your writing is well organised and in clear paragraphs and that your sentences are logically linked.
- 9 Check your word count.

How Parts 4, 5 and 6 are marked

All writing tasks are assessed on the following criteria.

- **Communicative quality** Have you followed the instructions exactly? Have you used the appropriate tone and register? Is your message clear and relevant?
- **Lexical accuracy and range** Have you used a variety of appropriate vocabulary accurately?
- **Grammatical accuracy and range** Have you used a variety of grammatical forms accurately and appropriately?
- **Effective organisation** Is your writing well organised? Have you used paragraphs appropriately? Are your sentences logically linked?

Answer key and model answers

At the end of the book is a removable answer key including model answers. However, your teacher may have removed it to be stored separately.

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Excerpt

[More information](#)

Practice test 1

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PART 1

Read the diary of events below and answer questions 1–10. Identify which paragraphs (A–I) contain the information listed in questions 1–10 by marking (X) for the correct answer. You must choose answers only from the information given below. Paragraphs may be used more than once or not used at all. If you change your mind, put a line through the box (X) and then indicate your new answer with a (X).

Fleet City Council

There's something for everyone this summer!

A 7–10 July: Twelfth Night

The male cast of the Lord John's Men will perform this classic Shakespeare play of mistaken identity in the Walled Garden of Bemingborough Castle. Book online or at the box office on 01432 978432. Bring picnics, chairs, and rugs. Performance starts at 7 pm.

B 15–18 July: Treasure Island

Free children's theatre in the Summer House, Bemingborough Castle. Hopscotch Theatre present their adaptation of this classic children's novel to start the school holidays. Come as a pirate and enter the prize draw. Normal admission fees to the Castle apply. Performance starts at 2 pm.

C 23–25 July: A Taste of Georgian Dining

Put on a wig, waistcoat or gown and join us for dinner. Go back in time and sample an eighteenth-century banquet. On the menu there will be traditional favourites such as turkey, pies and pastries. Dinner will be served in the Town Hall Gallery from 9 pm. £25. All proceeds will go to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

D 26 July: Primary Prom

The Primary Prom provides an opportunity for young people to experience live music in a concert hall. Featuring the National Under-15s Orchestra. Special workshops are available in the morning for aspiring singers. 10 am–4 pm. For details, telephone 01784 878357.

E 1–3 August: Fleet Choir

The Guildhall, Fleet. Whether your taste is for contemporary or classical, West End or opera, folk or spiritual, the Fleet Male Voice Choir's extensive repertoire will offer entertainment and pleasure. Tickets: £15 per person from the Central Booking Office. Starts at 7 pm.

F 8–9 August: Bambridge Park Water Weekend

The Park's usually tranquil lake will be full of boats during this summer's Water Weekend. With market stalls and a funfair along the water's edge, and all sorts of boats to hire, there will be lots to enjoy both on the water and on land. Bring a picnic or use the barbecue facilities at the lunch areas by the lake. Entry free.



Practice test 1

- G 14 August: Jennie Hold**
 In addition to her much-loved appearances on our screens, Jennie’s DVD *Shout Out Loud* won the Comedian’s Award this year. Through her dry wit and classic one-liners she will cast her eye over life, family holidays and chocolate. Tickets: £20 from the Central Booking Office. Starts at 8 pm.
- H 23–26 August: Midsummer Festival**
 The Solstice festival of music and literature is the latest addition to our calendar. Authors and musicians will share their words and sounds with you. Book readings by crime writer John Savage and children’s writer Mina Hall are just two of the highlights. Drumming and guitar workshops will also be on offer. The festival finale is a free evening concert in Bambridge Park featuring folk musicians the Chiefs and rock band the Curves. For details, phone 01432 874560.
- I All summer: Play Days**
 You will find Play Days in the atrium of Kingswood Shopping Mall this summer holiday. It is equipped with a soft play area, jungle gym and slide, so toddlers can play safely while Mums and Dads watch and enjoy a coffee. £2 per session.

Questions 1–10

Mark (☒) for the correct answer. Paragraphs may be used more than once or not used at all. If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new answer with a (☒).

		Answers								
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Which event										
1	offers old-fashioned food?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
2	is designed for very young children?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
3	offers a chance to cook outdoors?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
4	offers a wide range of music?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
5	is a play held outdoors?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
6	offers a chance to win something?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
7	is for one night only?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
8	lets children listen to stories read by the writer?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
9	lets you play musical instruments?	<input type="checkbox"/>								
10	plans to raise money for charity?	<input type="checkbox"/>								

TOTAL FOR PART 1: 10 MARKS

Practice test 1

PART 2

Read the following magazine article about saffron and answer questions 11–25.

MELLOW YELLOW

The news that people are once more growing saffron in La Mancha is welcomed by Antonio Sotos, who produces the world's finest saffron in this dry, fertile region in central Spain.

'Thirty years ago, Spain was producing 50,000 kg of saffron a year; now it is 50 kg,' he says. Saffron was once a currency in less wealthy times. Extremely labour-intensive to handpick and process, since each saffron crocus produces only three strands of saffron and it takes up to half a million strands to produce a kilogram, it is the world's most expensive spice.

But once dried and packed it lasts for years and is worth €320 per 100 g to the farmer. 'In the past farmers in the saffron-growing regions would have a small crocus plantation,' Sotos says. 'They'd keep the saffron for a "rainy day", like when the son of the family wanted to get married or when they needed to buy a new tractor.'

During the 1980s and 1990s property boom the farmers moved away from growing saffron. As a result, cheaper imports flowed into Spain from the main saffron-producing countries of Iran, India, Morocco and Italy. Fake saffron also started to appear. But now families are dusting off the traditional wooden safe where they keep their stock of saffron, and wedding clothes may once again be stitched – from the proceeds of flowers, appropriately enough.

Maria José Román, a chef from Alicante province on the south-east coast, is particularly interested in saffron. 'The best way of telling if the saffron is real is to put it in water,' she says. 'If the water turns yellow slowly, it is genuine. If the water colours immediately but only to a straw colour, it probably contains dye.' The difference between the saffron from Spain's

main competitors and La Mancha saffron is that although they are both made from real flowers, they are processed differently. The crocus field in La Mancha has a life of four years before it should be put to fallow or the quality of the scent diminishes. In some countries they leave the crop in the field for eight years.

'But the way that it is toasted after picking is important, too,' says Román. The only way to get the flavour of saffron is to toast it quickly, but in other countries it is spread on newspaper and left to dry. 'It will have its colour, but no aroma,' she adds. Other saffron is cut with the flavourless male yellow stamens from the same crocus, and is sometimes dyed. This is not to say it goes on to the market as a bargain item.

The flavour and aroma in saffron is a bitter glucoside called picrocrocin, which after drying breaks down to release an oil, safranal. There are many other aroma compounds, all of which combine to release saffron's intense 'fresh hay' scent. Such disproportionate power from a tiny source has encouraged various beliefs in its powers through history, including protection from the Black Death and as an aphrodisiac. Safranal is also known to have antidepressant properties.



Practice test 1

Once the crocuses have been harvested in October, women workers process the flowers. Their quarry is the precious filaments, poking out from between the wilting, silky petals. They come in two colours – brick-red stigma and yellow stamens. The pickers use fingertips to pinch off the red filament, which is thicker at the tip than at the base, discarding the rest. To include the yellow filaments would be cheating. Even with their fast-moving fingers, stained yellow like those of a smoker, the women's progress is incredibly slow.

Román and I set off to her restaurant with a bag of freshly toasted saffron. She is keen to show how she makes the most of her favourite

spice. That evening we try a paella with chicken and broccoli, instantly made special with the addition of saffron. She also cooks potatoes in a saffron infusion, then adds them to a simple egg tortilla, transforming it. Most addictive are her tiny, bright-coloured almond meringues, which she scatters beside a fresh orange ice.

Román is protective of saffron. 'There is not enough knowledge yet – from housewives to chefs, they don't know the difference,' she says. In the past, pedlars of adulterated saffron were at least fined, and sometimes executed. Román is hardly asking for that, just a return to growing more of the genuine article.



Source: Adapted from 'Mellow yellow', Rose Prince, *Telegraph Magazine*, 7 March 2009

Questions 11–20

Read the statements below and decide whether according to the text they are **TRUE**, **FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN**. Mark (☒) for the correct answer. Paragraphs from the text may be used more than once or not used at all. If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new answer with a (☒).

	True	False	Not given
11 La Mancha is Spain's main saffron-growing area.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Saffron has been used instead of money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Saffron needs to be used soon after it has been processed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 In La Mancha, strands of saffron are sown into wedding clothes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Crocuses are planted in a new field every four years to maintain the colours of the flowers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 High-quality saffron includes male stamens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 In the past, saffron was used as a medicine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 Only the red filaments are kept.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19 Román uses saffron in sweet and savoury dishes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Penalties these days for selling fake saffron in Spain are severe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Practice test 1

Questions 21–25

Complete the sentences below. Write no more than THREE words and/or numbers taken from the text.

- 21 One saffron crocus provides no more than of saffron.
- 22 In Spain, farmers use a to store their saffron.
- 23 Saffron should be placed in to test whether it is genuine.
- 24 In Spain, saffron is straight after it has been picked.
- 25 Safranal is one of the found in saffron.

TOTAL FOR PART 2: 15 MARKS