

**ESB Level 1 Certificate in ESOL  
International All Modes – (B2)  
500/3647/6**

**Contents of this Paper**

| Section                                                                  | Number of Questions | Weighting for Section |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Listening</b><br>Part One<br>Part Two                                 | 10<br>10            | 20%                   |
| <b>Reading</b><br>Part One<br>Part Two                                   | 10<br>5             | 20%                   |
| <b>Use of English</b><br>Part One<br>Part Two<br>Part Three<br>Part Four | 10<br>10<br>10<br>5 | 20%                   |
| <b>Writing</b>                                                           | 1                   | 20%                   |

The remaining 20% is for your speaking test.

**Total time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes. You should attempt all sections of this paper.**

**The use of dictionaries, notes or any electronic device is not permitted in this examination.**

**Put your answers for Listening, Reading and Use of English on the OPTICAL MARK FORM. Use the WRITING ANSWER BOOKLET for your answer to the Writing Section. This question paper WILL NOT BE MARKED.**

**DO NOT OPEN THE EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.**

## **ESB B2 Level 1 Reading (Part One)**

**You are going to read a text about rodeos.**

**For questions 21 – 24, match the headings below (A – F) with the paragraphs. There is ONE heading which you do not need. The first heading has been done as an example.**

### **Rodeos**

#### **Example: F. An Unexpected Scene**

If you happen to visit the quiet little town of Saint-Agrève, in Southern France, in the month of August, you will be in for a big surprise. Instead of being filled with holidaymakers in shorts and T-shirts, the seats outside the cafés and bars in the main square will be filled with cowboys and cowgirls wearing check shirts, jeans, high boots and large-brimmed 'Stetson' hats. You will think you have stepped into the Wild West!

**21.**

In fact, Saint-Agrève is home to one of the ten most popular rodeos in the world and the only one of those that is in Europe, all the others being in the United States or Canada. 'This is the tenth year we've been to this rodeo,' says Marcel Jourdan, one of the rodeo fans in the square. 'People come from all over Europe to watch and compete, and it lasts for six days. You can see all the events you would at a rodeo in the Americas. We like to watch the bareback horse riding the best. There is also a country music festival on at the same time, which we enjoy.'

**22.**

Rodeos have always been popular with communities where rearing cattle has been a way of life. They are a chance for men to display the highly skilled work that they do, compete with others, win prize money and socialise. But since the 1970s, there has been a change. More women have become involved and a growing number of people taking part have grown up in an urban, not a rural, environment. They view entering a rodeo as a challenging athletic sport, and there are even some rodeo 'schools' where you can learn the skills. 'It's a great way to travel the world, challenge yourself, meet some fantastic people and maybe even make some good money,' says Lukas Molis, a 26-year-old bull rider from Lithuania.

**23.**

A Lithuanian cowboy entering a rodeo competition in France is a far cry from the annual gatherings that arose out of the working practices of cattle farming in Spain, the Americas and later, Australia and New Zealand. The term 'rodeo' comes from Spanish 'ro de ol', which means 'to round up'. The events included all those we know today, such as trying to stay on the back of a bucking horse or bull, roping young bulls, called 'steers', or horseback racing round obstacles placed in a circular pattern in the fastest possible time. Early rodeos, in the 1800s, were very informal affairs, with

cowboys testing their skills against each other. But, following the American Civil War in the 1860s, the kind of rodeo competitions we recognise today emerged, the first being in Prescott, Arizona, when admission was charged and prizes were awarded.

**24.**

Today, rodeo contestants or 'professional cowboys' can earn up to \$170,000 dollars a year and the American world champion, Trevor Brazile, who has won more rodeo titles than anyone else, has made several million dollars. Anthropologists studying the rodeo and the culture surrounding it have described it as 'a blend of performance and contest', which is successful precisely because it mixes both these aspects rather than concentrating on one or the other. Whatever the reasons for our fascination with the rodeo, it is sure to draw crowds for years to come.

- A American Cultural Experience in Europe**
- B The Appeal of the Rodeo**
- C Changing Times**
- D Rodeo Events**
- E The Evolution of the Rodeo**
- F Example: An Unexpected Scene**

**For questions 25 – 30, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.**

**25. Saint-Agrève is a surprising place because**

- A. there are no tourists.
- B. it is full of Americans.
- C. the cafés only admit cowboys.
- D. it is home to an unusual event.

**26. Marcel Jourdan most enjoys**

- A. listening to country music.
- B. dressing as a cowboy.
- C. watching skilled riders.
- D. meeting other fans.

**27. To be a rodeo cowboy nowadays, you must**

- A. grow up on a farm.
- B. attend a rodeo school.
- C. be a good athlete.
- D. pass a test.

**28. Which of the following, according to the text, is NOT a rodeo event?**

- A. Racing on horseback.
- B. Rounding up cows.
- C. Riding bulls.
- D. Bareback riding.

**29. Early rodeos differed from modern ones because**

- A. spectators did not have to pay.
- B. the events were not the same.
- C. they were very formal.
- D. contestants won prizes.

**30. One reason that rodeos are popular with spectators is that**

- A. the competitors win lots of money.
- B. they entertain and excite.
- C. the spectators are fans of Trevor Brazile.
- D. rodeos remind spectators of the past.

## **ESB B2 Level 1 Reading (Part Two)**

**You are going to read a text about the production of vanilla.**

**For questions 31 – 35, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.**

### **Vanilla Production**

Brad is really annoyed. He has just been to the local ice cream shop to buy his favourite kind of ice cream, one scoop chocolate and one vanilla, only to find that the vanilla has doubled in price. 'It's only ordinary vanilla. How can it be so expensive?' he exclaimed.

Brad, like many people, thinks that because it is the plainest flavour, it is bound to be the cheapest. But things are happening many miles away on the island of Madagascar, where 40% of the world's vanilla comes from, which are affecting the price of ice cream in the United States, where Brad lives. First of all, in 2017 a cyclone destroyed the crop of vanilla bean pods, which has reduced the supply. On top of this, there has been an increase in demand. All this has left farmers struggling to cope.

'Why not use artificial vanilla and forget about the real thing?' you may ask. It is true that synthetic vanilla, made mainly from petrochemicals, and sometimes from coal and wood pulp, can be twenty times cheaper. But according to food standard regulations in the US and Europe, products containing this kind of vanilla cannot be labelled 'vanilla', only 'vanilla flavour'. To carry the 'vanilla' label, it must be natural vanilla. So, as supplies are low, the price is rising. In fact, at up to \$600 a kilo, the price now exceeds that of silver. This has made some people, mainly the 'middlemen', who buy from the farmers, as well as the exporters, so rich they are often called 'vanillionaires'!

But that's not the end of the story, and it seems as if it is not going to have a happy ending. One problem is this. The high value of vanilla has led to it being stolen from the farmers' fields. So, farmers have started patrolling their fields at night and stamping their names on their pods, but, for many, it is a losing battle. Therefore, many farmers have adopted a new tactic, namely, harvesting the crop earlier than normal, before the pods are fully ripe. This has affected the quality of the vanilla on the market. If this trend continues, then buyers will choose their vanilla from other producing countries, such as France and Germany, instead. So, ultimately, the farmers from Madagascar will lose out, and this will have serious consequences for the economy and political stability of a region where there is a lot of poverty.

Another result of the current increase in demand for vanilla has been that farmers are extending the area of land under cultivation, in order to grow more. Unfortunately, to do this, they have had little option but to destroy the virgin rainforest, which is home to the diverse range of plants and animals that Madagascar is famous for. In fact, up to 90% of them are found nowhere else in the world, having evolved over millions of years on the isolated island. In addition, the clearing of the forest has affected the temperature and humidity of the climate, which has, up to now, been so ideal for

growing vanilla. So, next time you buy a real vanilla ice cream, do not complain about the price and remember that the plainest flavour is perhaps the most special of all.

- 31. Madagascan vanilla is now more expensive because**
- A. other countries have stopped producing it.
  - B. Madagascar is not producing enough.
  - C. middlemen and exporters are greedy.
  - D. of decades of continuous bad weather.
- 32. There is high demand for vanilla in Europe and the US because**
- A. it is not possible to make synthetic vanilla.
  - B. products labelled vanilla must contain real vanilla.
  - C. synthetic vanilla is not healthy.
  - D. people are consuming more ice cream.
- 33. Farmers are harvesting their crops early because**
- A. these beans are of better quality.
  - B. the climate has changed.
  - C. they are afraid of thieves.
  - D. politicians have ordered them to.
- 34. It looks as if, in the future, the economy of Madagascar will**
- A. get slightly better.
  - B. dramatically improve.
  - C. remain unchanged.
  - D. become very much worse.
- 35. The rainforest in Madagascar is important internationally because it**
- A. is one of the largest rainforests in the world.
  - B. is mostly unexplored.
  - C. has an ideal climate.
  - D. has many unique plants and animals.