

ESB C2 Level 3 Reading (Part One)

Read the following text about the island of Jura. For questions 21 – 27, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

A Visit to Orwell's Jura

If you love scenery and literature, then you would be hard-pressed to find a better place to visit than the remote and sombre Scottish island that the author of 'Animal Farm' and '1984' was so fond of. Barnhill, a stout, whitewashed house on the isolated Scottish island of Jura in the Inner Hebrides, was exactly what George Orwell was looking for in the late 1940s: a remote retreat unreachable by vehicle. He called it 'an extremely un-get-atable place'; where he could write what would turn out to be his final work, '1984'. Just as it was when Orwell made Barnhill his temporary home, the house is difficult to get to, involving two ferries from the mainland of Scotland, a 20-mile drive and finally a 4-mile walk along a dirt track.

The spacious, four-bedroom home creates the impression that it has barely changed in the seventy years since Orwell resided at Barnhill. Meticulously preserved, the residence would be instantly recognisable if he were to step through the door today. The Orwell Society strives to keep the author's memory alive and organises trips to Barnhill to allow fans like myself to tread in the author's footsteps. Climbing the creaking stairs that lead to his bedroom, it was easy for me to imagine the clatter of the typewriter sounding out from this secluded spot. Orwell's black typewriter gives a satisfying 'clack' when I hit its keys. The antiquated contraption sits on an upstairs windowsill in a house where there is a view on to a bay of graphite-coloured water that laps the shore. Above are tumbling slopes of bracken and wild flowers.

The island has one single-track road which winds and tapers down the eastern side. On my visit, the sun casts shafts of light over the 'Paps', a trio of rock-covered peaks in the middle of the southern half of the island. Red deer, which outnumber people 25 to one on this island, seem utterly untroubled by my presence, and one handsome, russet-coloured stag strolls across the road ahead of me and pauses before slipping through thick hedges. Even in glorious sunshine, there is a **brooding**, melancholic air to Jura. Human activity has barely touched swathes of the island; the mossy valleys, lumpy fields of peat, the occasional shadow of a golden eagle flying overhead, the crags, gullies and lakes all contribute to an atmosphere that is simultaneously eerie and beautiful. The whisky distilleries are one of the main draws for visitors, alongside trout fishing, deer stalking, shooting and, of course, the landscape. One of the best things about the island is the views you get from the top of the Jura Paps: a 360° view of the area. Quite a bit of the island is uninhabited and there is a tremendous sense of nature and freedom.

Life moves slowly on Jura; peace and serenity reign. People who come here to get away from it all, regret only coming for a day. Jura must be one of the last wildernesses in the UK. Unlike a trip to the Lake District or the Yorkshire Dales, you won't find many managed walks on Jura and you certainly won't find it teeming with hikers. Visitors come to trek across the island; some for the thrill of it, some for the sea views. From the top of the Paps, it is possible to see Ireland and at certain times of the year, if you are fortunate enough, you can see the Northern Lights.

21. **According to the text, Orwell went to Jura**
A. on a retreat, to relax and rest.
B. to get on with his work in seclusion.
C. to live the final years of his life.
D. as he loved the Scottish islands.

22. **The author states that Orwell chose to stay at Barnhill for its**
A. good transport connections to the mainland.
B. more than ample accommodation.
C. sizeable distance from the nearest road.
D. rustic yet agreeable architectural features.

23. **According to paragraph two, the Orwell Society maintains Barnhill**
A. to give people an insight into Orwell's life.
B. as a base for walking tours of the area.
C. as a writers' museum for tourists.
D. to rent out to visitors as a holiday home.

24. **Paragraph two states that when writing, Orwell**
A. would ensure that he had a view of the sea.
B. needed to position himself upstairs.
C. would have made quite a racket.
D. relied on machinery, out of date at the time.

25. **In paragraph three, we learn that the deer**
A. are a rare red-coloured breed.
B. can roam freely on half of the island.
C. are wild and yet relatively tame.
D. are the dominant species on the island.

26. **The word 'brooding' in paragraph three could best be replaced with**
A. irritable.
B. murky.
C. grumpy.
D. gloomy.

27. **Visitors come to Jura predominantly**
A. to view the nature reserve.
B. for the hunting and fishing.
C. for organised walking tours.
D. to see the Northern Lights.

Remember to transfer your answers to the optical mark form.

ESB C2 Level 3 Reading (Part Two)

Read the following text about mosquitoes.

For questions 28 – 35, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

A Sweet Solution?

The teasing temptation of a sugary treat can often get the better of us but we're not the only ones; the saccharine substance that our sweet tooth finds so hard to forgo is also powerfully seductive to mosquitoes. According to new research, sugar may actually be good for our health but only in a bid to keep the pests away from our blood-rich body parts. However, don't be tempted to mix up your own sugar water as a mosquito repellent, as researchers warn that we may end up doing more harm than good.

We've long understood that sugar is an important energy source for mosquitoes. In fact, it's actually better than blood in terms of fuelling flight and basic survival processes. Only female mosquitoes feed on blood, as it provides essential nutrients needed to make their eggs. Of course, this thirst for blood generates a terrible disease burden globally, often in the countries least well equipped to cope. Hundreds of scientists across the world are working to reduce the menace of mosquitoes, and it would seem that one promising avenue of investigation is to examine how mosquitoes' desire for sugar and blood interact. The new research, which focuses on the tiger mosquito, an invasive species that has infiltrated every continent and a particular dangerous transmitter of diseases, revealed that feeding young tiger mosquitoes sugar solutions caused a physiological response similar to that after feeding on blood. Importantly, it then delayed their search for the red velvet blood of a human host.

Interestingly, the researchers found that feeding on sugar caused levels of a protein called vitellogenin to rise in the mosquitoes. Further experimentation on the production of vitellogenin revealed exciting results. Researchers found that by targeting a specific gene within the mosquito, they could reduce the host-seeking behaviour and in turn, the transmission of deadly diseases that affect millions. However, there is still much work to be done and feeding sugar to mosquitoes cannot alone be used as a control method in the real world. There are many reasons for this, but the most important is that the effects of sugar on mosquito behaviour can vary significantly, even within just this one species. For example, while the reduction in human attraction held true for young adult mosquitoes, when older females were fed sugar they remained highly attracted to humans, and displayed increased nutrient reserves.

Things get more complex when other mosquito species are taken into account. For example, high vitellogenin levels weaken the immune system of the African malarial mosquito, thereby making it more likely to contract and pass on malaria. Raised vitellogenin is therefore clearly not always **propitious**.

Leaving sugar out for mosquitoes may put off younger mosquitoes from biting you, but it will make older mosquitoes stronger, and could weaken the defences of other mosquito species. We may, however, be able to genetically modify or treat mosquitoes with hormones to eliminate this trade-off.

This research is a significant breakthrough in understanding the physiological mechanisms that influence mosquito feeding behaviour. However, the research is at an early stage and there is still a great deal of work left to do before any single solution is found. (From <https://theconversation.com/118029>)

- 28. According to paragraph one, sugar can be**
 - A. beneficial as part of our daily diet.
 - B. detrimental to mosquitoes when dissolved.
 - C. irresistible to some species of insects.
 - D. an effective remedy for mosquito bites.
- 29. The text further states that sugar**
 - A. is a vital food for mosquitoes.
 - B. enhances the insects' flying ability.
 - C. can be a substitute for human blood.
 - D. contains vitamins needed for reproduction.
- 30. The author suggests that worldwide,**
 - A. blood disorders are a cause for concern.
 - B. countries have an unfair distribution of resources.
 - C. the aim is to eliminate all mosquitoes.
 - D. research institutes need to work together.
- 31. In paragraph two, it is stated that the tiger mosquito**
 - A. can be found now in every country in the world.
 - B. is a notably aggressive species of mosquito.
 - C. becomes very ill after consuming sugar.
 - D. is temporarily satisfied after consuming sugar.
- 32. According to the text, researchers found a way to**
 - A. extract protein from sugar.
 - B. decrease mosquito-related deaths.
 - C. eradicate certain diseases.
 - D. stop mosquitoes from multiplying.
- 33. The author claims that further investigation is needed, as mosquitoes**
 - A. behave differently across the species.
 - B. are not all attracted to sugary solutions.
 - C. have different dietary requirements.
 - D. age too quickly to be reliable test cases.
- 34. The word 'propitious' in paragraph four can best be replaced with**
 - A. encouraging.
 - B. prosperous.
 - C. inopportune.
 - D. favourable.
- 35. Overall, the text implies that the research findings are**
 - A. conservative but valid.
 - B. cutting edge but dubious.
 - C. innovative but ambiguous.
 - D. experimental but irrelevant.

Remember to transfer your answers to the optical mark form.