



HIPPO 2021

9th International English Language Olympiad

IESOL Assessment Reading

RQF Level: Level 2

(CEFR Level: C1)

Candidate Booklet - Reading

HIPPO 5 – S15

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
- Remember to transfer your answers onto the answer sheet.
- Use only black or blue PEN.
- Dictionaries are NOT allowed.

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.

Why Learn Another Language?

Have you heard all the 0) _____ why some people don't learn languages? Many of these are founded on long-held myths and 1) _____. The truth is, in today's increasingly connected world, 2) _____ in other languages is a vital skill that gives you the opportunity to engage with the world in a more immediate and meaningful way. Whether in your neighbourhood or thousands of miles away, speaking another language means you can 3) _____ and succeed in today's world.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the human experience is our 4) _____ to connect with others. Being able to communicate with someone in his or her language is an incredible gift. People who are bilingual have the 5) _____ opportunity to communicate with a wider range of people in their personal and professional lives. Knowing the language makes you a local no matter where you are, 6) _____ opening up your world. You will be shaped by communities. You will be surprised by the kindness of strangers. You will build lifelong friendships. And for these reasons alone, you will see the 7) _____ of learning languages for many years to come.

Language skills can be a 8) _____ competitive advantage that sets you apart from your monolingual peers. They are among the top eight skills required in all occupations, no matter your sector or skill level. And the demand for bilingual professionals is rising. In fact, between 2010 and 2015, the number of U.S. job posts that asked for bilingual 9) _____ more than doubled. Employers are seeking people who can 10) _____ with customers in new and expanding overseas markets, as well as serve and sell to a large foreign-born population here at home.

In the UK around 22 million people speak a second language, and 6 million use another language at home. So, you don't need to get on a plane to put your language skills to work. As an added 11) _____, in many instances language skills also lead to bonuses and increased salaries. Whatever your career aims, with language skills added to the mix, you're 12) _____ the crowd!



- Example:** (a) reasons b) details c) checks d) goals
1. a) acceptances b) shortages c) inadequacies d) misconceptions
 2. a) efficiency b) proficiency c) incompetence d) pride
 3. a) oppose b) challenge c) compete d) assist
 4. a) command b) intelligence c) ability d) qualification
 5. a) single b) unique c) unknown d) minimal
 6. a) anonymously b) thoughtfully c) reluctantly d) literally
 7. a) impression b) compensation c) problem d) reward
 8. a) irrelevant b) significant c) compatible d) inappropriate
 9. a) candidates b) entrants c) nominees d) runners
 10. a) transfer b) swap c) communicate d) argue
 11. a) incentive b) target c) measure d) distraction
 12. a) ahead of b) level with c) just behind d) reaching for



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.

Near-miss asteroids are becoming more frequent

Para 1. A 340-metre-wide space rock named Apophis whizzed safely past Earth on 6 March 2021. The next time it returns, in 2029, won't be so uneventful: Apophis won't be so far away - it will come within 40,000 kilometres of our planet, skimming just above the region where some high-flying satellites orbit. It will be the first time that astronomers will be able to observe such an immense asteroid pass so close to us.

Para 2. Apophis' fly-by gave scientists the opportunity to have a run-through of the worldwide planetary defence system, in which astronomers rapidly assess the chances of an asteroid impacting the Earth as they follow its direction across the night sky. "It's a fire drill with a real asteroid," says Paul Smith, a planetary scientist at the University of Arizona who coordinated the observing campaign. "It was amazing to see, and great to know that all the time and effort we have put in allowed us to get such fantastic information about Apophis. Of course it's a fire drill, where if the fire actually happened, the effects would be pretty devastating. Fortunately, this time around that wasn't an issue".

The fact that scientists could track Apophis' path highlights how much astronomers have learnt about near-Earth asteroids - and how much knowledge they still lack. Since 1998, when NASA kicked off the biggest search for near-Earth asteroids, scientists have detected more than 25,000 of them. Top space scientists have been collecting these figures for over twenty years and last year turned out to be a record year for discoveries. Paul Smith said, "We definitely expected to see a decline and all my personal data was pointing that way but despite some interruptions to the surveys, astronomers recorded 2,958 previously unknown near-Earth asteroids over the course of the year".

A large number of these observations came from the Catalina Sky Survey, which uses three telescopes in Arizona, USA, to hunt for potentially threatening space rocks. Operations closed briefly last year, yet the Catalina survey still discovered 1,548 near-Earth objects. These included a rare 'mini-moon' named 2020 CD3, a tiny asteroid less than 3 metres in diameter that had been temporarily captured by Earth's gravity. However, 2020 CD3 will make another close pass to Earth in March 2044, though it will most likely not be captured by Earth due to the greater approach distance.

Para. 5. Another batch of discoveries last year – 1,152 – came from the Pan-STARRS survey telescopes in Hawaii. Their findings included an object named 2020 SO, which turned out to be not an asteroid, but a leftover rocket booster that had been circling around in space since it helped to launch a NASA mission to the Moon in 1966. It was initially identified as unusual because, when spotted, it lacked the velocity to be a true natural asteroid. Only later did it dawn on scientists that it was space junk. This 1960s era rocket fragment, which vanished decades ago, has been floating around space continually. It has probably circled the Earth several times since it was first lost but, before this year, the technology was not good enough

to see it. Based on the direction that it is travelling, scientists believe that the 'mini-moon' was captured by Earth several years ago and broke away from Earth's pull last April. It has now found a new home – orbiting the Sun!



Para. 6. Some of the asteroids discovered in 2020 came close to Earth — at least 107 of them passed the planet at a distance less than that of the Moon. One close shave included the tiny asteroid 2020 QG, which travelled just 2,950 kilometres above the Indian Ocean in August. That made it the closest observed — a record broken just three months later by another small object, 2020 VT4. That one passed less than 400 kilometres from the planet and wasn't spotted until 15 hours after it had passed. Had it hit, it would probably have broken apart in the Earth's atmosphere.

All of these discoveries are making astronomers more conscious of the nature of the Solar System, where plenty of asteroids move around in the space near Earth. The recent push to observe Apophis highlights how astronomers around the world can work together to assess the threat posed by asteroids. By the time Apophis comes around again, in 2029, scientists will have an even more detailed record of threatening space rocks. "It's been a huge international effort," says Professor Smith. "Some people might think it would be tedious, with a lot of staring into telescopes and counting figures, but I take the opposite view, and find the whole process compelling."

Example: The asteroid Apophis:

- a) hit the Earth but had limited impact.
- b) will be closer next time it comes.
- c) is predicted to hit the Earth in future.
- d) was not spotted by scientists.

13. In paragraph 1, the word 'skimming' means:

- a) remove from the surface
- b) move quickly and lightly over
- c) consider only briefly
- d) rising up over

14. In paragraph 2, the word 'run-through' mean the same as:

- a) a rehearsal
- b) the first time
- c) a failure
- d) a mistake

15. Why does Paul Smith use the term 'fire drill'?

- a) To criticise how some scientists react to an asteroid sighting.
- b) To scare people by highlighting their fear of fire.
- c) To downplay the seriousness of an asteroid impact.
- d) To use a familiar term to help explain what he is talking about.



16. Paul Smith suggests that if an asteroid hits the Earth:

- a) the effects will be wide-ranging and dramatic.
- b) it will have only a limited impact because the asteroid will be small.
- c) we have absolutely no idea what will happen.
- d) it will be the same as when other asteroids previously hit the Earth.

17. The tracking of Apophis has revealed that scientists:

- a) can only track the largest objects from space.
- b) still lack the basic tools and knowledge to do their job.
- c) now know so much about asteroids further research is irrelevant.
- d) have made advances but there is more to know.

18. The number of asteroids detected by scientists:

- a) is on a downward path.
- b) has remained constant since 1998.
- c) has reached a new peak.
- d) was exactly what was predicted.

19. The Catalina Sky Survey:

- a) was closed for a year.
- b) was temporarily closed last year.
- c) opened for the first time last year.
- d) will not reopen again until after next year.

20. Which is true of the object called 2020 SO?

- a) It was recorded and tracked by the Catalina Sky Survey.
- b) It was deliberately placed there by NASA as a test.
- c) Scientists couldn't see its earlier orbits of the Earth.
- d) Scientists no longer know where it is.

21. In paragraph 5, the phrase 'dawn on' means:

- a) do it early in the day
- b) guess without evidence
- c) ask for help
- d) occur to



22. In 2020, the Pan-STARRS survey:

- a) failed to spot any space objects at all.
- b) saw fewer objects than the Catalina Sky Survey.
- c) saw more objects than the Catalina Sky Survey.
- d) wasn't intended to count any space objects.

23. Which is true about the asteroid 2020 VT4?

- a) It wasn't as close as asteroid 2020 QG.
- b) It was 400km closer than asteroid 2020 QG.
- c) It broke apart whilst passing Earth.
- d) It wasn't noticed as it passed the Earth.

24. In paragraph 6, the underlined words 'close shave' could be replaced with:

- a) direct hit
- b) safe distance
- c) near miss
- d) mass escape

25. Which statement best describes Paul Smith's opinion?

- a) An astronomer's work can be boring, but it is important.
- b) The threat of Earth being hit by an asteroid is increasing.
- c) That Earth will soon be hit by a space rock.
- d) That scientists cooperating is leading to better data.

26. This text is:

- a) an article for a journal read only by scientists.
- b) an example of biased reporting to push a specific view.
- c) a report on a science topic written for a general reader.
- d) a scientist promoting his own work to gain more funding.



Reading Task 3

Part 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

Have you ever seen a Sinclair C5 car driving down your road? Probably not. I have only ever seen one, and that was over 20 years ago when Britain ran out of fuel for a few weeks. The reason you have almost GAP _____ never noticed the C5 is that it was a complete flop.

Sir Clive Sinclair invented the Sinclair C5, a small one-person battery electric vehicle. Sir Clive had a long-running interest in electric vehicles. Sinclair had become one of the UK's best-known millionaires and earned many awards on the back of his home computer business in the early 1980s. He hoped to repeat his success in the electric vehicle market, which he saw as ready for a new approach.

However, the 'car' was seen as a complete joke. It looked silly, went very slowly, the battery constantly ran out, you got rained on, and it looked scarily fragile next to a big truck. It also failed because at that time there was no concern about the damage fuel emissions were causing to the environment.

Out of 14,000 C5s made, only 5,000 were sold before production ceased. Today they are worth more than originally sold for as they are quite fun to drive around in.

Text B

One of the 'Four Great Inventions' (along with paper, gunpowder and printing), the magnetic compass was first invented as a device for predicting the future as early as the Chinese Han Dynasty (c. 206 BC). It was later adopted for navigation (finding the direction to something or somewhere) by the Chinese Song Dynasty during the 11th century. The first compass recorded in Western Europe and the Islamic world was not until around 1190. Without the compass, people would not have spread to all the corners of the world.

GAP) _____, with a magnetic compass, you point it where you want to go and follow where the needle points. However, the problem is that the Earth's magnetic pull changes every now and then, so you will be directed to a slightly different place. This might not matter for a short distance but as the distance increases, so does the inaccuracy. If you didn't know what you were doing, you could end up hundreds of miles off course. Experienced compass users know how to compensate for this magnetic change.

It might be an old invention, but fundamentally a lot of GPS navigation systems are based on the compass.



Text C

The wind-up, or clockwork, radio was invented by Englishman Trevor Baylis. The radio, instead of relying on batteries or external electrical source, is powered by the user turning a handle. This stores energy in a spring which then drives an electrical generator.

In the late 1980s Baylis saw a television programme about the spread of illnesses in Africa and realised that a way to halt the spread of disease would be to educate people and disseminate information by radio. Within 30 minutes, he had assembled the prototype (first model) of his most well-known invention, the wind-up radio.

While the prototype worked well, he explored all avenues but struggled to find a production partner. The turning point came in 1994 when his invention was featured on the BBC TV programme *Tomorrow's World*, which resulted in an investor coming forward to give him money to make his radios. His design won many awards and he was congratulated by the Queen and Nelson Mandela.

He also made shoes that can charge batteries! You pop a battery in these distinctive shoes and as you walk around it gets charged. He walked across Namibia and then at the end used the power generated to phone the UK.

Text D

Usually, Adidas's trainers include more than 12 different materials. The *Futurecraft.Loop* uses one plastic and could usher in a new era of shoe design.

Upon first glance, these running shoes, while notably stylish, look no different from any other high-end running shoes. The innovation comes once you're done with them. Instead of throwing the sneakers away, you can return them to Adidas so 100% of each shoe can be reused to create future generations of *Futurecraft.Loop* shoes. When they look a bit shabby, Adidas can GAP) _____ the plastics and make another pair of trainers out of them.

It took more than seven years of research, including developing new technology to build the shoes out of a single material with no glue or solvent. James Carnes, vice president of global brand strategy at Adidas, says the *Futurecraft.Loop* is meant to be a first step to "clean up some of the impact that we create through our massive product creation every year."

Unfortunately, you'll have to wait to get your hands on them; they're still in the testing phase, and the tentative schedule for public consumption was scheduled for 2021 but that had to be delayed again because of problems.



Which text...	Text
Example: describes something that was a total failure?	A
27. also details the maker's second invention?	-----
28. highlights an invention designed to solve an environmental problem?	-----
29. describes something that is more expensive today than when it was first invented?	-----
30. explains how publicity helped to financially support the inventor?	-----
31. highlights something that is not yet available to purchase?	-----
32. talks about a product that could be mistaken for an older version?	-----
33. criticises a product for numerous reasons?	-----
34. refers to the speed at which the first product of its kind was made?	-----

Part B. Now answer the following questions. Circle the correct option, a, b, c, or d.

35. In Text A, the best word to complete the gap is:

- a) certainly
- b) maybe
- c) possibly
- d) frequently

36. In Text A, the underlined words 'on the back of' can best be replaced with:

- a) following the failure of
- b) following the arrival of
- c) following the ending of
- d) following the success of

37. In Text B, the best option to complete the gap is:

- a) Therefore
- b) Basically
- c) Next
- d) As a result



38. In Text C, the word 'disseminate' means:

- a) to spread
- b) to not tell anyone
- c) to cut into small pieces
- d) to store

39. In Text C, the underlined phrase 'explored all avenues' means the same as:

- a) travelled far and wide
- b) continued to think of other possible inventions
- c) kept his success a secret
- d) tried a number of possibilities

40. In Text D, the best phrase to complete the gap is:

- a) break down
- b) break out
- c) break in
- d) break off

Candidate Number

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Date of Birth

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D D M M Y Y Y Y

9. When you wipe the floors, they tend to be quite _____. You have to be careful not to fall.
10. I really like _____ -shopping. I don't enjoy buying things, just looking at the and making witty comments with my friends.

3. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space.

11. The _____ industries are a major employer in this area. **MANUFACTURE**
12. Each _____ is responsible for the area in front of his home. **HOUSE**
13. In the 80's, _____ knew that pollution was getting out of hand. **ANALYSE**
14. Do you know the _____ of the word 'handsome'? **DERIVE**
15. I used to be quite optimistic, but in my thirties _____ started to set in. **ILLUSION**
16. I'd be surprised if his plan came to _____. **FRUIT**
17. Have you got any _____ in your ear Mr. Gogh? **SENSE**
18. It is very important to do the job _____. **DUTY**
19. The sound of this band is _____ and singular. **IMITATE**
20. What an _____ young man. He looks very handsome and serious. **IMPRESS**

4. Decide which sentences are incorrect and correct them.

21. Supersonic planes have never been a commercial success. _____
22. She does a comic for the local newspaper every week. _____
23. As your teacher, I advice you to study hard. _____
24. Once the teapot has boiled, pour the boiling water over tea. _____
25. Plates, bowls, to name but two, are all crockery. _____
26. I don't like people telling me what to do in my own home. _____
27. The famous actor was arrested and charged with robbery. _____
28. He felt certain uncomfort as he met her. _____
29. What do you think you will achieve by the time you are thirty? _____
30. It can't be John. He was in Spain at that time. _____



IESOL L2/C1 READING ANSWER SHEET – HIPPO Semi-final Round 2021

Reading Task 1

Question	Answer
1.	D
2.	B
3.	C
4.	C
5.	B
6.	D
7.	D
8.	B
9.	A
10.	C
11.	A
12.	A
Total: / 12	

Reading Task 2

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
13	B	20	C
14	A	21	D
15	D	22	B
16	A	23	D
17	D	24	C
18	C	25	D
19	B	26	C
Total: / 14			

Reading Task 3

Question	Answer	Question	Answer
27	C	34	C
28	D	35	A
29	A	36	D
30	C	37	B
31	D	38	A
32	D	39	D
33	A	40	A
Total: / 14			

Hippo 2021 SF Round Writing Hippo 5 – S15 Key

1. Colloquial
2. timely
3. taken
4. speaks
5. halves / Dutch
6. longevity
7. solidify
8. beyond
9. slippery
10. window
11. manufacturing
12. householder
13. analysts
14. derivation
15. disillusionment
16. fruition
17. sensation
18. dutifully
19. inimitable
20. impressionable
21. C
22. Comic – cartoon
23. Advice – advise
24. Teapot – kettle
25. C
26. C
27. C
28. Uncomfort – discomfort
29. Will achieve – will have achieved
30. Can't be – can't have been