ESOL Skills for Life

Reading Level 2
Sample Assessment 1

Theme – Travelling in the UK

Learner Name:

Learner ID:

Learner Signature:

Date:

- learners should **use a pen**
- learners should **write in black or blue ink**
- learners should **attempt all questions / tasks**
- learners are **allowed to use a dictionary**

Time allowed: **75 minutes**

Section A

Read **TEXT A**, **TEXT B** and **TEXT C** below, then answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A

Taxis and Uber in the UK: Tradition vs. Technology

Do you have a lot of luggage with you and you don't want to bother with public transportation? If you just need to get from point A to point B quickly, then taking a taxi might be the most suitable alternative. However, you should keep in mind that taxis are not available everywhere in the UK. In fact, they are widespread in bigger towns and cities, where the black cabs have become rather famous.

You can hail a taxi in the street if it has switched on its yellow "Taxi" sign. If you are dubious where to get a taxi from, local train stations or airports are great locations to start.

While London's cabs have a long history varying from horse carriages first licensed in the 17th century, to today's iconic black taxis, modern technology has influenced the way we hail for a ride: since its official UK launch in 2012, Uber's services have expanded very quickly in big British cities and now present a real alternative to taxis and minicabs. To order an Uber taxi you'll need to download an Uber app. This allows people in many cities in the UK to call an Uber taxi for a cheaper price than calling an ordinary taxi. But is this a good idea? There have been repercussions, to the point that thousands of traditional taxi drivers have taken to the streets and demonstrated.

TEXT B

According to a recent BBC news item, only one in four people would consider buying an electric car in the next five years. People who wish to move towards a low carbon future at a faster pace, could be concerned about the hesitancy of British drivers to embrace cleaner electric technology.

After researching the market, a dad of two recently bought a new petrol SUV. 'I didn't feel an electric car was right for long family trips to Cornwall and there were no local electric charging points'.

The distance the electric car could travel between charges, known as the range, was one of the most limiting factors for the consumers who took part. Analysis revealed that a range of 320 km (200 miles) was needed for 50% of participants to consider owning a fully electric car. Increasing the range to 480 km (300 miles) meant 90% would consider electric.

The government is interested in incentives for home charging and home electric vehicle supply equipment, since a majority of electric vehicle owners charge at home.

The government is committed to reducing CO_2 emissions by 2050 - by 80% compared with levels in 1990 and reducing vehicle emissions is seen as a critical part of this.

As part of its clean air strategy, the government has guaranteed to end the sale of all petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.

TEXT C

Disadvantaged people in urban areas are being kept from Britain's top beauty spots because of distance and poor public transport links, according to new research.

A study by The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) found that 36% of England's population live too far from national parks for them to be classed as 'easily' accessible destinations. It said a chronic lack of transport options stopped the poorest people from enjoying all the physical and mental benefits of the outdoors.

The report highlighted poor transport links between places with high rates of poverty and protected countryside. "We're surrounded by outstanding beauty and yet there are loads of people missing out. Increasing affordable and sustainable transport options will reduce isolation among communities and increase levels of health and happiness", a spokesperson from the CPRE said. Schemes like Dales Bus Service in the Yorkshire Dales, which was set up in response to a lack of transport around rural parts of the area, show communities taking initiative where infrastructure fails ordinary people – residents forced to rely on voluntary services.

Analysis showed the UK has lost 134 million miles of serviced bus routes over the past decade, with public transport being hit hard by austerity. The majority of cuts were made in the North West, where the bus network shrunk by almost a quarter.

People working at CPRE are suggesting that the government should offer local community groups funds to boost transport links in remote areas. Disadvantaged people would take affordable and frequent coach trips to the countryside and benefit from fresh air, amazing views and a good chat.

1a) According to **Text A**, what has changed in the way we call for taxis in the last 10 years?
Write the answer below.

According to **Text B**, what was the peoples' main concern, preventing many of them consider purchasing an electric car?
Write the answer below.

AC 1.1

1b) Below are possible purposes for **Texts A** and **B**, of which **two** are correct.

Write '**A**' or '**B**' in the appropriate box that matches the purpose of the **Texts A** or **B**.

In the next box along, write a phrase from the text which shows this is the purpose.

(**Two** purposes are **not correct** and should remain blank.)

Possible Purpose	Text (A or B)	Phrase
To request a signed petition		
To highlight the reasons why people are reluctant to move on to electric cars		
To encourage more people to take public transport		
To inform about the backlash against the company		

AC 2.1 (Text) & 2.2 (Phrase)

1c) Find the meaning of the following words and write them below.

Dubious (**Text A**)	
Hesitancy (**Text B**)	

AC 3.3

2a) According to **Text C**, "poor people are the ones that enjoy the countryside more". Is this statement true or false? Tick the correct answer below:

True	☐
False	☐

According to **Text C**, what are the consequences of the lack of public transport? Write your answer below.

_____

_____

2b) What do the writers of **Texts B** and **C** want you to feel about 'accessibility to services' in the UK?

Choose **one word** for **Text B** and **one word** for **Text C**, and write the Text's letter (**B** or **C**) next to the appropriate word below.

(There are **three** words **which are incorrect and should remain blank**).

scared		
happy		
angry		
demoralised		
jealous		

Below, write a number from **one** of the texts with details of what the number is for.

_____

_____

Write below a positive argument from **Text A** with details of:

- **what** the argument is
- **why** it has a positive impact

Write your answers below.

2c) Look again at **Text A** for these questions.

Write the name of the means of transport in London in the 1600s.

Summarise something which was said about the benefits of being in the outdoors in **Text C** and who said it.

The benefits of being in the outdoors	Who said it?

3a) Look again at **Text B** for these questions.

Write **one** fact from the **paragraph 4** in the space below:

Summarise a **positive argument** expressed in the closing paragraph of **Text B**.

3b) In the **fourth paragraph** of **Text C**, what is the means of transport that has been affected? Write your answer below and then also summarise what happened, describing the key points.

_____

_____

_____

_____

3c) Look at **Text B** again and write down **one** way in which the government intends to encourage the use of electric cars?

_____

_____

From the last paragraph of **Text C**, write down **one** suggestion for improving transport links in the UK.

_____

_____

What do you think is the best solution to accessing the countryside from those given in Text C, and why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

end of Section A

Section B

Read **TEXT A** and **TEXT B** below, then answer the questions that follow.

TEXT A

Heathrow Airport has unveiled its £30bn expansion plans with a disputable third runway set to open by 2026.

The first phase will include the re-routing of a 12-lane section of the M25 into a tunnel under the new runway, the diversion of river corridors and creation of new drainage and pollution control areas, and realignment of the Colnbrook Railhead cargo line.

The rest of the airport will be built in three stages between 2030 and 2050. The third runaway hopes to increase Heathrow's total capacity to 135 million passengers by 2050, up from almost 81 million. During that time, flight numbers are also expected to rise from 480,000 to 740,000.

Local people are promised appealing compensations, such as noise insulation funding and improved public transport links. In addition, homeowners will get the open market value of their home plus 25% and a 6.5-hour ban on scheduled night flights.
The principal argument in favour of expanding Heathrow is to boost the economic growth of the UK.

After the report's publication the airport's chief executive said: "This argument has never been about a runway, it's been about the future we want for Britain. With the expansion of Heathrow, Britain will become one of the world's great trading nations, at the very heart of the global economy."

The plans would see Heathrow divided into two main passenger terminals and transport hubs – Heathrow West and Heathrow East. At 99% capacity, a three-runway Heathrow could provide up to 740,000 flights every year.

The executive director of Back Heathrow, which claims to represent more than 100,00 local residents, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity which will bring thousands of new jobs, apprenticeships for young people in local communities and enhance the wider UK economy".

London and Eastern regional secretary added: "This master plan is an important step on the road to creating 77,000 new local jobs and 5,000 new apprenticeships, as well as other benefits such as increased investment and better infrastructure."

TEXT B

A consultation will run from 18th June until 13th September to give people the opportunity to provide feedback on Heathrow's proposals for the future layout of the airport, the new runway and other airport infrastructure such as terminals and road access.

Environmental charities and the local authorities surrounding Heathrow claim there is new evidence on the extreme health impacts of air and noise pollution which makes the expansion of Heathrow far less probable to pass a review.

The third runway has faced relentless opposition for many years from campaigners who pointed out the negative impacts of noise and air pollution, habitat destruction, transport congestion and climate change.

"It looks like that Heathrow wants to spread the misery of their expansion plans over a 30-year period, inflicting the blight of increased air and noise pollution on communities across London for decades". A spokesperson from the No 3rd Runway Coalition said.

The chair of a prominent campaigning group opposed to Heathrow's expansion, said: "The impact on local people could be harsh for many years to come: the demolition of homes; the reality of more than 700 extra planes a day." He warns the changes would create fresh "hidden victims of the runway", with major disruption to local journeys that "people build their lives around, cutting people off from facilities they now use".

Campaigners have said around two million people could be impacted by new noise from an expanded Heathrow, including in areas such as Hammersmith, Heston, Osterley Park, Chiswick and Brentford, which are not on the flight path at the moment. Last month the High Court declined five legal challenges to the authorisation of the runway, including one brought by a consortium of local authorities, the mayor of London and Greenpeace, on air quality, climate change and noise pollution grounds.
Friends of The Earth, which brought one of the challenges, said it would appeal.

1a) According to **Text A**, when will the Heathrow expansion be completed by? Write your answer below.

According to **Text A**, what is the main reason for the expansion of the airport?

AC 1.1

1b) Read **Text A** and **Text B**.

Which Text (**A** or **B**) is less supportive of the runway? (tick **A** or **B**)

| Text A | ☐ |
| Text B | ☐ |

Which Text (**A** or **B**) provides quotes from people backing the plan? (tick **A** or **B**)

| Text A | ☐ |
| Text B | ☐ |

Write a phrase from the text which shows support for the new runway.

AC 2.1

What is the job of the second person quoted in **Text B**?

AC 2.2

1c) Find the meaning of the following words and write them below.

Realignment (**Text A**)

Consortium (**Text B**)

AC 3.3

2a) According to **Text B**, who are the environmental charities and local authorities trying to protect?

Write your answer below.

_____

According to the headline of **Text A** was the expansion plan well-received by everyone? **Circle** 'yes' or 'no' below.

YES   NO

Write the word in the headline that makes you say so:

2b) Which **two** of the of **five** phrases listed below match something the writers want you to do or feel?

Pick **one** for **Text A** and **one** for **Text B**.

Write '**A**' or '**B**' next to the matching phrase below.

(**Three** phrases are not correct and **should remain blank**.)

Be scared of the Heathrow expansion	
Be grateful for the opportunity given by the expansion plan	
Join the campaigners in their fight	
Understand the potential impact of an expanded Heathrow	
Move away from Heathrow area	

Write the exact number of the flights expected to fly in and out from Heathrow by 2050 below.

How long will the consultation be?

2c) Write below **two** organisations that are challenging the Heathrow expansion.

Write the name of **one** of the places that will be affected by the new noise.

3a) Write what the final outcome will be by 2050 in **Text A**.

Write below one opinion expressed by the chair of a prominent campaigning group in **Text B**.

3b) In your own words, summarise what will be offered to the people living in the Heathrow area in **paragraph 4** of **Text A**.

3c) Write the strongest opinion expressed in **Text B**.

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_____

_____

From the **end** of **Text A**, write what the executive director claims.

_____

_____

_____

_____

From your comparison of **Text A** and **Text B**, do you agree with the third runaway plans? Write your thoughts below.

_____

_____

_____

AC 1.4

Assessment Record

(See separate 'Mark Scheme' document for assessment guidance)

Both sections should be assessed against all the assessment criteria and the marking grid below should be completed by the assessor.

Indicate if the learner has achieved the descriptor with a tick in the grid below. Learners must have at least one tick in each column to pass the exam.

Assessor to complete, if included in sample

AC	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	3.3
Question	1a)	2b)	3a)	3c)	1b)	1b)	3b)	2a)	2c)	1c)
Section A										
Section B										
Assessor name:										
Assessor signature:										
Date:										

Internal (IM) and External (EM) Moderator to complete, if included in sample

Moderation record					
Achievement confirmed by IM (tick)	Date	IM signature	Achievement confirmed by EM (tick)	Date	EM signature
Name of IM:					
Name of EM:					