



National
Qualifications
2026

2026 ESOL

Reading

National 5

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by Qualifications Scotland appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

The information in this document may be reproduced in support of Qualifications Scotland qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, Qualifications Scotland must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from Qualifications Scotland.

General marking principles for National 5 ESOL Reading

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the specific marking instructions for each question. The marking schemes are written to assist in determining the 'minimal acceptable answer' rather than listing every possible correct and incorrect answer.

- (a) Marks for each candidate response must **always** be assigned in line with these general marking principles and the specific marking instructions for the relevant question.
- (b) Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (c) The marking instructions indicate the essential idea that a candidate should provide for each answer.
- (d) The answers for each question must come from the original text.
- (e) Where there is a multiple choice question, award 0 marks where a candidate ticks all boxes.
- (f) In addition, markers should use their professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding to mark candidate responses.

Marking instructions for each question

Text 1

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.			destined for bins/waste(d)	1	No more than three words (NMT3W)
2.			food insecurity	1	NMT3W
3.			(rampant) inflation	1	NMT3W
4.			(rooted in) poverty	1	NMT3W NOT: higher costs
5.			(the) climate/carbon emissions	1	NMT3W NOT: children/environment
6.			B&C	2	
7.			alarming	1	One word only NOT: insecurity
8.			(aim to) go the extra mile	1	Needs the verb 'go' NOT: go to extra mile
9.			C	1	
10.			D	1	

Text 2

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
11.			D	1	
12.			C	1	
13.			B	1	
14.			punishing	1	One word only
15.			safeguard	1	One word only
16.			address	1	No more than three words
17.			performance	1	NMT3W
18.			(huge) sums	1	NMT3W
19.			working from home	1	NMT3W
20.			(effective) work-life balance	1	Needs all three words (hyphenated or not is okay) NMT3W
21.			C	1	
22.			A	1	

Text 3

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
23.			sufficient training	1	No more than three words NOT: unlimited resources
24.			(educational) priority/focus	1	NMT3W
25.			life skills	1	NMT3W Needs both words NOT communication/speaking skills
26.			A&D	2	
27.			C	1	
28.			D	1	
29.			compromising	1	One word only
30.		(i)	C	1	
		(ii)	D	1	
		(iii)	A	1	
31.			A	1	

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]