

1

Sports and Leisure

Section A: Reading Task 1

B READING AND ANALYZING THE TEXT

The first reading task in the ECCE test consists of a short prose text followed by six multiple choice questions. Read the passage and do the activities that follow.

This passage is about sports.

1 What do snowboarding, base jumping,
2 skydiving, downhill mountain biking, and hang
3 gliding have in common? They are all considered
4 “extreme” sports because they involve some
5 degree of danger, and lots of excitement.

6 Many people choose these alternative sports
7 over traditional options like soccer or tennis.
8 Patrick, 25, started snowboarding when he was
9 eight. He still feels he needs to be constantly
10 on the edge. Catherine, 47, started bungee
11 jumping a few years ago simply to add some
12 variety to her life. Indeed, extreme sports, or
13 alternative sports as others prefer to call them,
14 attract people of all ages, including parents with
15 their children. Paul, 35, enjoys skateboarding and
16 mountain biking with his 10-year-old daughter.
17 He says that skateboarding requires as much, if
18 not more, training and skill as soccer, basketball,
19 or boxing. Many parents like him feel that some
20 of these sports create the perfect opportunity
21 to teach children about safety, self-confidence
22 and endurance, while engaging in new physical
23 activities.

24 Undoubtedly, fear is a special component of
25 these cool sports that attract young and mature
26 audiences alike. However, according to experts,
27 with the development of appropriate equipment
28 that enables us to do sports safely, risk of injury
29 can be reduced. Unfortunately, in most cases,
30 safety equipment is expensive, raising the cost of
31 participating. For example, a 30-second bungee
32 jump may cost from \$50 to over \$300 in different
33 parts of the world.



A PRE-READING

1 Work individually. Make a list of all the sports you can think of in one minute.

2 Work with a partner. Compare your list of sports. Find the ‘winners’ in the following categories:

- Who has the longest list of sports?
- Who has played most of those sports?
- Who has the highest number of less traditional sports?

Reading skills and strategies

Understanding main ideas

All the information in a text relates directly to a main idea, whether it be the main idea of the text as a whole or the main idea in one paragraph. Identifying the main idea is key to good reading comprehension. There are questions that test your ability to recognize the main idea in a passage or in part of a passage.

For example, look at paragraph 1 – it gives examples of some sports and says that they are considered extreme sports as they may be dangerous and exciting. Therefore, the main idea of paragraph 1 is that extreme sports are dangerous and exciting.

1 Quickly skim the text to have an overall idea of the passage. Can you easily identify the main idea of the rest of the paragraphs?

Paragraph 2:

.....

.....

Paragraph 3:

.....

.....

Reading skills and strategies

Identifying key words

Identifying key words in the questions will help you find the correct information in the text. Question words like *who*, *when*, *how long*, *how old*, *how many*, and *how much* often ask about information that clearly stands out in the passage.

If a question asks about...	In the passage look for...
a name	capitalized words until you find the name you need
a date or a year	numbers, days and months (also capitalized), or years
time	time-related words like <i>second</i> , <i>minute</i> , <i>hour</i> , <i>month</i> , <i>ago</i> , <i>yesterday</i> , etc.
price	currency sign (e.g., \$, £, €, etc.)

2 Quickly go over the passage and look for the information you need to answer the questions below. Write down the line(s) where you found the answer.

Who likes skateboarding?

Answer Line(s)

.....

What examples of extreme sports are mentioned?

Answer Line(s)

.....

What examples of traditional sports are mentioned?

Answer Line(s)

.....

When did Catherine start bungee jumping?

Answer Line(s)

.....

How long does a bungee jump take?

Answer Line(s)

.....

How old are Patrick and Catherine?

Answer Line(s)

.....

How old is Paul's daughter?

Answer Line(s)

.....

What sport does Patrick practice?

Answer Line(s)

.....

Why are extreme sports usually expensive?

Answer Line(s)

.....

How much does it cost to go bungee jumping?

Answer Line(s)

.....

Section A: Reading Task 1

Reading skills and strategies

Identifying facts and making inferences

Some questions will ask about specific facts mentioned in the passage. Others will require that you make inferences. In this last case, the information is not clearly stated in the passage. There are clues that help you make inferences and draw conclusions.

Reading skills and strategies

Identifying purpose

Often, one of the questions asks you to identify the main purpose of the passage. This means you need to say *why* this passage was written. What was the writer's purpose for writing this text? To answer this question, you need to consider information mentioned in the entire passage. Try to identify the main purpose of each paragraph first.

3 According to the passage on page 10, decide if the following ideas

- a are **TRUE** based on information clearly stated in the passage
- b are **FALSE** based on information clearly stated in the passage
- c are **TRUE** based on information that can be inferred from the passage
- d are **FALSE** based on information that can be inferred from the passage
- e are **not discussed** in the passage

- 1 People of all ages practice alternative sports. a
- 2 Paul's daughter has been skateboarding for over ten years.
- 3 Fear discourages people from doing extreme sports.
- 4 Over 2 million people practice extreme sports in the US.
- 5 Safety was a problem when practicing extreme sports in the past.
- 6 Alternative sports produce better athletes than traditional sports.
- 7 Prices to go bungee jumping vary from place to place.
- 8 Extreme sports sometimes require more training than traditional sports.
- 9 Not all extreme sports involve danger.
- 10 Alternative sports are not suitable for children.

4 Look at the following items. Which of the options best describes the purpose of each paragraph of the passage on page 10?

1 The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to

- a list people who practice new sports
- b show examples of parents practicing alternative sports
- c illustrate why people choose alternative sports
- d explain how alternative sports were created
- e teach children to play new sports

2 The main purpose of paragraph 3 is to

- a explain why extreme sports are popular
- b emphasize the need for safety when practicing new sports
- c explain the role of safety measures in extreme sports
- d mention how much bungee jumping costs
- e illustrate why people are afraid of sports

C INTERACTING WITH THE READING PASSAGE

 **Decide if you agree or disagree with the following ideas, and say why:**

- 1 Alternative sports are perfectly appropriate for children.
- 2 Everyone should try at least one kind of extreme sport in high school.
- 3 Children should practice the sports that their parents have practiced.
- 4 Everyone should investigate the risks involved before starting a new physical activity.

D FOCUS ON KEY VOCABULARY

Match each phrase taken from the text on page 10 to its meaning.

- 1 have in common (line 3)
- 2 choose sth over sth else (lines 6-7)
- 3 be on the edge (lines 9-10)
- 4 add variety (line 11)
- 5 attract young and mature audiences alike (lines 25-26)
- 6 create the perfect opportunity (line 20)

- a are similar to each other
- b prefer
- c feel excited
- d make more interesting
- e be enjoyed by everyone
- f be a good chance

E PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Read the passage on page 10 again and answer the following questions.

- 1 What is the main purpose of this article?
 - a to show the advantages of alternative sports
 - b to encourage people to take up sports
 - c to discuss the popularity of alternative sports
 - d to discuss the dangers of certain sports
- 2 Why does Patrick practice snowboarding?
 - a He enjoys the excitement.
 - b It builds endurance.
 - c He finds it physically challenging.
 - d It helps develop self-confidence.
- 3 According to Paul, what is true about skateboarding?
 - a It's easier than soccer.
 - b It does not require physical strength.
 - c It's not expensive to do.
 - d It takes a lot of practice.
- 4 In the last sentence of paragraph 2, which word is closest in meaning to **physical**?
 - a normal
 - b regular
 - c natural
 - d bodily
- 5 How can risks be reduced?
 - a by meeting with experts
 - b by training with an expert
 - c by using appropriate equipment
 - d by practicing in groups
- 6 What can be inferred about the writer of this passage?
 - a He has tried extreme sports in the past.
 - b He believes children should not take part in extreme sports.
 - c He thinks extreme sports are not worth the cost.
 - d He is in favor of extreme sports.



Section B: Reading Task 2

A READING AND ANALYZING THE TEXT

The second task in the ECCE test consists of a set of four related texts followed by 10 multiple choice questions. Read the texts below and do the activities that follow.

A COLORADO

Silver Mountain Resort



The perfect place to go skiing and snowboarding in Colorado

Winter season: November 1 to March 31
Peak elevation: 12,500 ft.
Skiable area: 350 acres
Longest trail: 5.5 miles

Ski area hours: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Half-day hours: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 or 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Full-day tickets: \$60
Half-day tickets: \$45

Accommodations: hotels available within 5 miles, starting at \$120 for double rooms.

NEW!! This summer, throughout the months of June and July, we will have mountain biking races!

C NO SNOW THIS WINTER?

By James Wright

Colorado Springs, CO. At this point we don't know what to expect. During the last 50 years, our winters were characterized by perfect, soft, white snow. Our annual average snowfall ranged from 25 to 50 inches. Last year we had less than 10 inches of snow. And something similar happened all over the country. Last winter Vermont, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, and Montana had about 50% of the average snowfall of the last twenty years.

The economy of our city depends on the weather. Our ski resorts, hotels, restaurants, sporting goods



stores, to name a few, rely on the winter season to make ends meet. If we don't attract tourists from all over the world, if we don't have what tourists want in winter, we will need to find new alternatives to keep our beautiful city alive.

The City Council will soon schedule an open meeting with local residents and businesspeople to discuss what the city should do in response to changes produced by global warming. We should all be there. It's time to start thinking about what we want for the future and to start making new plans.

B THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

The Mayor of Colorado Springs, Ms. Alisha White, requests the honor of your presence at an open forum

Winter without snow: Analyzing alternatives

August 1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
City Council Auditorium
1200 Main Street, Colorado Springs

The Presidents of the Colorado Hotel Association, the United Ski Resorts Association, and the mayor will present and award the best five initiatives received from city residents.

Each of the top five initiatives will get an award of \$100,000 from the city to support the creation of new businesses and the development of alternative sources of income not dependent on snow.

There is still time to submit more initiatives. If you have an initiative to propose, submit it by e-mail to mayorinitiatives@springs.org by July 15.

D

New Message

Send Chat Attach Address Fonts Colors Save As Draft Photo Browser

From: tbanks@silvermount.com
To: billadd@mymail.com
Subject: Your application

Dear Mr. Addison,

We appreciate your interest in joining our team of ski instructors. We were very impressed by your outstanding qualifications and experience.

We were originally planning on hiring five new instructors but the drop in the annual snowfall has made us reconsider. Since we estimate that we will receive 50% of the tourists we usually get at our resort, we will be hiring only two new ski instructors, who will work full-day shifts. You are one of the applicants we are considering. We would like to schedule an interview with you at our resort on June 30 to discuss more initiatives that you could help us with next winter. If you are still interested in this position, please contact Betty Davidson to make the arrangements for your upcoming visit. I recommend you stay in the area for one or two nights so we can show you around our facilities and the local area.

Yours sincerely,
 Trevor Banks,
 General Manager

Reading skills and strategies

Paraphrasing

Some questions will ask you to find information that is paraphrased. This means the same idea is expressed in a different way. Some ECCE items will contain information that is similar to what is in the text but that is expressed in different words. Your challenge is to find which of the options correctly describes the information in the text.

For example, the following phrase in section D “... we estimate that we will receive 50% of the tourists we usually get at our resort ...” can be paraphrased as: “We won’t get as many visitors this year.” Both phrases express the same idea.

1 Find the sentences or phrases in the texts that mean the same as these ideas:

- 1 We are glad you want to work with us. (section D)
We appreciate your interest in joining our team ...
.....
- 2 We would like to invite you to this meeting. (section B)
.....
- 3 You can find a place to stay near the resort. (section A)
.....
- 4 Anything could happen. (section C)
.....
- 5 The weather affects how successful our economy is. (section C)
.....
- 6 We will have to come up with new ways to keep our businesses open. (section C)
.....
- 7 We would like to meet with you on our premises. (section D)
.....

2 Now it’s your turn to paraphrase ideas. How can you rewrite the following ideas using different words?

- 1 You are one of the applicants we are considering.
You are one of the candidates we are thinking of hiring.
.....
- 2 If you want this position, contact our secretary.
.....
- 3 We were impressed by your outstanding qualifications.
.....
- 4 Half-day tickets are available.
.....
- 5 There is still time to submit more initiatives.
.....



Section B: Reading Task 2

Reading skills and strategies

Identifying purpose

In questions about purpose, there is always one correct option that summarizes the purpose of the section. The other options are either very general or too specific. You have to find the option that best summarizes the author's purpose for the entire text.

3 Answer the following questions about the texts on page 14. Identify which options are too general and which ones are too specific to describe the purpose of the section.

- 1 What is the main purpose of section A?
 - a to publicize a resort's opening hours
 - b to advertise a hotel
 - c to invite bikers to mountain bike races
 - d to advertise a holiday destination
- 2 What is the main purpose of section B?
 - a to encourage people to submit proposals
 - b to announce the date of an event
 - c to invite people to an award ceremony
 - d to invite residents to meet the mayor
- 3 What is the main purpose of section C?
 - a to explain why we get less snow
 - b to make readers think about possible changes
 - c to invite residents to an open meeting
 - d to predict what will happen in the future
- 4 What is the main purpose of section D?
 - a to enquire if a candidate is interested in a job
 - b to confirm a job offer
 - c to reject a job candidate
 - d to introduce Betty Davidson

Reading skills and strategies

Recognizing the relationship between ideas or different sections of the text

Some of the questions will ask you to identify information that is mentioned in more than one section of the task. Look at the following question:

- 1 What will Mr. Wright probably be doing on August 1?
 - a visiting Silver Mountain Resort
 - b attending an open forum
 - c interviewing for a job
 - d writing a proposal

The correct answer is b – *attending an open forum*. In section C, James Wright mentions in his article that all residents should attend the open meeting organized by the City Council. Details of this meeting are mentioned in section B. The date set for this open forum is August 1.

4 Answer the following questions according to the information in the text. The questions refer to sections A, B, C, and D. Justify your answers by underlining the relevant parts in the text.


- 1 What will Mr. Addison's working hours be if he is selected for this job?
 - a 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - b 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - c 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - d 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 2 Which sections have references to the impact of the weather on the city's economy?
 - a sections A, B, and C
 - b sections B, C, and D
 - c sections A, C, and D
 - d all sections
- 3 What can Mr. Addison do during his visit to Silver Mountain Resort?
 - a go skiing
 - b teach snowboarding lessons
 - c attend the mayor's meeting
 - d go mountain biking

B FOCUS ON KEY VOCABULARY

Match the two halves to make compound nouns.

- | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|
| 1 city | | a room |
| 2 open | | b forum |
| 3 double | | c warming |
| 4 general | | d manager |
| 5 sporting | | e biking |
| 6 mountain | | f council |
| 7 global | | g goods |

C INTERACTING WITH THE READING PASSAGE

 Imagine you were going to the open forum in Colorado Springs. What proposals would you make to the mayor to attract tourists to the town? Discuss with your partner and then present your ideas to the class.

D PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose the best option to answer the following questions:

The following questions refer to section A on page 14.

- What is the purpose of section A?
 - to advertise a resort
 - to announce a new activity
 - to advertise a hotel
 - to announce new prices
- How much would it cost to ski at the resort from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.?
 - \$45
 - \$60
 - \$90
 - \$120

The following question refers to section B on page 14.

- What will happen at the open forum?
 - A dinner will be held.
 - The residents will present their initiatives.
 - Five residents will get cash awards.
 - The mayor will propose new initiatives.

The following questions refer to section C on page 14.

- What is the main point of section C?
 - A city is undergoing an economic crisis.
 - Tourists are no longer interested in skiing vacations.
 - The mayor has agreed to have a meeting.
 - A way to attract more tourists should be found.
- How much snow did Vermont get last winter?
 - equivalent to the annual average
 - more than expected
 - half of the annual average
 - more than in previous years

The following question refers to section D on page 14.


- Why did Mr. Addison receive this e-mail?
 - He has been hired for a job.
 - His working conditions have changed.
 - He is being considered for a job.
 - He is being made redundant.

The following question refers to sections A, B, C, and D.

- Which sections invite the reader to contact somebody?
 - sections A and C
 - sections B and D
 - sections C and D
 - sections B and C



Section C: Vocabulary Expansion

1  **Work with a partner. Which of the following are important for you when choosing a sport? Why?**

- athletic skill • coach • cost • equipment • friends
- fun • risks • safety • sense of danger • social status
- team • time • training • uniform • venue

Based on your partner's answers, which sports would you recommend that he/she try?

2 Synonyms These words are from the texts on page 10 and 14. What do you think they mean? Match the words from the reading texts with their meanings.

- 1 mature
 - 2 undoubtedly
 - 3 significant
 - 4 appropriate
 - 5 endurance
 - 6 qualifications
 - 7 initiative
 - 8 constantly
 - 9 alternative
 - 10 component
-
- a all the time
 - b suitable
 - c strength
 - d certainly, without a doubt
 - e new idea, first step
 - f education, training
 - g important
 - h not traditional, different
 - i not young
 - j part

3 Meanings Circle T (true) or F (false) for each of the following sentences. Correct the false sentences.

- 1 If you have **self-confidence** you believe in yourself. T / F
.....
.....
- 2 If you have **endurance**, you get tired easily. T / F
.....
.....
- 3 If you **engage** in something, you do not participate in it. T / F
.....
.....
- 4 If you **present** an award, you win it. T / F
.....
.....
- 5 If you **submit** an assignment, you give it in to the teacher. T / F
.....
.....
- 6 If you **propose** something, you recommend it. T / F
.....
.....
- 7 If you **schedule** a meeting, you cancel it. T / F
.....
.....
- 8 If you **appreciate** something, you are thankful for it. T / F
.....
.....
- 9 If you **estimate** a cost, you calculate it. T / F
.....
.....
- 10 If you **consider** something, you think about it. T / F
.....
.....

4 Prepositions Fill in the correct prepositions.

- 1 My sister and I have nothing common with each other.
- 2 I decided to choose English lessons Spanish as I thought it would be more useful for my career.
- 3 People all ages will find the play entertaining.
- 4 Your success at work depends your ability to work well as part of a team.
- 5 Jacob relies a lot his family to support him. He really should get a job of his own.
- 6 Her angry outburst was really response to the fact that she is having problems at home.
- 7 Gerry shows no interest his studies and may have to repeat the year.
- 8 My family plans relocating to the States next year.
- 9 There has been a drop sales this season.
- 10 Our prices range €10.00 to €50.00 per pair of shoes.

5 Derivatives The following words appeared in the texts in this unit. Place them in the correct column below and then fill in their other forms.

- consider
- alternative
- attract
- confidence
- endurance
- development
- participate
- analyze
- creation
- dependent
- propose
- submit
- produce
- response
- appreciate
- impress
- instructor
- applicant
- schedule
- arrangement
- recommend

Verb	Adjective	Noun



Vocabulary Review 1

- 1 We had a serious and unexpected problem that required measures.
 - a available
 - b challenging
 - c obsolete
 - d extreme
- 2 The new 007 movie kept the audience of their seats.
 - a in the border
 - b on the edge
 - c at the cliff
 - d in the thrill
- 3 Taking up a sport or hobby is a good to meet new people.
 - a situation
 - b method
 - c chance
 - d possibility
- 4 Even though Tim and Tom are twins, they do not have a lot with each other.
 - a in common
 - b in favor
 - c in response
 - d without a doubt
- 5 When I lost my job, I had to look for alternative of income.
 - a arrangements
 - b sources
 - c assignments
 - d components
- 6 The new coffee shop downtown mostly a young, trendy crowd.
 - a enables
 - b engages
 - c introduces
 - d attracts
- 7 Contrary to popular belief, it's not always cheaper to book over the web when planning a holiday.
 - a elevations
 - b initiatives
 - c premises
 - d accommodations
- 8 If you are interested in joining our team, please fill out form and send it to us by e-mail.
 - a a destination
 - b an application
 - c a reference
 - d an assignment
- 9 My husband and I were very with the service we received at your hotel.
 - a impressed
 - b characterized
 - c glad
 - d thankful
- 10 Everyone thought that Ian was very for his age.
 - a mature
 - b constant
 - c alike
 - d equivalent
- 11 Each employee has to work a four-hour one weekend a month.
 - a shift
 - b trail
 - c schedule
 - d arrangement
- 12 Not everyone knew that Jason had spent a part of his life at the house by the lake.
 - a suitable
 - b physical
 - c significant
 - d competitive

- 13 The quality of the food at the new Greek restaurant is
a upcoming
b outstanding
c reduced
d extreme
- 14 Many parents specialized training sessions in order to provide home schooling to their kids.
a attended
b awarded
c assigned
d arrived
- 15 She on her parents for financial support until she managed to find a job.
a relied
b endured
c involved
d recommended
- 16 The Grand Hotel is undergoing renovations so we will have to find a new for our party.
a area
b forum
c venue
d destination
- 17 I guess we can't say that Jim is by politeness and good manners.
a awarded
b qualified
c accepted
d characterized
- 18 The students' ages at this community college from 20 to 85 years old.
a confirm
b predict
c range
d rely
- 19 Smoking is not allowed on our ; please put out your cigarette.
a premises
b accommodations
c elevations
d hotels
- 20 I will be happy to when you visit our town next month.
a make ends meet
b be on the edge
c be made redundant
d show you around
- 21 Taking drama classes can help build in shy children.
a confidence
b qualification
c production
d endurance
- 22 After the accident, the school implemented new procedures.
a healthy
b arrangement
c safety
d consideration
- 23 We need to pick up the camping that your uncle will lend us.
a equipment
b income
c team
d skill
- 24 The winners will be announced in the issue of our electronic newsletter.
a previous
b upcoming
c enduring
d applied
- 25 I'm calling to my booking for a double room on 25 March.
a confirm
b advertise
c enquire
d reject