

## Reading Exam 9

**EOI Topic:** Transport, goods and services

**See:** *English File 4th edition* B1 Files 3A, 6A, 7A, 8A,

### Part 1

Read the short texts. For questions 1–5, choose the correct option (a, b or c). 0 is the example.

- 0 *What does the notice say?*  
 a *New members need to come to a training session.*  
 b *Members cannot join the training session if they are late.*  
 c *Members can only join if they register before 7.30 p.m.*
- 1 *What does the notice say?*  
 a *All cars must arrive before 6 p.m.*  
 b *All cars that arrive in the morning must leave before 6 p.m.*  
 c *No traffic will be allowed to enter or leave during the day.*
- 2 *What does the message say about Dani?*  
 a *Dani cannot collect the car until she has paid.*  
 b *Dani can collect the car, but not the key, after 5 p.m.*  
 c *Dani must go to the office to collect her car before 5 p.m.*
- 3 *What does the sign mean?*  
 a *If you take this advert you pay less on some days.*  
 b *You can visit the beauty salon any day during the week.*  
 c *All beauty salon visits will be cheaper on their opening day.*
- 4 *The text message says that Rachel thinks that ...*  
 a *she made a mistake and did the wrong homework.*  
 b *the teacher gave the wrong pages for the homework.*  
 c *she needs Jack to help her with the homework.*
- 5 *The note says that Clare ...*  
 a *is disappointed with the length of the tour.*  
 b *was pleased with what she did on the tour.*  
 c *thinks there are better bus tours than the one she took.*

Question	0	1	2	3	4	5
Option	<i>b</i>					

					TOTAL	

0

Rowing club  
New session starts Monday.  
Meet outside the clubhouse 7.30  
p.m. for transport to the site.  
We cannot wait for any member  
after this time.

1

Green Project  
Gates will be locked at 6 p.m. and  
any vehicles inside will not be  
permitted to leave until the  
following morning

2

Hi Dani,  
The garage called. Your car is ready but  
the office closes at 5 p.m. They said it's  
OK to collect the car from the car park  
and pay online, but you'll need to  
arrange to get the key back from them.

3

New beauty salon opening  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
Show this advert and you can  
receive a 10% discount  
(except weekend visits)

4

Jack,  
I thought Mr Brown set page  
33 for homework, but I  
noticed that it's 38–40. I  
missed that lesson, do you  
think we could do it  
together?  
Rachel

5

Dave  
We tried the city bus tour you were  
thinking of doing. We didn't get round  
everything, but we saw a lot more than  
we would on foot. You should try it!  
Clare

## Part 2

Read the article about working from home. For questions 1–5, choose the correct option (a, b or c). 0 is the example.

**EOI Topic:** Jobs and occupations  
**See:** *English File 4th edition* B1  
 Files 5B, 6B, 7B, 8A

- 0 *Why does the writer think companies now accept employees working from home?*  
 a *They do not want to pay the high costs of renting an office.*  
 b *They have discovered better communications technology.*  
 c *They are concerned about the poor quality of road transport.*
- 1 The writer says that when he started working from home ...  
 a his old working habits continued.  
 b he put in longer working hours.  
 c the working hours were easy to manage.
- 2 The writer thinks that people who work from home ...  
 a save a lot of money on clothing.  
 b answer fewer phone calls.  
 c learn to economize in everything.
- 3 Why does the writer think that home workers get more exercise?  
 a They have more time available.  
 b They need a social activity.  
 c They understand better the health benefits.
- 4 During the weekend now, the writer has ...  
 a more time with his family.  
 b emails that he needs to reply to.  
 c a separate phone he uses.
- 5 Why is the person writing this description?  
 a to offer a personal point of view on working from home  
 b to persuade people that they should work from home  
 c to show the disadvantages of modern communications

Question	0	1	2	3	4	5
Option	a					

				TOTAL	

### Working from home

In the last few years, paying for large office spaces has become less attractive to many company owners. Improvements in email, conference calling and cheaper phone lines have helped to change the way we all work, and although online contact is not the same as daily contact with colleagues, many employees are willing to do without chats in the office if it means avoiding congestion in city centres.

I started working from home two years ago. At first, I found it hard to concentrate and when five o'clock came around I had often only done half of the work I'd planned. I found myself spending almost every waking moment doing something related to work. It's taken most of those two years to get some control over that, but I'm there now.

There are some benefits. I used to have to wear suits, and the informal stuff for around home is just so much easier to afford. Because homeworkers are saving on food and coffee and things, they can afford a nicer computer or a better phone plan, and that feels good. Other annoying things are still the same though. We still end up being interrupted regularly to take calls.

I think as well, it becomes more noticeable that you spend hours at your desk, especially when you go from bed to desk and back again. But more than that, you don't have anyone to chat to during the day and you can feel very isolated. I think because of the long hours alone, many people who work from home are more likely to sign up to a monthly gym plan and actually do it.

Weekends are also a big issue. I always get a lot of work messages at the weekends. When I had emails in my inbox, I used to feel I had to respond to them, but my wife got mad whenever I replied to some work call on a Saturday evening. I found that the best way to avoid that was to keep two mobiles and then I could leave the work one switched off on my desk. It was the best solution.

I think that for a lot of people, it just makes life easier to be at home, especially if you have kids and you basically need to be in two places at once – watching the kids and working. I guess the challenges of managing the volume of emails and messages that come in affects everyone these days, but people are getting better at dealing with it. And at least it gives people a choice – I think that's what everyone needs.



### *Happiness is a thought away*

These days it is hard to open your social media feed without someone telling you that they have found the secret to happiness. As long as you don't **0** *mind* getting up at 4 a.m. to practise yoga, and drinking avocado smoothies all day, you too can be happy. A lot of people have decided to **1** \_\_\_\_\_ up their own websites and make money selling us these ideas. I **2** \_\_\_\_\_ thinking that they offered really good advice when they first started appearing. At the time I was **3** \_\_\_\_\_ and it was hard to motivate myself to send off yet another application form, just so that someone could tell me I wasn't good enough a week or so later. Attractive presenters kindly told me that I **4** \_\_\_\_\_ to go through this kind of experience with courage, and be willing to work hard, and they were right.

But more recently, a different kind of post has been appearing. People have stories about how they managed to get **5** \_\_\_\_\_ at work without particularly trying hard. They also said that nobody needed **6** \_\_\_\_\_ to get the jobs they wanted and be successful. It was true that the skills you learn at school are not always the best preparation for success later in life, and the richest people I knew all **7** \_\_\_\_\_ their own businesses. But these 'experts' were saying that if I thought really hard about the things I wanted, they **8** \_\_\_\_\_ come to me, almost by magic. The power of thinking was strong, they argued, and then **9** \_\_\_\_\_ on to give a list of pseudoscientific reasons why that was true. I think it's unlikely that I'll be able to **10** \_\_\_\_\_ a happy and rich man, just on the power of positive thinking, but I guess it makes getting to 65 more fun along the way.