

ESB ESOL ENTRY 3 READING

MAIN IDEA – READING WORKSHEET

Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Read each paragraph carefully. Choose the sentence that best gives the main idea of the whole paragraph.

Question 1

The local library has changed its opening hours. It now stays open until 8.00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The library manager says this will help people who work during the day. Visitors can borrow books, use the computers and study quietly in the evening.

What is the main idea?

- ☐ A. The library has new computers.
- ☐ B. The library is open later on two evenings to help more people use it.
- ☐ C. People should borrow more books.

Question 2

Roadworks will start on Green Street next Monday and will continue for two weeks. During this time, buses 14 and 18 will use a different route. Passengers should allow extra time for their journey and check the temporary bus stops before travelling.

What is the main idea?

- ☐ A. Roadworks will change some bus journeys for two weeks.
- ☐ B. Bus 14 is always late.
- ☐ C. Green Street needs more bus stops.

MAIN IDEA – PRACTICE CONTINUED

Question 3

A new lunchtime menu has started at Brookside College. Students can now choose salads, soup, sandwiches and a hot meal each day. The college introduced the new menu after students asked for healthier choices. Vegetarian meals are also available every day.

What is the main idea?

- ☐ A. Students do not like the college café.
- ☐ B. The college has introduced more healthy and varied lunch choices.
- ☐ C. Vegetarian food is expensive.

Question 4

The community centre is offering a free exercise class every Saturday morning. The class is suitable for beginners and includes gentle stretching, walking and simple exercises. People do not need to book, but they should wear comfortable clothes and bring a bottle of water.

What is the main idea?

- ☐ A. The community centre has a free beginner exercise class on Saturdays.
- ☐ B. Everyone needs to buy special exercise clothes.
- ☐ C. The exercise class is only for experienced people.

Question 5

Mina ordered a kettle from an online shop because her old one stopped working. The website said the kettle would arrive in three days, but it came a week later. The shop apologised and gave Mina a £5 voucher. Mina was pleased with the kettle but unhappy about the late delivery.

What is the main idea?

- ☐ A. Mina received a voucher because the delivery was late.
- ☐ B. Mina bought a kettle, but the delivery was later than expected.
- ☐ C. Mina does not like shopping online.

ANSWER KEY

Main Idea Answers

Question 1: B

The whole paragraph is about the library staying open later on Tuesdays and Thursdays so more people can use it.

Question 2: A

The paragraph explains that roadworks will affect bus routes and journeys for two weeks.

Question 3: B

The main point is that the college has introduced healthier and more varied lunch choices.

Question 4: A

The paragraph mainly gives information about a free Saturday exercise class for beginners.

Question 5: B

The paragraph is mainly about Mina buying a kettle and receiving it later than expected.

Remember: the main idea is what the whole paragraph is mostly about.