

OET Reading Sample – Part A (Expedited Reading)

You have 15 minutes to answer 20 questions using four short texts. Focus on skimming and scanning skills.

Topic: Managing Diabetes in Primary Care

◆ **Text A** – Patient Information Leaflet

Managing Your Type 2 Diabetes

- Eat regular, balanced meals with complex carbs.
- Exercise 30 minutes daily (walking, cycling).
- Monitor blood glucose as advised.
- Take oral medication or insulin as prescribed.
- Regularly check feet for sores or blisters.

◆ **Text B** – Extract from Clinical Guidelines

Source: *National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)*

- Initial treatment: lifestyle changes + Metformin.
- If HbA1c > 6.5% after 3 months, consider dual therapy.
- Avoid sulfonylureas in elderly due to hypoglycemia risk.
- Annual eye and foot examinations are essential.

◆ **Text C** – Email from Practice Nurse

Subject: Referral Request – Mr. A. Patel

Dear Dr. Singh,

Mr. Patel's fasting blood sugar remains >8.5 mmol/L despite 12 weeks on Metformin. He's compliant with meds and lifestyle changes. I suggest referring him for endocrinology review.

– Regards, Nurse Jane

◆ **Text D** – Table: Common Diabetes Medications

Medication	Action	Side Effects	Notes
Metformin	Lowers glucose	GI upset	First-line
Gliclazide	Increases insulin	Hypoglycemia	Avoid in elderly
Sitagliptin	Inhibits DPP-4	Mild nausea	Used in dual therapy

Sample Questions:

Q1. Which medication should be avoided in elderly patients?

→ **Answer:** Gliclazide (Text D & Text B)

Q2. What's the minimum recommended exercise per day?

→ **Answer:** 30 minutes (Text A)

Q3. What side effect is associated with Metformin?

→ **Answer:** Gastrointestinal upset (Text D)

Q4. Who recommended referral for Mr. Patel?

→ **Answer:** Nurse Jane (Text C)

Q5. What should patients check regularly on their body?

→ **Answer:** Their feet (Text A) Nurse burnout is an increasingly common phenomenon in healthcare settings worldwide. Characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and a reduced sense of personal accomplishment, burnout can significantly affect not only nurses' well-being but also the quality of care they provide.

A study published in The Journal of Nursing Management found that hospitals with high nurse burnout rates reported increased medication errors and lower patient satisfaction scores. "When nurses are overworked and emotionally drained, it inevitably impacts their performance," notes Dr. Clara Wei, a healthcare psychologist.

To address the issue, some hospitals have introduced mindfulness programs, better shift scheduling, and peer support systems. While such interventions help, Dr. Wei stresses the importance of systemic changes. "What we need is policy-level reform — manageable nurse-to-patient ratios, adequate breaks, and a culture that genuinely values staff well-being."

Not all hospital administrators agree. Some argue that operational demands make it difficult to accommodate all wellness initiatives. They believe short-term burnout interventions are more practical than structural changes that could strain resources.

Questions – Text 2

Q1. What is the passage mainly about?

- A) The clinical duties of nurses
- B) Causes and consequences of nurse burnout
- C) How patients can avoid hospital errors

Answer: B

Q2. What is one effect of nurse burnout mentioned in the passage?

- A) Improved job satisfaction
- B) Fewer hospital admissions
- C) Increased medication errors

Answer: C

Q3. What does Dr. Wei believe is crucial for solving burnout?

- A) One-time wellness workshops
- B) Large-scale healthcare reforms
- C) Encouraging nurses to take unpaid leave

Answer: B

Q4. How do some hospital administrators respond to burnout concerns?

- A) By ignoring staff complaints
- B) By implementing nurse-to-patient limits
- C) By favoring short-term wellness programs

Answer: C

Q5. What is Dr. Wei's tone regarding current burnout solutions?

- A) Satisfied and optimistic
- B) Cautiously supportive
- C) Critical but constructive

Answer: C

Q6. What is implied about structural changes in healthcare?

- A) They are difficult to implement but necessary
- B) They are easier than wellness programs
- C) They are preferred by most hospital leaders

Answer: A

Tip for Candidates:

Always scan headings, bolded text, and key numbers first — then go back and search for the exact answer in the most relevant paragraph. Practice with timed tasks to build speed and confidence.

OET Reading Sample – Part B (Workplace Texts)

You will read 6 short texts, each followed by one multiple-choice question. Choose the best answer (A, B, or C).

◆ Text 1 – Staff Notice: Shift Handover Protocol

To improve patient safety, nursing staff must now use the SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) format during all shift handovers. Handover sessions are to be held face-to-face, and documentation must be signed off by the outgoing nurse.

Q1. What is the main purpose of this notice?

- A) To introduce a new documentation template
- B) To highlight patient safety concerns
- C) To ensure consistency in how nurses communicate during handover

Correct Answer: C

◆ Text 2 – Memo from Head of Department

Please be reminded that all junior doctors must attend the hand hygiene refresher course by 30th June. Non-compliance will be reported to the clinical supervisor and may affect annual assessments.

Q2. What does the memo emphasize?

- A) The clinical supervisor's role in training
- B) The importance of timely attendance
- C) The content of the hand hygiene course

Correct Answer: B

◆ Text 3 – Medication Storage Instructions

Insulin must be stored in a refrigerator between 2–8°C. Once opened, a vial can be kept at room temperature (under 25°C) for up to 28 days, after which it must be discarded.

Q3. According to the instructions, how should insulin be stored after opening?

- A) In the fridge at all times
- B) At room temperature for no more than 28 days
- C) At room temperature for up to two weeks

Correct Answer: B

◆ Text 4 – Email from Senior Physiotherapist

Subject: Scheduling Home Visits

Please prioritize patients recently discharged with mobility issues for home visits this week. Others can be rescheduled for next week. Coordinate with the admin team for logistics.

Q4. What is the key instruction in this email?

- A) Postpone all home visits to next week
- B) Conduct visits based on staff availability
- C) Give priority to patients with mobility issues

Correct Answer: C

◆ Text 5 – Extract from PPE Guidelines

When treating patients with confirmed or suspected respiratory infections, staff must wear an N95 respirator. Surgical masks are insufficient in such cases and should only be used in standard precaution

scenarios.

Q5. What is the main point of this guideline?

- A) Surgical masks are suitable for all types of infections
- B) N95 masks are required for respiratory infection cases
- C) Respirators should be worn only in emergency surgeries

Correct Answer: B

◆ **Text 6** – Notice in Staff Room

Please ensure the medication fridge is locked after use. Recent audits found it left open several times, which is a breach of infection control standards. Report any malfunctions immediately.

Q6. What issue is this notice addressing?

- A) Failure to report technical issues
- B) Improper locking of the medication fridge
- C) Poor infection control during audits

Correct Answer: B

OET Reading Sample – Part C (Longer Texts with Opinion and Attitude)

◆ **Text 1:** The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Modern Diagnostics

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming healthcare, particularly in diagnostic medicine. By analyzing vast amounts of data, AI systems can detect patterns invisible to the human eye. For example, deep learning algorithms have shown impressive results in identifying diabetic retinopathy and certain types of cancer from imaging scans.

Dr. Meera Liyanage, a consultant radiologist, explains, “AI doesn’t replace radiologists; rather, it enhances their efficiency. It can highlight potentially abnormal scans, allowing clinicians to focus on high-risk patients quickly.” However, she warns against over-reliance. “The technology is only as good as the data it is trained on, and bias in datasets can lead to inaccurate results.”

Skeptics raise concerns about accountability. If an AI tool misdiagnoses a patient, who is legally responsible? Others argue that AI lacks the intuition and empathy needed in nuanced clinical decision-making.

Still, proponents like Dr. Liyanage remain optimistic. “With the right human oversight, AI could significantly reduce diagnostic delays, improve outcomes, and ease the burden on overstretched systems.”

Questions – Text 1

Q1. What is the main function of AI in diagnostics, according to the passage?

- A) Replacing radiologists in routine procedures
- B) Speeding up identification of serious conditions
- C) Performing surgeries remotely

Answer: B

Q2. What does Dr. Liyanage suggest about AI and radiologists?

- A) Radiologists should be replaced by AI for better accuracy
- B) AI reduces the need for human decision-making
- C) AI helps radiologists focus on critical cases

Answer: C

Q3. According to the passage, what is a potential drawback of AI in diagnostics?

- A) It slows down the clinical process
- B) It can be affected by biased data
- C) It increases the workload of radiologists

Answer: B

Q4. What is one concern raised by critics of AI in healthcare?

- A) Lack of integration into medical education
- B) Absence of legal frameworks for AI
- C) Uncertainty over responsibility in case of errors

Answer: C

Q5. Which of the following best describes Dr. Liyanage's attitude toward AI in medicine?

- A) Hesitant but hopeful
- B) Fully supportive
- C) Completely opposed

Answer: A

Q6. What is implied about AI's effectiveness in diagnostics?

- A) It can only detect rare diseases
- B) Its results are always 100% accurate
- C) Its performance depends on the quality of training data

Answer: C

◆ **Text 2:** Nurse Burnout and Its Impact on Patient Care

Nurse burnout is an increasingly common phenomenon in healthcare settings worldwide. Characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and a reduced sense of personal accomplishment, burnout can significantly affect not only nurses' well-being but also the quality of care they provide.

A study published in *The Journal of Nursing Management* found that hospitals with high nurse burnout rates reported increased medication errors and lower patient satisfaction scores. "When nurses are overworked and emotionally drained, it inevitably impacts their performance," notes Dr. Clara Wei, a healthcare psychologist.

To address the issue, some hospitals have introduced mindfulness programs, better shift scheduling, and peer support systems. While such interventions help, Dr. Wei stresses the importance of systemic changes. "What we need is policy-level reform — manageable nurse-to-patient ratios, adequate breaks, and a culture that genuinely values staff well-being."

Not all hospital administrators agree. Some argue that operational demands make it difficult to accommodate all wellness initiatives. They believe short-term burnout interventions are more practical than structural changes that could strain resources.

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