

Ultimate IELTS Series Book 7

**COMPLETE
PRACTICE
TESTS**

————— for IELTS

*Complete practice
tests with answer key
and model answers*

Written and developed by Impact Learning



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Speaking tests

Speaking test 1

Part 1:

- "Do you enjoy cooking?"
- "Do you prefer home cooked meals or fast food?"
- "What would you typically eat for lunch? "
- "Let's talk about photographs. Do you take many photographs?"
- "Do you enjoy looking at photographs?"
- "Do you enjoy looking at photographs?"
- "When do you mostly take photographs?"
- "Now let's talk about transport. Do you often use public transport?"
- "Do you often walk anywhere?"
- "Have you ever been on a long journey?"
- "Do you prefer to travel alone or with other people?"

Part 2:

Talk about a business you would like to start.

You should say

- what it would be
- where it would be
- who your customers would be

You should also say why you would like to start this business.

Part 3:

- "What are the advantages and disadvantages of running your own business? "

- "What makes a successful business person?"
- "Do you think technology will affect the way we do business?"
- "What makes a good employer?"
- "Do you think life would be better if we all worked less?"

Speaking test 1 model answers

"Do you enjoy cooking?"

"Well, no, not really - I've never been very good at it. I don't really have the patience for all the preparation that needs to be done, and I really don't like the cleaning up afterwards. Occasionally, if I have friends coming over, I might make a few simple dishes, but it seems to take me much longer than it does for other people. Most of my friends are much better in the kitchen, so I normally buy the ingredients and they do the cooking!"

"Do you prefer home cooked meals or fast food?"

Hmm...that really depends on what mood I am in. If I have to get dinner, I often choose fast food, but I really enjoy eating a home cooked meal with vegetables. It's much healthier, and you can easily get bored of fast food. There aren't many different take away options near where I live, so after pizza, burgers or chips, the only other choice is home cooked food. I suppose one the main reasons I prefer food cooked at home is that it's the only way to have the kind of traditional food I grew up with as a child.

"What would you typically eat for lunch? "

Well, if I'm at work, I don't have a lot of time so I might only have something quick like a sandwich or some noodles. Some days I might not even have anything for lunch - I know that's not good for you, but there isn't always the opportunity to sit down and have a break and something to eat. Weekends are different though - I like to have a large lunch and a smaller dinner, so I might go out and meet friends in a restaurant or get a take away. The only problem is that after eating a large lunch I often get tired in the afternoon and end up falling asleep!

"Let's talk about photographs. Do you take many photographs?"

I used to have my camera with me most of the time, taking all kinds of photographs of the garden. the house - even the dog. But recently I haven't really bothered. In fact, I can't remember the last time I took a photograph since I came back from holiday. I went to New

Zealand for two weeks and took so many photographs! I like to keep all my pictures together in an album; it helps me remember what I did and where I was. I even have a photograph album I started when I was 12, although cameras have improved a lot since then!

"Do you enjoy looking at photographs?"

Oh, yes - as I mentioned, I used to take a lot of photos to remind of places I'd been or things I'd seen, and it's nice to look back through them every now and again. The only problem is I get bored looking at other people's photographs. A friend of mine recently returned from a long holiday in Europe and brought back over *one thousand* photographs he had taken! Well, it took over an hour to look through them as he spent about five minutes on each one explaining where it was and who he was with. I was very interested in the beginning, but after about 20 minutes I wasn't really concentrating. I think photographs are very personal and I don't show anyone mine because they mean more to the person who took them than to anyone looking at them.

"Do you prefer photographs of people or places?"

Erm... I suppose that depends on who is in the photos. If it's people I know, then I don't mind looking at photographs of people, but I'm not that interested in seeing pictures of people I've never met. Generally, though, I'm much more interested in landscapes. They don't have to be recognisable or historic places - just so long as they are a little artistic. Unfortunately, I'm not very good at taking any kind of photo, but a friend of mine takes excellent pictures of places. She took photographs of her grandmother's house - it's a small cottage in the country - and the angles she took the pictures from, as well as the sunlight and shadows, made the pictures really interesting. She's actually entered a competition with those pictures, so I guess they must be good.

"When do you mostly take photographs?"

Well...I..I used to take photos all the time, but as I said, I don't take as many these days. I suppose the two occasions where I still take pictures would be my holidays and special events, like my brother's birthday party. A few months ago, a friend of mine got married and I must have spent half the day taking pictures of the bride and groom as well as the venue. I

am planning to put the pictures into an album to give them for their first wedding anniversary.

"Now let's talk about transport. Do you often use public transport?"

Very rarely - I live a little way out of the main routes to the city, so the public transport system isn't really very convenient for me. The local council have a scheme where you drive to a large car park and the bus will take you the rest of the way into town - I think it's called the 'Park and Ride' - but I haven't used it yet. But it's not only that public transport doesn't really get near my home, it's also so expensive. I know running your own car is not cheap, but for me to get to work and back using the bus would cost almost as much as using my own car, but without the convenience.

"Do you often walk anywhere?"

Actually, I have recently started to walk a lot more than I used to. My nearest shop - it's only a local convenience store but that's where I do my basic shopping - is only about one kilometre away. I used to drive, but now I walk whenever it's not raining just so I get some exercise. I have a dog, so he comes with me for the exercise too - I think it does both of us some good! Like most people, though, I could do with walking even more - perhaps as far as the town, although that's over 5 kilometres.

"Have you ever been on a long journey?"

Err...yes, I have. I suppose my longest journey would be travelling to England to visit relatives last year. It's a 14 hour flight from here, and it was the longest I have ever been on an aeroplane. The journey out was fine - I thought it would be quite boring, but it was one of the newer aircraft with a movies, television and computer games available, so there was lots to do. The return trip wasn't so good though - there was a young child sitting in the row in front of me, and for most of the flight he was crying and screaming. I don't suppose he was much older than three. So that wasn't so good for me, although I did feel sorry for the parents - they look so tired by the time we landed!

"Do you prefer to travel alone or with other people?"

Well, there are benefits to both travelling with others and travelling solo. With other people around, the trip can be more fun, and you get to share experiences and talk about them with people that have seen and done what you have. On the other hand, I like the independence of travelling by myself. I choose when I stop, where I eat, where I go - and this is often better than having to get your travel companions to agree before you do

anything. I guess the ideal way to travel would be with someone else who also likes to be independent sometimes, so you can travel together but also spend some time alone.

Part Two

Talk about a business you would like to start.

You should say

- what it would be
- where it would be
- who your customers would be

You should also say why you would like to start this business.

"Well, I've never really thought about becoming self employed, but if I did run my own company I think it would be something in the healthcare industry. I think it could be rewarding to run a retirement home for the elderly. I'm a nurse, so it would be a good way for me to continue using my training. Ideally, it would be somewhere in the country - I don't really like big cities, and a relaxed rural atmosphere would be good for the residents, I think. It would have to be quite near some facilities though - shops, a swimming pool, things like that. Oh, and there would have to be some type of public transport nearby.

Um... of course, the people using the home would be elderly, at least 65 years old, but they wouldn't have to be rich. I'd like to make the home profitable, but not be exploiting the residents and charging so much that only rich people can come.

As I mentioned, my experience as a nurse would be valuable, but I'd also be interested in this because the elderly are very often overlooked here. In my culture, most families look after older relatives and retirement homes are very rare, although they are increasing. So if I was to run this kind of business I would try and make it as homely as possible so that people enjoy living there."

Part 3

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of running your own business? "

Well, one of the main advantages would be the freedom that comes with being self employed. Choosing your own hours of work and the areas you will focus on would clearly have a great appeal to some. But then, of course, this has to be balanced with the consideration that you are never far from work when you are your own boss. The expectations are likely to be higher, and people often spend considerably more time on their business when they are self employed. The pressures are also different; an advantage of running your own business is that you are not pressured by peers or bosses to perform. This, of course, can also become a negative point if that means you are not driven to keep working.

"What makes a successful business person?"

Hmm, that's an interesting question. If you were to look at some of the world most successful business people - people like Richard Branson for example - I think there are a number of key elements that can be identified. They are entrepreneurial but also have the courage to follow an idea through, no matter how strange it may first seem. Of course, there is also the ability to make money, but successful can also be other means, not just the financial profit. Bill Gates, though apparently ruthless in business, is very generous in charity. Richard Branson has regular parties for all his staff and welcomes them personally to his mansion. To my mind, this is what makes success.

"Do you think technology will affect the way we do business?"

Oh definitely. In fact, I think technology has been affecting the way we interact in business for quite some time. Consider the use of video phones in conference calls and emails for communication and placing orders. As another example, courier companies can send a package from one continent to another and see not only the exact moment it was delivered, but also who signed for the package. Technology will continue to affect the way we do business as confidence increases with regards purchasing online. Over recent years, secure payments made on a website have allowed business to be transacted not only in the volume of sales and business done, but also in the markets now reached. Technology has made it

cost effective to sell a single product to a customer thousands of miles away. Technology has also allowed us to present our product more visually - in the days of print media only, a black and white photograph was the most common method of promoting goods and services , but now we have websites, flash media, social networking sites likes Facebook and Youtube and many other platforms for people to promote their business.

"What makes a good employer?"

I think one of the fundamental aspects of being a good employee would be the ability to motivate people, to get the best out of those that work for you. I think a large part of that would be recruiting the right kind of employee, choosing people that you think will fit well in the team but also be able to use their own initiative. In my experience, one of the worst kinds of employer are those that micromanage - they can't leave you alone to complete a task without looking over your shoulder This leads to people not being able to take pride in what they do, and in many cases leads to a high staff turnover.

"Do you think life would be better if we all worked less?"

Oh yes, definitely. I mean, although many people may enjoy their work, I think it is important to maintain perspective - that you work to live, not live to work. You are lucky if you find and can keep a job you enjoy doing; but even so, it should not interfere with the more important aspects in life - family, relationships, friendships. If the working week was reduced from 5 days down to say, three, or even four days, people would find time to do more of the things they often think about doing but don't get round to. I think most people - well, certainly me - would get out more if I could have three days away from work rather than just the weekend. Look how excited most people get when we have a long weekend because of a holiday on Friday or Monday, for example.

Speaking test 2

Part 1:

- "Do you often go shopping for clothes?"
- "Do you think it's important to dress well?"
- "Do you have particular national dress in your country?"
- "I'd like to talk about the news now. Do you often read newspapers?"
- "Where do you go to get news?"
- "Do you listen to news broadcasts on the radio?"
- "Let's move on to talk about holidays. Did you often go on holiday when you were a child?"
- "Would you prefer to travel overseas for a holiday?"
- "Do you have plans for a holiday in the future?"

Part 2:

Describe a place you'd like to live in the future

You should say:

- Where it would be
- What it would be like
- Who you would live with

You should also say why you would like to live there.

Part 3:

- "What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area?"
- "Has the standard of living changed much in your country over the last ten years?"
- "Do you think more people will choose to leave their native country and live abroad in the future?"

- "Do you think students should be encouraged to study overseas? "
- Do you think that increased mobility has had a negative effect on communities?

Speaking test 2 model answers

Part 1

"Do you often go shopping for clothes?"

"Well, I like to dress well but I don't really enjoy going out to buy clothes. It can take such a long time to find something that I like, and then I have to go to the changing rooms to try it on and make sure it's a good fit, and even then sometimes when I get home I find that they are not as comfortable as I thought. I much prefer to go shopping for electronic goods – I can spend hours looking at things like laptop computers or iPods."

"Do you think it's important to dress well?"

I think that really depends on what you intend to do that day. As I mentioned, I like to look smart, but if it's a weekend or in the evening, it's much more important to dress comfortably. I wear smart clothes to work, of course, and many of my colleagues wear ties or dark business dresses. Our company has a policy that on Fridays it's OK to wear more casual clothes, so I might go into work wearing jeans but I would always wear a clean, ironed shirt – never just a t-shirt.

"Do you have particular national dress in your country?"

"Well, yes, we do. On certain days of the year, then men would wear black trousers and a white shirt, often with a thin red scarf. The women wear a black dress and a white shirt, but have a scarf that is more orange in colour. The clothing is a lot more elaborate than normal though, with a lot of embroidery and designs. Many people also have the shirts or blouses made of silk too, so they can look very striking."

"I'd like to talk about the news now. Do you often read newspapers?"

Well, not very often. There is a free local newspaper that gets delivered every week and I have a quick look through that, but I rarely buy a newspaper. If I do, it would be one of the national papers. I sometime read The Tribune when I'm at work, in my coffee breaks, but

mostly just the headlines. I don't really have a lot of free time to sit and relax with a paper. If I do have time, I prefer to listen to music or watch television.

"Where do you go to get news?"

Hmmm... a lot of the time I would just find that out when I'm surfing the internet, or sometimes I watch the news on the television. I'm more interested in local news, so I can get some information from the free local paper. I think that sometimes newspapers and the television will sometimes sensationalise the pieces that they present and very often have a bias when they are reporting events, especially if they are political. A lot of what I know about the news actually comes from talking with my colleagues at work – they seem much more informed about events than me!

"Do you listen to news broadcasts on the radio?"

No, not really. Sometimes when I'm driving I might listen to the short news broadcasts that comes on every hour, but only because the radio is on. I wouldn't make a special effort to tune in just for the news. The problem with the news on the radio is that it is much less informative because it doesn't have any images to show what is happening. For instance, the recent tsunami was being described on the radio just a few days ago, and they were discussing the amount of damage caused, but it was only when I saw the images on the television that I really got a feel for the amount of destruction that had been caused.

"Let's move on to talk about holidays. Did you often go on holiday when you were a child?"

I wouldn't say often, as both my parents worked, but I do remember some family holidays we took together. They were always fun, even if the weather wasn't so good. We would go to the beach with a little caravan and spend about a week there – we always went to the same place. Sometimes it would be warm enough to go swimming in the sea, but if not, we would play games as a family, or go into the town to the cinema and somewhere nice to eat. The thing I remember most is that it was when we all got to spend the most time together, and everyone had fun.

"Would you prefer to travel overseas for a holiday?"

No, not particularly. Of course, it's always interesting to see other places and experience other cultures, but I think you can have a perfectly good holiday in your country. I guess it also depends on whether or not you have children to think about. Taking a family of four to another country, especially if that means flying, can be very expensive and can take a day or two off your holiday just travelling. Having said that, though, I think it's always good to be in warm country when you're on holiday and sometimes that does mean travelling abroad.

"Do you have plans for a holiday in the future?"

Yes, definitely! As soon as I have taken my IELTS test and got the results I need, I am going to France to visit my brother and his family. They moved over there a few years ago and I haven't been yet so I am going to treat myself to a 10 day break. I'm really looking forward to it, and it'll be nice to get away after having studied for this test for the last few months. After that holiday, though, I will be looking for a new job so probably won't have much time off for a while, so I'm going to make the most of my trip to Paris.

"Have you ever been on a long journey?"

Err...yes, I have. I suppose my longest journey would be travelling to England to visit relatives last year. It's a 14 hour flight from here, and it was the longest I have ever been on an aeroplane. The journey out was fine - I thought it would be quite boring, but it was one of the newer aircraft with a movies, television and computer games available, so there was lots to do. The return trip wasn't so good though - there was a young child sitting in the row in front of me, and for most of the flight he was crying and screaming. I don't suppose he was much older than three. So that wasn't so good for me, although I did feel sorry for the parents - they look so tired by the time we landed!

"Do you prefer to travel alone or with other people?"

Well, there are benefits to both travelling with others and travelling solo. With other people around, the trip can be more fun, and you get to share experiences and talk about them with people that have seen and done what you have. On the other hand, I like the independence of travelling by myself. I choose when I stop, where I eat, where I go - and this is often better than having to get your travel companions to agree before you do

anything. I guess the ideal way to travel would be with someone else who also likes to be independent sometimes, so you can travel together but also spend some time alone.

Part Two

Describe a place you'd like to live in the future

You should say:

- Where it would be
- What it would be like
- Who you would live with

You should also say why you would like to live there.

"Well, I'd really like to live somewhere that has a comfortable temperature, not too hot or too cold. I think New Zealand has the perfect climate for me – although there are 4 different seasons, it can still reach temperatures of over 25 degrees in the summer, and in some places it doesn't freeze in the winter, even overnight, so that would be good for me. I have heard that it's also a beautiful country – I've seen some photographs of the national parks and they look amazing. I think they have even used the landscapes in a lot of movies like Lord of the Rings.

Of course I would take my family with me, which is another reason to think New Zealand would be a good place to live – it has a reputation of being such a safe country, so would be perfect as I have two young children who are about to start school. My wife is a nurse, and like most countries, New Zealand is also in desperate need of more people with a medical background in the workforce, so I think it would be easier for her to get a job in a hospital. In addition to everything I have already mentioned, I have also heard that New Zealand has a relatively small population – I think there are about 5 million people – and they are a very welcoming and friendly nation. In my country, most people live in the city and it is often overcrowded, so moving to a country that has some open spaces would be perfect.

I would like to live somewhere near one of the larger cities. Maybe not right in the middle of the city, but close so that it's accessible if I need to go. But regardless of all of these positive

aspects of living in New Zealand, I don't think we would every actually move there. We have a wide circle of friends here, and our parents both live nearby, so we see them quite often. I think perhaps the ideal situation would be to live somewhere for a few months of the year, but not permanently. That wouldn't really work for the children though, as that would interrupt their school schedule a little too much."

Part 3

"What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area?"

Hmmm.... There are a number of clear advantages when considering health implications. City life tends to be much more hurried, leading to greater degrees of stress and tension, so a clear advantage of living in the countryside is that people tend to live much more stress-free lives. They don't have to contend with traffic jams, queues and the sheer number of people. There is also the environmental factor. The air quality in the city I live in is particularly bad – a combination of exhaust fumes, industrial pollution and a number of other factors. In the countryside, the environment is cleaner and this has obvious health benefits. However, there are issues about living in the countryside that I would find a problem. Shopping, for example – I like the fact that I can get almost anything I need without travelling too far, but living in more rural areas you wouldn't have access to the array of shops you have in the city.

"Has the standard of living changed much in your country over the last ten years?"

Well, there are still significant differences between rich and poor people, with some people continuing to live well below the poverty line, but in general I think there has been a significant change. There has been an increase in tourism over recent years which has brought money into the country, and that has improved most people living conditions. There has also been a much greater focus on education, with an increasing number of children attending school, which of course will have a significantly positive effect on the standard of living here in the future. However, there has been only minimal progress with regards healthcare, so I would say the standards there haven't really improved very much.

"Do you think more people will choose to leave their native country and live abroad in the future?"

Well, I think that a greater number of people may choose to travel to other countries, and may find a location they would prefer to live in than their home country. However, many people are not emigrating permanently, and may choose to return to their country of birth. In the future, I think that this migration is probably going to continue, but the main difference will be that travel becomes more affordable so even lower income families will have the option to relocate overseas, so the numbers will increase. Of course, it's likely that some of the countries that are currently so heavily favoured, such as the USA or the UK, will be less popular destinations in the future, so an increasing number of people may choose to live in countries that at the moment we don't really think about for immigration.

"Do you think students should be encouraged to study overseas? "

That would very much depend on their course of study. I would say that the benefits of studying science related subjects overseas are limited. Although you may get to see how other countries conduct research or experimentation, the basic rules and operating procedures in science will not vary between countries. However, I would say that there would be substantial advantages for students on courses involving people or language. For example, if studying the English language, it can be extremely beneficial to spend some time living in an English speaking country. Also, for a student studying design related subjects, it could be extremely advantageous to see other countries to absorb other perspectives and influences. Having said that, however, studying overseas should only be encouraged if it could be offered equally to all students, not just to those whose families could afford the costs.

Do you think that increased mobility has had a negative effect on communities?

Hmmm...that's not something I've ever really thought about, but...I suppose there are changes to local communities when people leave and new people arrive, but I wouldn't agree that they were necessarily negative. New arrivals into a community may be able to offer new things that would definitely benefit the local people, but then there is also the

lack of long term bonds that can often be a significant part of smaller communities. Living in a city, there is less of a community feeling and that does have an effect on social behaviour, I think. We have problems with vandalism and graffiti that I imagine would be much less common in a community where everyone knows each other and people are easily recognised. However, I would say that on the whole an increase in people's ability to move to other communities is a positive thing.

Speaking test 3

Part 1:

- "Do you live in a house or a flat?"
- "What kind of facilities do you have in the surrounding area?"
- "Would you recommend this area to a friend?"
- "I'd like to move on to talk about music now. Do you often listen to music?"
- "Do you use music for certain events in your country?"
- "Can you play any musical instruments?"
- "Do you often have visitors to your house?"
- "Do you prefer entertaining at home or going out?"
- "What type of food would you serve to guests in your home?"

Part 2:

Talk about something you do to relax

You should say:

- What it is
- How often you do it
- Where you do it

You should also say if you would recommend it.

Part 3:

- "Are our lives becoming more stressful?"
- "Do you think that people take enough time to relax each day?"
- "Do you think technology will allow us to lead more relaxing lives in the future?"
- "How has what people do for relaxation in your country changed in the last ten years?"

- "Do you think that there will be changes in the age of retirement?"

Speaking test 3 model answers

Part 1

"Do you live in a house or a flat?"

At the moment I am sharing a house with two other people. I've only been living there for a few months - I used to have a flat of my own, but I needed to save some money whilst I was studying so I moved in with them. It's a good sized house though, with plenty of room for three of us, and it's near the centre of town so it suits me well.

"What kind of facilities do you have in the surrounding area?"

Well, there's a park right opposite the house, which is lovely this time of year as we can sit out there for lunch or to play a game of football. There are also plenty of shops, so it's easy to get most things we need without having to travel too far. There is a small library in the area, but it's not very well stocked so sometimes we have to go to the larger library in the centre of town.

"Would you recommend this area to a friend?"

Oh yes, definitely. It's quite quiet even though it's near town, and it's a very safe neighbourhood. As I mentioned, it has all the facilities needed so you don't need to go very far. The neighbours are friendly and there are one or two good places to eat within easy walking distance. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone with young children though, as it's quite a distance from the nearest school. Our neighbour has to drive his children to and from school each day and it takes about half an hour in the mornings and the same in the afternoons.

"I'd like to move on to talk about music now. Do you often listen to music?"

Yes, I do. I like classical music and I listen to that a lot. I go to a lot of classical concerts too. I don't really like rock music, although the people I live with often have it on so I don't have much choice. I usually listen to the radio when I'm in the car, too, so I hear a lot of different kinds of music there. The one type of music I really can't listen to is Jazz – I find it quite annoying, although I have some close friends that love it!

"Do you use music for certain events in your country?"

Well, I suppose so... let me think. Hmm... we have music for weddings, of course – I think most countries and cultures have that. We also have a specific kind of music for funerals. Also, a lot of people use guitars and sing when we have a party. And then we have the national anthem, which I guess is played in the same places as most other countries - before sports matches, for example.

"Can you play any musical instruments?"

No, not really. I used to be able to play the guitar a little, but I haven't tried for many years now so I have probably forgotten how to play. My brother is very musical though – he can pick up almost any instrument and play it. He had piano lessons as a child and took to it very well, but since then has taught himself the guitar and the violin, but only as a hobby. I do have a friend that plays the guitar professionally though – he's very talented!

"Do you often have visitors to your house?"

Oh yes, definitely. In our culture it is very common to invite people over to your house for a meal or to celebrate a special occasion. Most times guests will arrive early in the evening and stay until about 11 o'clock at night, although that's different for younger people – I think their parties carry on much later into the night. Sometimes we have friends over for the weekend, but that's only if they have had to travel a long way to get to see us.

"Do you prefer entertaining at home or going out?"

Well, to be honest I would prefer to go out! There is always such a lot of preparation if people come over to your house. It's considered polite in my culture to provide a meal for any guest, so there's often a lot of cooking and then there's the cleaning up afterwards. It is becoming increasingly common, however, for people to arrange to meet in a restaurant, and then the person who invites the others will generally pay the bill. I guess it's because people are busier these days and don't always have time to prepare.

"What type of food would you serve to guests in your home?"

Oh... that's a difficult question because it depends on a lot of things. If the guest is a close friend, we may have something casual, sometimes even a takeaway meal, but if it's a little more formal – for example, parents-in-law, we would have to make something more traditional. I'm not a very good cook so that's always a little hard for me! Another point is the age of the guests – if it's younger people, we could settle for something relatively simple like a pasta dish. However, if the guests are a little older we generally try to cook something more traditional, and sit down at the table to eat rather than sitting more comfortably in the living room.

Part Two

Talk about something you do to relax

You should say:

- What it is
- How often you do it
- Where you do it

You should also say if you would recommend it.

Well, when I have time there are a couple of things I like to do to relax. Perhaps my favourite would be to read a good book, particularly thrillers. I like novels about crime, but I'm not very fond of science fiction. I try to read as many books as I can in English, because it's a great way to improve my reading speed and pick up new vocabulary, although sometimes I can get bored of reading in English and would prefer a book written in my own language.

With work and my studies, however, I don't really get a lot of time to read – sometimes it can take me more than a month to finish one book. That doesn't mean that I don't spend a lot of time reading – I have a lot to read for my work – but I don't have a lot of time for reading books for relaxation. The most common place to read for pleasure for me would be in bed, although most of the time I start reading and after a few pages I can't keep my eyes open – I quite often fall asleep with a book still in my hands! I think I have read the same pages of the book I'm on now quite a few times because I keep losing my place.

Apart from that, I guess I would read the most when I am on holiday. If I go away for a few days just to relax, I can easily sit on the beach or in the park and spend all day reading, sometimes getting through a book a day! If I have been really busy at work and I don't have any other plans, I might also spend half a day during the weekend just reading and relaxing – I might sometimes not get out of bed until after midday if I am engrossed in a good book! I would definitely recommend reading for relaxation for a number of reasons, perhaps the strongest being that it allows you to 'escape' for a while into a fictional world. Although you can also do this watching a good film, for me a book is better because you have to visualise the characters and locations, so it's a far more personal interpretation. Even in a good film you are still shown what the characters look like and where they are, so a lot less is left to the imagination. Another reason I would recommend it, even though this may not be so relaxing, is that it is a great way to expand your vocabulary, especially if you are reading in English. There are many times when I might need to use a dictionary just to understand a single page, and as soon as I learn a new word I suddenly seem to hear the word being used in other situations a lot more.

"Are our lives becoming more stressful?"

I would say that there are many parts of our lives that we need to be careful to avoid becoming overly stressful. For example, in my job I am often offered overtime and although I could always use the extra money, I think it's important to sometimes say no and keep some free time to unwind, otherwise life could become stressful. I think that there are also increased pressures on people these days that perhaps weren't so bad in the past. We are constantly advised by television and media reports, as well as health professionals, that certain foods are bad and should be avoided, that we should take regularly exercise and always look our best.

Although that is important, it is also important to be able to relax now and again. An example might be that although I generally eat well, have at least three meals a day and eat plenty of fruit and vegetables, it is important not to stress too much about the occasions where I might choose to have some fast food like a burger, or some take away food that might not be very healthy. I think that if we balance such things carefully, there's no real need to be more stressed these days.

"Do you think that people take enough time to relax each day?"

No, definitely not. As I mentioned, people worry a little too much about what they eat, but apart from that many people work too hard and don't take some time out of each day to do something they enjoy. I think it's very important to have some kind of hobby or interest that you can spend some time doing to relax, but many people work long hours and even bring work home at the weekend. This is commonly the case when people are studying for a specific purpose; when they do take a break they often feel a little guilty, with the thought that they shouldn't really be taking this time off when they have work to do. In reality, of course, there is always work to do, but it has been proven that working long hours without a break is actually less productive than people who spend a little time every couple of hours doing something they enjoy, even if it's only doing a crossword for a few minutes.

"Do you think technology will allow us to lead more relaxing lives in the future?"

Hmm... in theory, yes, but I think in practice that doesn't quite work. It is very common to find employees checking emails or answering their mobile phones at weekends or in the evenings when they should be relaxing. This kind of technology has meant that we are often always available, and people have become impatient with delays. For example, if a customer orders a product on a Saturday, they often expect that order to be processed and sent that same day, meaning that someone needs to be working. On the other side, however, mobile phones and laptop computers have meant that we don't necessarily need to be in the office every day, with an increasing number of people now being able to work from home. This means that rather than getting up very early to get through the morning rush hour traffic, some people are able to get up later and then be at work almost immediately without wasting time in traffic jams.

"How has what people do for relaxation in your country changed in the last ten years?"

In many ways there haven't been any significant changes. People still read books, listen to music or exercise, as well as spending time with friends and family. I think what has changed is the way in which people are able to do these things. For example, there are those who have always enjoyed reading, but now buy audio books and listen to them being read. In a similar way, iPods and iPhones have changed the way most people listen to music. We can put headphones on and listen to hours of music all stored in a single device – there's no need to change discs or anything like that. Spending time with friends has in many ways not changed, although it is possible to speak to people over the internet using video chat so you can see and hear other people without necessarily being physically near each other.

"Do you think that there will be changes in the age of retirement?"

Well... that's a good question. I think with the increasing number of older people, combined with better medical treatment, people are still able to work much later in life that they used to be able to. In my country, the age of retirement is still about 65 years old, but many people are still able and willing to work until well into their seventies.

The problem, of course, is that with people working later in life, there are possibly fewer opportunities for younger people trying to get started in a career, and often the employer is paying higher wages to the more senior staff members. Then there is also the situation for self employed people. My father intended to retire a few years ago when he turned 60, but has continued working because the pension he would get from the government is not actually sufficient to support him. The chances are that he will continue to work long after the current retirement age.

Listening tests

Note: all of the question types, timings and pauses between recordings in this free online IELTS listening test are EXACTLY what you can expect in the IELTS test. Our free online material has been designed to emulate the IELTS test as accurately as possible in every aspect.

Listening test 1

*Play **Listening test 1 audio file #1***

SECTION 1

Questions 1-10

Questions 1-5

Complete the form below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Northern Rental Bookings

Name: William (1)

Contact number: (2) 07

Address: 10 (3) Nelson

Payment by credit card type: (4) card.

Card No. 4550 1392 8309 3221

Card expiry date: July 20XX

Rental period: (5) days

Questions 6 to 10

Answer the following questions **USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**

6. How much is the car per day?
7. What does the price include?
8. Who will he be visiting?
9. What kind of car does the agent recommend?
10. What does he need to collect the car?

Play Listening test 1 audio file #2

SECTION 2

Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

Complete the tables below. If there is no information given, write X.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Overlander	
Distance / km	(11)
Highlight	3 volcanoes
Time / hours	11

Transalpine	
Distance / km	223
Highlight	(12) 16

Time / hours	(13)
--------------	------------

Transcoastal	
Distance / km	(14)
Highlight	(15)
Time / hours	5

Questions 16 to 20

Complete the summary below **USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER.**

Taking three days to complete, the **(16)** is one of the world's longest train journeys. The Ghan is shorter, passing through towns built by the **(17)** There is also a sculpture designed to mark the laying of the **(18)** concrete sleeper. The Overland was the first train to travel between the capital cities in two **(19)** and it is also the oldest journey of its kind on **(20)**

Play Listening test 1 audio file #3

SECTION 3

Questions 21-30

Questions 21-25

Circle the correct letter A–C.

21 Lyn is having difficulty completing her project because

- A she doesn't have enough information.
- B she can't organise her presentation.
- C she doesn't have enough time.

22 Her presentation is going to focus on

A solar power in America.

B solar-powered water heaters.

C alternative energy technology.

23 Why does Lyn think we should be looking for alternative sources of energy?

A Fossil fuels are expensive.

B Fossil fuels have an impact on the environment.

C Fossil fuels are limited.

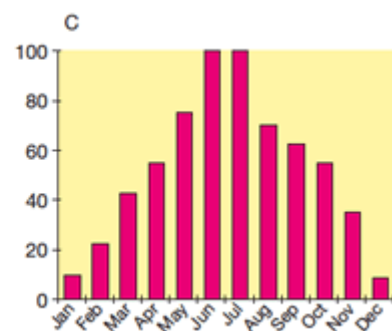
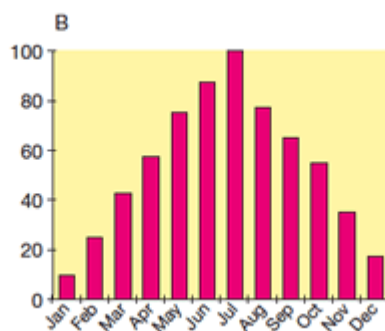
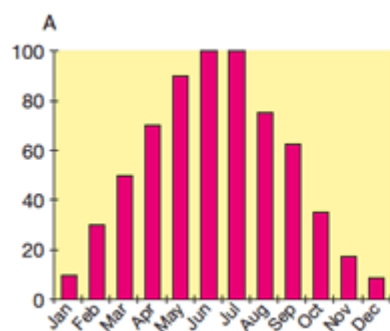
24 Solar power is a good form of alternative energy because

A it can be harnessed with simple technology

B it is infinite

C it can be applied equally well in any country.

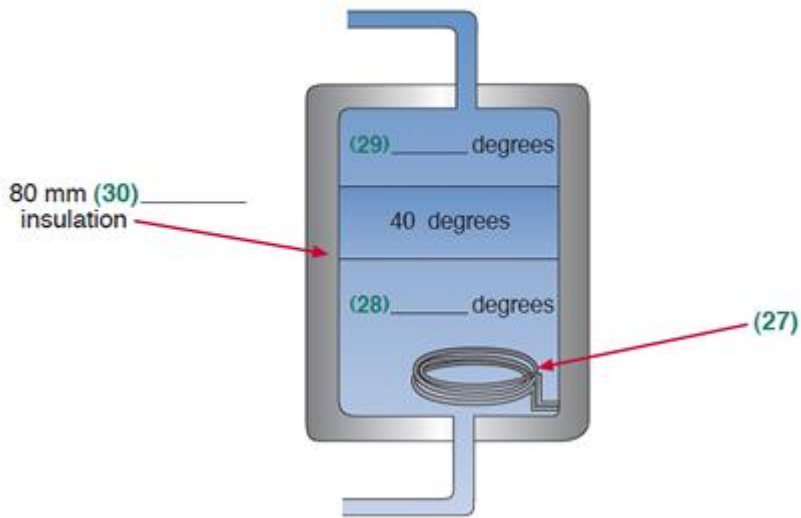
25 Which graph best indicates what Lyn is describing?



Questions 26 to 30

Label the following diagram USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER

minimum tank capacity: (26) _____



26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

Play Listening test 1 audio file #4

SECTION 4

Complete the sentences below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**

Questions 31-40

Lecture on (31)

Examples: tourism and (32)

Common misconception is that marketing points to (33) in what is being provided.

Marketing is actually essential in maintaining (34)

Selling a product is easier because it is **(35)** and customers do not have such different **(36)**

Aim: offer service beyond hopes of **(37)**

Important to: (a) keep informed & (b) **(38)**

One way to achieve this: **(39)**

(40) must always be available for any queries or problems.

Listening test 1 answers

1. WADDELL (EXACT SPELLING REQUIRED FOR THIS POINT)
2. 263 8666 (IF YOU HAVE THIS NUMBER IN A DIFFERENT FORMAT, FOR EXAMPLE WITH DIFFERENT SPACING, IT WOULD STILL BE MARKED CORRECT)
3. ROBYN PLACE (EXACT SPELLING REQUIRED FOR THIS POINT)
4. VISA ('CREDIT' IS NOT ENOUGH TO GET THIS MARKED AS CORRECT)
5. 10 ('DAYS' IS NOT REQUIRED AS THIS IS INCLUDED IN THE QUESTION)
6. \$35
7. UNLIMITED KILOMETRES
8. RELATIVES
9. (AN) AUTOMATIC
10. DRIVING LICENSE ('A DRIVING LICENCE' WOULD BE INCORRECT AS THIS IS THREE WORDS WHEN THE INSTRUCTIONS STATE 'NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS')
11. 681 (NOT 691!!!)
12. TUNNELS
13. 5
14. X (NOTE THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS STATED THAT 'IF THERE IS NO INFORMATION GIVEN, WRITE X.')
15. WHALE WATCHING
16. INDIAN PACIFIC
17. EARLIER / EARLY SETTLERS
18. MILLIONTH
19. STATES
20. THE CONTINENT
21. B
22. B
23. C
24. A
25. A
26. 40 LITRES (OR LITERS)
27. SOLAR COIL
28. 20
29. 65
30. RIGID FOAM
31. SERVICES MARKETING
32. LEGAL ADVICE
33. WEAKNESS
34. CUSTOMER NUMBERS
35. TANGIBLE
36. EXPECTATIONS
37. CLIENTS
38. CONSTANTLY IMPROVE
39. (CONDUCT) SURVEYS

40. A REPRESENTATIVE

Listening test 1 transcripts:

Listening test 1 Section 1

Receptionist	Good morning, Sir. How can I help you?
William	Hello. Is this Southern Rental Car?
Receptionist	Yes. it is.
William	I wonder if you could help me. I'm ringing from Nelson, but I'm coming over to Auckland for 12 days and I'd like to hire a car
Receptionist	Okay, I'll fill in a booking for you now. First, can I take your name?
William	Yes, it's William Waddell.
Receptionist	Sorry, could you spell your surname?
William	Yes, it's W A D D E L L
Receptionist	Thanks. Now, can I have an address and a phone number?
William	Sure. I live at 10 Robyn Place. That's R O B Y N Place.
Receptionist	And that's Nelson, isn't it?
William	That's right. Do you want my home number or my mobile?
Receptionist	Home number will be fine.

William	OK, it's
Receptionist	Great. Now, can I also have a credit card number?
William	Do I have to pay by credit card?
Receptionist	Well, we need to credit card number as a guarantee. It's a standard policy for car rentals.
William	OK, well I'll pay by Visa then. The card number is 4550...1392...8309...3221
Receptionist	And the expiry date?
William	Sorry?
Receptionist	Your card – when does it expire?
William	Oh, next July.
Receptionist	Right. Now, how long did you want the car for? Twelve days did you say?
William	No, I only need the car for 10 days, from the 2nd to the 11th of next month.

Receptionist	Now, what type of car are you looking to hire?
William	Well, I'm not too worried about the model of the car but I understand that you have rental cars from just \$25 a day. Is that correct?
Receptionist	We do sometimes have the \$25 deals, but only in the low season. For the period you are looking at, the cheapest we have is \$35. However, that price includes unlimited kilometres.

William	Sorry, did you say unlimited kilometres? What does that mean exactly?
Receptionist	That means that no matter how far you go, the cost is the same. Some companies charge for rental and then charge again for every kilometre you actually drive.
William	Well I am going to be travelling quite long distances – I'm visiting relatives and they live quite far apart from each other, so unlimited kilometres are probably a good idea.
Receptionist	If you're travelling long distances, you would be better off with an automatic. Changing gears in a manual can make it more expensive for petrol.
William	OK, I'll take an automatic then.
Receptionist	Right, so that's an automatic car for 10 days from the 2nd to the 11th. That's all booked. Is there anything else I can help you with?
William	No that's fine. Oh, sorry – what do I need to bring with me when I pick up the car?
Receptionist	All you need is your driving licence.
William	Right, well thanks very much. Bye.

Listening test 1 Section 2

When thinking about beautiful countryside or stunning views, it has long been accepted that Australia and New Zealand have few equals. What is perhaps slightly less well known is what

these countries can offer to the avid train enthusiast. Both countries have railways which pass through breathtaking scenery in the utmost of comfort.

In New Zealand you can travel from the country's biggest city, Auckland, to where a third of the population lives, its capital, Wellington, on the longest passenger rail service in the country – the Overlander. Crossing 681 kilometres, the train winds through the lush farmland of the Waikato and up the Rarimu Spiral onto an amazing 'volcanic plateau' surrounded by native bush. On a clear day you will be able to see three of New Zealand's most famous volcanoes — Mount Ruapehu, Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro. The whole journey can be completed in 11 hours, but for those keen to see a little more of the country, the trip can be extended over three or four days. This gives travellers the opportunity of seeing the famous Waitomo caves, relaxing in the mud pools of Rotorua, or skydiving over Lake Taupo.

Moving on to the South Island, you can take the Transalpine through the Southern Alps, travelling from the South Pacific Ocean to the Tasman Sea. Climbing from Christchurch right into the alps, this 223 km trip is particularly impressive as the train passes through 16 tunnels before descending to Greymouth at the end of the line. Taking only five hours, this is a relatively short trip, but it is worth noting that this journey has been listed as the sixth most scenic rail route in the world. For those that are not so keen on mountains, the South Island has a second option —the Transcoastal. With the sea on one side and the mountains on the other, it again shows some of the best scenery New Zealand has to offer. Also taking five hours, one of the highlights of this journey is the opportunities for whale watching. The fortunate few that see whales are well rewarded, but there are more common sights which are just as enjoyable, such as penguins and seals.

Although these three train journeys are undeniably breathtaking, some travellers prefer the longer journeys on offer in Australia. The Indian Pacific, for example, which travels from Sydney through to Perth and has been dubbed 'the adventure that spans Australia'. With three nights on board, the train takes in the Blue Mountains and the Nullarbor Plains, and, as

the name implies, the Indian Pacific shows you two oceans. This train journey holds two world records: covering 4352 km, it is one of the world's longest train journeys. It also travels the world's longest straight stretch of railway track (478 km). For those who find these distances a little daunting, passengers can stretch their legs at a number of different stops such as Kalgoorlie, famous for gold, and Broken Hill, first founded as a silver mine.

If three days on board a train seems a little excessive, there are alternatives. The Ghan, for example, which travels from Adelaide in the south to Alice Springs in the centre of the continent, taking 20 hours. Passing through Crystal Brook, Port Augusta and Woomera, this journey gives an indication of what life was like for the earlier settlers as they discovered the country. Along the way, you can also see the Iron Man sculpture, which was constructed by railway workers to commemorate the one millionth concrete sleeper laid during construction of the line.

Finally, just a quick word about the Overland, which runs between Melbourne and Adelaide. As the first train to travel between the capitals of two states, it is a historic as well as relaxing way to travel, and is famous for being the oldest long-distance train journey on the continent.

With so many memorable journeys to choose from, the only problem you will have is knowing which one to do first.

Listening test 2

Play Listening test 2 audio file #1

SECTION 1

Example:

The customer went to South Africa

1. *last month*
2. *last week*
3. *last year. C*

Questions 1-10

Questions 1 and 2

Choose the correct letter A–C.

1 The travel agent:

- thinks Europe is a good destination
- can personally recommend Vancouver
- does not think America is a good choice.

2 The customer:

- is going to Europe next year
- knows people living in Canada
- wants to go to the warmest place.

Questions 3 to 6

Complete the form using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

The Travel Depot flight reservations	
Customer's name:	Jim (3)
Address	10 Allen Road, Oldham
Destination	Vancouver, Canada
Contact number:	0151 (4) (home number)
Flight number	(5)
Length of stay (nights):	(6)

Questions 7 to 10

Complete the sentences below USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER

7. The travel agent recommends some form of (7) cover for peace of mind.
8. There are two types of cover, but the best cover is offered with the (8) Star policy.
9. The client can see a play at the theatre for \$ (9)
10. The flight and the insurance together costs £ (10)

SECTION 2

Play Listening test 2 audio file #2

Questions 11-20

Questions 11-15

Select the correct answers A-C.

11. Who is the speaker addressing?

- A. Property agents
- B. People selling houses
- C. People in the countryside
- D. People buying second homes

12. Rental property in the city...

- A. is very easy to find
- B. is becoming more difficult to find
- C. is an investment opportunity
- D. is often the only option

13. Lisa Brown believes...

- A. most people will own their own home at some time
- B. there is a psychological factor involved in owning your own home
- C. fewer people are interested in owning a house
- D. most young people need a deposit before they can buy a house.

14. Property in the countryside is becoming more popular because...

- A. people want to get away from the city
- B. some parts of the city are becoming overcrowded

- C. the concept of the home office means that some people don't need to go into work
- D. public transport is beginning to serve outlying areas.

15. What kind of properties does the speaker specialise in?

- A. Commercial
- B. Investment
- C. First homes
- D. Rural

Questions 16 to 20

Answer the following questions **USING NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER**

- 16. What end of the market are the properties?
- 17. What does the speaker compare buying houses with?
- 18. What kind of equity can be the result of buying a property when the market is high?
- 19. How does she describe the feeling of successful property investment?
- 20. How can you ask the speaker a question?

SECTION 3

Play Listening test 2 audio file #3

Questions 21-30

Questions 21 to 24

Answer the following questions **USING NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND / OR A NUMBER**

21. How long is the radio show?

22. What is the general focus of the programme?

23. Where is Professor Ripley from?

24. According to Professor Ripley, what animals do people most associate with the African bush?

Questions 25 to 28

Complete the table below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

	Threats	Natural habitat	Population
African lions		bush	Estimated to be (25)
Tigers	(26)	forests and plains	fewer than (27)
Snow leopards	Expansion of (28)	high-altitude pastures	

Questions 29 and 30

Circle the appropriate letter **A–D**.

29. Where is the WWF currently funding projects to help the snow leopard?

- Nepal, Pakistan and Bhutan
- Nepal and Pakistan
- Bhutan and Nepal

- Pakistan and Bhutan

30. Listeners should telephone

1. immediately if they want to put forward an opinion
2. during the commercial break
3. in 10 minutes if they have anything they want to ask the professor
4. if they have any information regarding pumas or jaguars.

SECTION 4

Play Listening test 2 audio file #4

Questions 31-40

Question 31

Circle the correct answer **A–C**.

31 The students were expecting

1. to hear a lecture on overpopulation
2. Mr Mackenzie
3. a guest speaker

Questions 32 to 36

Complete the table below using **TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**.

42 million adults **(32)**

50 million adults have the reading ability of a **(33)** year-old.

Increasing by around **(34)** and a quarter million per year.

	Unemployment	Unrealised earnings	Literacy programmes
cost (in billions of US dollars)	(35) \$	237	(36) \$

Question 37

Circle the appropriate letter **A–D**.

37. Illiteracy is increasing because many young learners are

- not being taught how to break words into sounds
- given word lists which are too long
- not challenged enough in the classroom.

Questions 38 to 40

Complete the summary below **USING NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.

English is made up of 26 letters, with 44 **(38)** and 70 ways of **(39)**

Unsuccessful teaching practices persist, however, because reading is **(40)**

Listening test 2 answers

1. B
2. B
3. JACKSON
4. 433 398
5. VN217
6. 20 OR TWENTY
7. (TRAVEL) INSURANCE
8. GOLD
9. 54 OR FIFTY FOUR (THE CURRENCY SYMBOL IS NOT NEEDED AS IT IS IN THE QUESTION)
10. 433 (THE CURRENCY SYMBOL IS NOT NEEDED AS IT IS IN THE QUESTION)
11. D
12. B
13. B
14. C
15. B
16. (THE) CHEAPER (END)
17. (HAVING A) PENSION(S)
18. NEGATIVE
19. (ENORMOUSLY) SATISFYING
20. RAISE (YOUR / A) HAND
21. 1 HOUR ['WEEKLY' IS INCORRECT AS THIS IS HOW OFTEN, NOT HOW LONG]
22. CONSERVATION (ISSUES)
23. (THE) US
24. (PRIDES OF) LIONS
25. 50,000
26. HUNTERS/ HUNTING
27. 6000

28. AGRICULTURE

29. B

30. C

31. C – THE SPEAKER TOLD THE CLASS ON MONDAY THAT THE LECTURE ON OVERPOPULATION
WAS CANCELLED AS THEY HAVE A GUEST SPEAKER.

32. CANNOT READ

33. 10

34. 2

35. 6

36. 10

37. A

38. SOUNDS

39. SPELLING

40. BIG BUSINESS (BOTH WORDS NEEDED TO GET THE CORRECT ANSWER)

Listening test 3

SECTION 1

Play Listening test 3 audio file #1

Example:

She wants to study an MBA

Questions 1-10

*Questions 1-5. Complete the form below with the applicant's personal details using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER.***

Applicant information form:

Name: Ann (1)

D.O.B.: (2), 1991

Address: (3) Simon Street, Brighton

Contact number: (4) (01903)

Mobile: (5)

Questions 6 to 10

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS.**

6. What is the applicant's current job?
7. What university course has she already completed?
8. Why might the student not get on the MBA course?
9. What is her second choice?

10. Which department will contact the applicant?

Play Listening test 3 audio file #2

SECTION 2

*Questions 11- 15. Answer the questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.*

11. Whose lifestyle is the speaker talking about?

12. Which two examples of goods have now become thought of as necessities?

13. In addition to work, what have these goods given us more time for?

14. What do richer societies become?

15. What does the 'race of acquisition' encourage us to buy?

Questions 16 to 20

Answer the following questions by selecting the correct letter **A to C**.

- Who is mostly responsible for creating the demand for new products?
 - A. Wealthy, older people
 - B. Professionals
 - C. Models

- Why should we be concerned with the increasing number of unnecessary appliances?
 - A. The cost
 - B. The environment
 - C. The pace of technology

- What other risk does the speaker refer to?
 - A. A loss of traditional skills
 - B. Health factors of pre-packaged food
 - C. A negative impact on careers

- Active buying behaviour
 - A. will cause an increase in manufactured goods
 - B. causes stress within families
 - C. is a purely positive aspect of consumer behaviour

- What does the speaker recommend for the future?
 - A. Buy what is available
 - B. Educating companies about sustainable production
 - C. Purchase in moderation

Play Listening test 3 audio file #3

SECTION 3

Question 21.

Choose the correct letter **A–C**.

21. Helen became a vegetarian

- A. sixteen years ago.
- B. because of family influences.
- C. for personal reasons.

Questions 22-24.

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.

According to Helen,

22. what is the most important food source for vegetarians?

23. what do most countries do to vegetables?

24. it is a misconception people have that vegetarians are what?

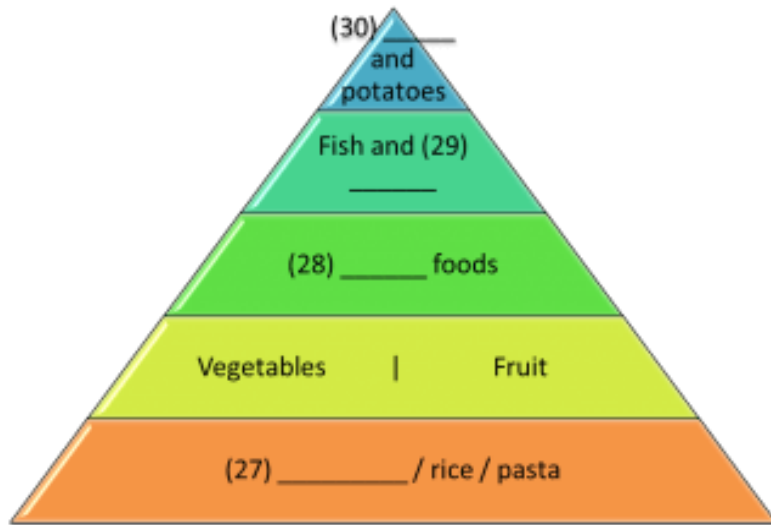
Questions 25-26

Complete the table below using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER**

	World	Europe	America
Beef consumption per head (in kilogrammes per year)	less than 11	(25)	(26)

Questions 27-30.

Label the following diagram using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.



27.

28.

29.

30.

Play Listening test 3 audio file #4

SECTION 4

Questions 31 and 32. Complete the following sentence using **ONE WORD**.

31. East feels therapy is a better word than 'alternative'.

32. Osteopathy involves the manipulation of in order to remove stresses and strains.

Questions 33-36. Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

According to Matthew East,

33.what must be considered when treating a patient?

34. ...what was the original cause of the baby's discomfort?

35. How does East describe the use of drugs and operations?

36. According to East, what is the percentage cost of natural remedies compared to western medicine?

Questions 37-38. Circle the correct letter A-C

37. East believes western medicine

A. is not suitable for the young

B. has not had sufficient trials

C. is overly influenced by pharmaceutical companies

38. Natural remedies

A. are sometimes used indiscriminately

B. can be used with patients of any age

C. do not affect diet or lifestyle

*Questions 39-40. Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS***

39. What examples does East give for the benefits of western medicine?

40. Who is next week's guest?

Listening test 3 answers

1. HAWBERRY
2. 22ND MAY
3. 26
4. 714721
5. NO MOBILE PHONE
6. SECRETARY
7. BUSINESS
8. GETS FULL QUICKLY / FILLS QUICKLY / IT FILLS QUICKLY
9. INTERNATIONAL MARKETING
10. ADMISSION(S) (DEPARTMENT)
11. WOMEN / WOMEN'S
12. DISHWASHERS AND MICROWAVES (AGAIN, BOTH WORDS ARE NEEDED FOR THE CORRECT ANSWER)
13. LEISURE PURSUITS
14. (MORE) DEMANDING
15. UNNECESSARY GOODS
16. B
17. B
18. A
19. A
20. C
21. C
22. SOYA OR SOYA BEAN OR SOYBEAN
23. OVERCOOK THEM
24. UNHEALTHY
25. 21
26. 44
27. CEREALS

28. DAIRY
29. WHITE MEAT
30. RED MEAT
31. NATURAL
32. MUSCLES
33. (THE) WHOLE BODY
34. A DIFFICULT BIRTH
35. INVASIVE
36. 10%
37. C
38. B
39. EMERGENCY SURGERY
40. DR MOORE

Reading tests

Reading test 1

Section 1A:

CHARITY FUN RUN

Dear Supporter,

I am writing to invite you to join us for our Annual Fun Run which will be held this year on Sunday 18th August. The run starts from the school grounds and participants are able to choose to take part in a 2, 5 or 10 kilometre run.

Last year we raised a total of \$15,450 which was donated to the children's hospital and this year we expect to raise over \$16,000. This year, we are raising money which will be used to develop the village recreational centre.

To confirm your registration, email funrunsuccess@edu.com or telephone 01784 5337841. As soon as you are registered you simply start collecting your sponsors and come along on the day!

Further instructions are found below, please read them carefully.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday 18th August,

D. Jackson

Fun Run Co-ordinator

Thanks in advance for your support!

Moorfields School Fun Run

START TIMES

10 Kilometre Run – 8am

5 Kilometre Run – 8.30am

2 Kilometre Run – 9am

ROUTE MAPS

Details are available on our website www.moorfieldsschool.com and will also be available on the day from school reception. All routes will be signposted and there will be marshals stationed along the routes providing cold drinks for runners. If you feel ill or need assistance at any time during the run, please let one of the marshals know and they will be able to help you.

WHAT TO WEAR

Shorts and tee-shirts should be fine; however, we recommend you bring a light raincoat in case of bad weather. Comfortable running shoes are a must! Please avoid wearing new trainers on the day to avoid foot problems.

PARKING

The school car park behind C-block (the language department) will be open on the day. Drive in through the main gates then turn right. Westhill Leisure Centre (across the road from the school) will also allow runners to park their cars there on the day.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE RUN?

There will be a number of entertainers including face-painting and the school band. Food and drink stalls will be available. There will also be a prize-giving event for runners who finish 1st and 2nd in each of the runs and two cinema tickets are available for the best fancy dress if you are interested in running in a special costume!

We expect the whole day to finish at around 4pm.

Questions 1-7

Look at the information on the right about a charity fun run.

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.

1. How many different lengths of route are there?
2. Where was money raised in last year's event given to?
3. How much money do the organisers expect to raise this year?
4. What refreshments will be available from the officials stationed along the route?
5. What do all runners have to wear on the day?
6. Where can participants leave their cars if they do not park at the school?
7. What prize can the runner wearing the best costume win?

Section 1B:

Tour Details

A. Learn more about Maori culture, food, dance, performing arts and the internationally famous Haka. The tour involves lectures on Maori traditions and etiquette; particularly customs for welcoming to and visiting a marae – the meeting house of Maori tribes. Experience an authentic cultural show in one of the country's best-known Maori performance venues.

B. Whether your motivation is to be eco-friendly or simply to enjoy the great outdoors and keep fit while on holiday, our cycling tours of NZ can cater to your needs. Coaches are on hand to transport the group from A to B where distances are far and discounts on wine tours and quad bike tours are also available.

C. Ornithologists unite for this spectacular trip which focuses on the wide variety of species that share our home. Visit the nesting areas of our native birds and the north island gannet colony of Muriwai. Guest lecturers will also give an insight into the now extinct species – the Great Moa – the largest bird ever known to have lived on our shores.

D. This tour is a must for appreciators of the outdoors and lovers of what is known in New Zealand as 'tramping'. Ideal for those who prefer to make their own way, not reliant on transport! See some of the most beautiful countryside Aotearoa (Maori for New Zealand) has to offer. A reasonable fitness level is required though no steep paths or climbing is involved.

E. An education programme which focuses on lectures and field trips based on the natural world. Visit the Auckland museum to see the informative display of animals and plants of New Zealand. Guest speakers include professors and researchers from our most prominent universities.

F. Where two oceans meet; experience the beauty of nature, the expanse of the land and endless beaches and coastline. Often described as the 'winterless north' due to the mild climate, we offer a variety of trips year round.

G. The centre of the north island offers many opportunities to experience naturally occurring thermal phenomenon such as the hot pools, mud pools, and geysers in national parks alive with sub-terranean activity. The tour is three days in duration and accommodation in Rotorua is provided for our clients.

H. Travelling by luxury, air-conditioned tour bus, we partake in some of the best food and beverages New Zealand has to offer. Visit 5 of the country's largest exporting vineyards and take advantage of the discount pricing available to our clients.

I. We take you to spots inaccessible to regular vehicles. Small group sizes. Plenty of off road travel but made as comfortable as possible in our custom made jeeps. Optional walking tours each day or just relaxation if preferred at our breath-taking picnic stops. N.B. We will soon also be offering excursions in the northern tip of the North island.

Questions 8-14

The list of tour options for holiday-makers on the following page has nine tour descriptions **A-I**.

Choose the correct title for each tour from the list of tour names below.

Write the correct number **i-xi** in boxes **8-14** on your answer sheet.

List of tours

- i. Wine Lovers Explore
- ii. Hiking in NZ
- iii. 4-wheel drive South Island Extravaganza
- iv. The Traditional Culture of Rotorua
- v. Aotearoa on two-wheels
- vi. An introduction to New Zealand Birdlife
- vii. The History of the Moa
- viii. Flora and Fauna Education tour
- ix. Thermal Wonderland tour
- x. Northern Exposure
- xi. Come Scale the Peaks!

EXAMPLE Tour A *iv*

8 Tour B

9 Tour C

10 Tour D

11 Tour E

EXAMPLE Tour F *x*

12 Tour G

13 Tour H

14 Tour I

Section 2A:

CHILDCARE SOLUTIONS

NANNYING POSITIONS WORLDWIDE

Are you a qualified nanny and have at least 1 year's post-qualification experience looking after children?

We can help you find a suitable employment position in one of 16 destination countries.

No registration fee applies for job applicants.

What do our services include?

- An online 'matching service' which allows you to post your CV and we will contact you if any families are interested in offering you a position.
- We conduct interviews on behalf of our clients at one of our 4 offices in the U.K.
- Arrangement of a return flight, the cost of which will be covered by your employer.
- Many positions also include medical insurance for the length of your contract.
- Arrangement of full employment contracts between you and your new employer prior to leaving the UK.
- A visa assistance service is available for countries where visas are required (additional costs apply)

You are also entitled to:

- On-going support throughout your contract in the unlikely event of experiencing difficulties
- Access to our 'Nannies Abroad' online network and discussion forum.
- Access to an agency staff member via our 24-hour emergency contact facility.

Call us for more information on 1800 222 649

About us

Childcare Solutions was established in 1985 by three qualified nannies who returned to the UK after 5 year's working overseas. We understand that the opportunity to work abroad appeals to many; however, due to language barriers and safety concerns we realise that many experienced professionals are dissuaded from going ahead with their dream.

Through our established partnerships with sister organisations in 16 countries worldwide, we are able to match child care professionals with appropriate families across the globe.

We have different sized families and different lengths of contract available, so contact us today and let us know what type of work, in which location you are looking for.

Additional requirements to register with Childcare Solutions.

You must:

Be 18 years of age or older

Be able to provide evidence of a clear criminal record in the UK and any other country you have resided in for more than 6 months.

Provide 2 references (at least one from a former position)*

*Where pre-written references are provided we will contact your referees personally to reconfirm.

Provide evidence of qualifications

Be enthusiastic, reliable, flexible and hard-working!

So call us today and let us assist you in fulfilling your career goals overseas.

Questions 15-27

Read the advertisement and answer Questions 15-20

Questions 15-20

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the advertisement?

In boxes 15-20 on your answer sheet write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

15. Applicants are required to attend an interview with the family interested in offering a work position.

16. Childcare Solutions pays for flights for nannies placed in positions overseas.

17. Costs of visas vary depending on destination.

18. The organisation was set up by experienced childcare workers.

19. Nannies are employed for a minimum of 6 months.

20. The organisation requires recommendations from two previous employers.

Section 2B:

Language Express Student Prospectus

Contents Page

- A. About Language Express
- B. Entry Requirements for Language Students
- C. Entry Requirements for Business Students
- D. Course Commencement
- E. Orientation for New Students
- F. Unique Opportunities
- G. International Links
- H. Additional Academic Support
- I. The Facilities
- J. Examinations and Graduation
- K. Social Activities
- L. The Student Council

Questions 21-27

Each of the short paragraphs below (21-27) gives information about an education institution called Language Express.

Read each paragraph and choose which of the chapter headings in the prospectus, **A-L**, would contain this information.

Write the correct letter **A-L** in boxes 21-27 on your answer sheet.

21. Language Express provides students with access to a state-of-the-art computer laboratory, extensive library, comfortable and tranquil private study area and Language Support Tutors in the Learning Support Centre. Should you be experiencing any difficulties with your course, make an appointment with a tutor and they will be able to offer you one-to-one advice and help you plan a study schedule and access resources to assist you in meeting your learning goals.

22. Members are elected by their peers at the beginning of each academic year. They are on hand to communicate between the student body and academic and management staff of the school. Their role is to keep us informed of any requests or complaints from our students that may not be raised on an individual level. Members often also recommend social activities and are active in ensuring that everyone also enjoys their recreation time.

23. As far as we are aware, we are the only institution in our city that has such extensive links with industry. We are able to place our students in work experience positions during semester breaks which provide you with an opportunity to gain valuable work experience which will differentiate you from other applicants and help you to secure the employment position you deserve.

24. Language Express was established in 1990 and cooperates with 10 other prestigious education institutions in various countries. Graduates from our business programmes are able to cross-credit their courses into a number of nominated courses on offer at our sister institutions. Our goal is to provide quality education to our students and to assist them in achieving their goals.

25. Students of any level can join our classes; we offer instruction from beginner to advanced level. During Orientation, one of the first priorities is to arrange a test for our students so that

we know which class is most suitable for them. Our weekly tests will allow you to measure your progress for yourself. Many of our students go on to enroll in one of our professional qualification courses; but whatever your interest or goals we can help you fulfil your potential.

26. Several courses are assessed purely via assignments and presentations; however, should your course involve a final test, they are held two weeks after lectures finish - this means you have a two week period in which to prepare and revise. Graduation ceremonies are held twice a year; the largest being in April and smaller ceremony in November for students who successfully finish at the end of Semester 2.

27. Semester start dates for business courses vary slightly from year to year (dates for this year and the following year are found on our website). There are three semesters each year (though students may decide to study for only two terms and take a summer school holiday). The language school intake is more flexible and students are able to begin their course on any Monday apart from in December when the institution closes for a three week holiday.

Section 3:

Weakness of the school system

A. By attempting to fit in as much as possible, the school day is continually being added to. In many ways, this would appear to be a good idea, as our knowledge and understanding of the world is always growing and it would seem logical to incorporate this into schools. The reality, however, has some decided drawbacks. There is a growing feeling amongst many that the modern school curriculum, in an effort to teach as many varied subjects as possible, is actually teaching students less. It seems that by constantly adding to what should be taught in the

classroom, the classes are less focused, not offering the deeper learning that institutions perhaps should.

B. With classes sometimes only 30 minutes long, the overwhelming amount of information teachers are required to present often only gives students time to learn facts, not to think in any great detail about what they are being presented with. The problem is that students are not getting the opportunity to absorb what they are being taught as the curriculum expands in order to keep what has already been taught and supplement it with everything new that comes along. The weaknesses of such a system are clear – well informed though such students may be, there is the risk of an increasing number of graduates who have no real creative or intellectual ability. By denying students the opportunity to sit and think their way through problems, or even consider their own opinion, some schools are not always providing a truly educational atmosphere. There are, of course, certain aspects of education which need to be taught by simply inputting the information. Basic mathematics, for example. But there are many other subjects which could be best learned by having an opportunity to think and discuss what is being taught. Literature, writing and the social sciences are good examples of subjects which cannot be considered as ‘covered’ by a mass of information without the opportunity to discuss, debate or consider meaning or implications. There are also important social skills to be learned during such periods of open discussion, skills which are not addressed by an endless flow of teacher-centred information.

C. Teachers themselves have also voiced concerns about the amount of information they are required to impress upon their students. There is a feeling in many educational establishments that students are no longer being educated, but taught how to pass tests. In a world where academic success is too often measured by examination results, this is a serious concern. If there is too much information to simply be memorised and not enough time to truly assimilate it, what happens to students who fail to meet the grade? By current standards, they are failures, yet they may have great potential in areas not covered by the test and there are many students who, despite clear intellectual ability, simply do not perform well in tests. Again, the

problem is one of focus, as education authorities are looking at the outcome of schooling rather than the content presented in the class.

D. It is here that many teachers feel the situation could be addressed at a local level. By giving more discretion to teachers, school courses could be tailored to suit the students rather than tailoring students to meet ever-expanding course requirements. In addition, by running a curriculum that gives options rather than defines an entire course, considerably more freedom would be possible. As it is, progression through most primary and secondary schools is regimented, and there is little room for students to identify and develop their own skills and strengths. If material could be chosen on the basis of its merits rather than simply because it has been put in the curriculum, then what is selected may be taught to a depth that would serve some purpose. There is, of course, a counter-argument, which claims that such open guidelines could lead to vast differences in standards between schools. What one teacher may see as essential for a student's education, another may see as irrelevant, and this will result in students with widely different educational strengths.

E. With such a high-pressure learning environment, there are also a number of social aspects to schooling which need to be considered. The increased student workload cannot be covered in the classroom alone for the simple reason that there is not enough time in the average school week, and much of this extra workload has been pushed into the realm of homework. At its best, homework should be the opportunity to look in greater detail at what has been studied. In other words, to actually think about it and its relevance. The reality, however, is often very different. Concerned parents and overextended students are finding that homework is taking an increasingly large part of a student's evening, cutting into time many feel should be spent as part of a child's social education. Other social pressures have compounded the situation, as many of the areas of educating a young child which should be the responsibility of the parents have ill-advisedly become the school's responsibility. Drug awareness and health issues, for example, are occupying an increasingly large part of the school day.

F. Many people believe that we should be teaching less, but teaching it better, and it is here that they think a solution can be found. Yet the process of rewriting a curriculum to incorporate

only that which is essential but can be well learned would take far longer than most educational authorities have, and would be considered by many to be a 'regressive' step. Changes in the curriculum have largely been motivated by changes in the nature of employment, as job mobility demands that people know something about considerably more areas than were traditionally necessary. A little about a lot allows for the job mobility which has become so common. No matter what the final verdict may be, one thing is for sure – change will be slow, and not always for the best.

Questions 28 – 40

Questions 28 – 32

Choose the most suitable headings for sections **A–F** from the list below. Use each heading once only.

- I. A question of time
- II. Lack of teacher training
- III. Student success
- IV. The argument for flexibility
- V. Importance of teaching experience
- VI. Extra-curricular pressures
- VII. The benefits of a varied curriculum
- VIII. Imbalanced focus
- IX. Over-reliance on examinations
- X. Quality of quantity?

Example: Section A **X**

28. Section B
29. Section C
30. Section D
31. Section E
32. Section F

Questions 33 – 37

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer?

In boxes 33 -37 on your answer sheet write

Write **YES** if the statement agrees with the writer

NO if the statement does not agree with the writer

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage

33. Classes are often too short.

34. No subjects can be comprehensively learned without time to discuss and debate the facts.

35. Tests are a fair measure of ability.

36. Schools are trying to be responsible for too many aspects of a child's education.

37. Future changes in the curriculum will improve the situation.

Questions 38 – 40

Complete the summary below using words from the box from the text. Write the correct letter **A-I** in the boxes provided.

A. more discretion	B. in detail	C. differences in standards
D. the extra workload	E. job mobility	F. shorter classes
G. facts	H. a regimented progression	I. a weaker system

Too much emphasis is placed on learning (38) The modern school curriculum is largely a response to increased (39) for which graduates are expected to have a much broader general knowledge. One potential solution to this could be to give individual schools (40) regarding what is taught.

Reading test 1 answers

1. 3 ('...participants are able to choose to take part in a 2, 5 or 10 kilometre run.')
2. The children's hospital ('Last year we raised a total of £15,450 which was donated to the children's hospital')
3. **Over** \$16,000 ('this year we expect to raise over \$16,000' - NOTE: You must include the currency sign (\$))
4. Cold drinks ('...there will be marshals stationed along the routes providing cold drinks for runners.')
5. Comfortable running shoes ('Shorts and tee-shirts should be fine; however, we recommend you bring a light raincoat in case of bad weather. Comfortable running shoes are a must!' NOTE: The questions asks what runners **have to** wear. Shorts, Tee-shirts and a light raincoat are only recommended.)
6. Westhill Leisure Centre ('Westhill Leisure Centre (across the road from the school) will also allow runners to park their cars there on the day')
7. Two cinema tickets ('two cinema tickets are available for the best fancy dress if you are interested in running in a special costume!')
8. V ('cycling tours of NZ can cater to your needs.' - Paragraph D mentions that Aotearoa is the Maori name for NZ)
9. VI - 'Ornithologists' are bird watchers – 'the nesting areas of our native birds and the north island gannet colony of Muriwai.' 'Guest lecturers will also give an insight into the now extinct species – the Great Moa – the largest bird ever known to have lived on our shores.' **NOTE: vii ('The History of the Moa') is NOT the correct answer as this refers to only one species of bird**
10. II - 'not reliant on transportA reasonable fitness level is required though no steep paths or climbing is

- involved (tramping is a New Zealand word for hiking).
11. VIII (The paragraph talks about the natural world. Flora and fauna means 'animals and plants'. The tour is educational (involving lectures).
 12. IX - The paragraph refers to 'thermal phenomenon' NOTE: iv ('The Traditional Culture of Rotorua') is NOT the correct answer as the paragraph talks about the natural world, not culture.
 13. I - 'we partake in some of the best food and beverages New Zealand has to offer. Visit 5 of the country's largest exporting vineyards...'
 14. III - The paragraph refers to 'off road travel' and 'custom made jeeps', also adding that 'We will soon also be offering excursions in the northern tip of the North island.' (therefore ***South Island Extravaganza*** and NOT ***Northern Exposure***)
 15. FALSE - 'We conduct interviews **on behalf of** our clients at one of our 4 offices in the U.K. '
 16. FALSE – "Arrangement of a return flight, the cost of which will be covered **by your employer.**'
 - Childcare solutions offers a service connecting employee and employer - they are not the employer.
 17. NOT GIVEN – The text refers to 'A visa assistance service is available for countries where visas are required (additional costs apply)' but DOES NOT talk about differences in cost.
 18. TRUE - 'Childcare Solutions was established in 1985 by three qualified nannies who returned to the UK after 5 year's working overseas. '
 19. NOT GIVEN - The text states 'different lengths of contract available' but DOES NOT say what the minimum period is.
 20. FALSE - 'Provide 2 references (at least one from a former position)*' 2 references are required but ONLY ONE has to be from a former employer.
 21. H - Additional Academic Support - The paragraph refers to both the facilities (computer lab etc) **and** the services (Support Tutors) which give

students additional academic support outside class.

22. L - The Student Council - The paragraph refers to 'Members' who are 'on hand to communicate between the student body and academic and management staff of the school'.
23. F - Unique Opportunities - The paragraph refers to being 'the only institution in our city that has such extensive links with industry' which allows students 'to gain valuable work experience which will differentiate you from other applicants'. Although the paragraph refers to links, they are local and not international.
24. A - About Language Express - The paragraph gives an overview of the institution - when it started, opportunities for students and the goals of the school.
25. B - Entry Requirements for Language Students - The paragraph refers to the following points: (a) Students of any level can join our classes (b) instruction from beginner to advanced level (c) Orientation (d)

Many of our students go on to enroll in one of our professional qualification courses

26. J - Examinations and Graduation - The paragraph refers to 'assignments and presentations', 'a final test' and 'Graduation ceremonies'
27. D - Course commencement - The paragraph refers to 'Semester start dates for business courses... There are three semesters each year' and that 'The language school intake is more flexible and students are able to begin their course on any Monday apart from in December when the institution closes for a three week holiday.'
28. VIII
29. IX
30. IV
31. VI
32. I
33. **NOT GIVEN**
34. NO
35. NO
36. YES
37. NO
38. G (FACTS)

39. E (JOB MOBILITY)

40. A (MORE DISCRETION)

Reading test 2

Section 1A:

Hidden Treasures Music Store September Edition Members' Newsletter

Stockists of rare and collectors' items – take a walk down Memory Lane!

J – Jazz B – Blues R – Rock & Roll

New arrivals this month

Under £20		
Bill Benjamin	J	- a rare chance to buy the artist's first album, 5 copies in stock.
Gerome and the Jives	R	- 10 copies remaining – reduced from £30.
Giles Bertram*	B	- *Currently out of stock. Expected delivery 25/09
The Rockerbillies	R	- Digitally remastered for enhanced quality.

Under £30		
Clyde Forstrum	J/B	-A mix of cover songs from a variety of Jazz and Blues' best known artists.
The Kings of Temple Street	B	- Award winning Blues band from New Orleans.
Brian Jefferson	B	- included the chart-topping song "Forever Yours'.
Janine Reynard	R	- Special offer this month only – usually £55

Under £50		
The Real McCoy	R	- voted their best album of all time by K20 radio listeners.

Seeking Solitude	J	- first time available in store
Johnny Baxter	B	- new arrival from the USA, only available from Hidden Treasures here in the UK
Jessica Wilson	B/J	- the UK's best known female jazz and blues star.

Additional Special Offers

£20 voucher available with any purchase over £100 (Available until 5th October)

Free delivery for orders within the UK over £6 (valid until September 30th)

Customers making purchases over £60 are automatically entered into our prize draw (1st prize £100 music voucher, 2nd prize £50).

Delivery Details

A postage and packing charge applies to all deliveries unless otherwise specified in a special offer.

Within the United Kingdom:

£6.50 regular post

£16.80 Courier Service (next day delivery)

Outside the United Kingdom - Contact us for prices to your destination as charges vary or visit **www.hiddentreasuresms.co.uk** for more details.

Surface Delivery (allow approximately 6-8 weeks for delivery)

Airmail Delivery (between 1-2 weeks for most countries)

Questions 1-14

Read the information on the right and answer Questions 1-7

Questions 1-7

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text on the previous page?

In boxes **1-7** on your answer sheet write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

1. The Bill Benjamin album is more readily available than the Gerome and the Jives album.
2. The Blues album on sale for less than £20 will be available from the middle of September.
3. The Janine Reynard album is only available at the cheaper price for a limited time.
4. The Seeking Solitude jazz album is available for the first time in the U.K.
5. Jessica Wilson is a famous female blues and jazz artist from the U.K.
6. Not all special offers are available to customers outside the U.K.
7. Express delivery in the UK costs £6.50.

Section 1B:

Rules and Regulations for Members of Brightwood Leisure Centre

Membership allows an individual to use the leisure centre's facilities subject to the conditions of their membership and availability. Please note prices may change and/or increase from time to time.

All members must read and agree to follow the rules below before using the leisure centre facilities.

Membership Rules

General

1. The owners reserve the right to terminate membership for breach of the rules, or behaviour which is damaging to the character or interests of the club or offensive to other members or staff.
2. Members must advise staff of any personal disability or illness such as a heart condition, eye or hearing problems and other conditions before using the facilities to help to avoid accidents or injuries to themselves and others.
3. Whilst using the club facilities all Members accept responsibility for their state of health and physical condition.
4. The owners' responsibility or liability for damage or loss to Members' property is strictly limited to any damage or loss occurring as a direct result of the negligence of owners or their staff.
5. No pets will be allowed in the club or its grounds with the exception of guide dogs.
6. Entry to the club is permitted only through the main reception entrance.
7. The owners may at any time withdraw all or any part of the club facilities for any period or periods where and when it is necessary for repair, maintenance, alteration or for safety reasons.

Making Changes to Membership

All memberships are payable monthly by Direct Debit - normally taken on the 5th of each month.

If you wish to cancel your membership, you must contact the Membership Secretary in writing giving 2 weeks' notice. Joining fees will not be refunded unless you cancel within 14 days of joining.

In the case of having to temporarily suspend membership due to long/medium term injury, illness or pregnancy, you must obtain written acceptance of the suspension from the Club Manager.

All membership is personal to each Member, however it is possible to transfer membership to another names person providing notice is given to the Membership Secretary by the 15th of the month. The transferee will be required to complete a Membership Application form but will not be required to pay a joining fee or pay any of the membership subscriptions which have been paid in advance by the original member.

A Member who wishes to transfer membership may not actively market such a transfer (for example on the internet) and may only transfer to a friend or family member.

Lockers

Lockers are provided to secure and protect your personal belongings and valuables while exercising. For security reasons and the benefits of other members all lockers must be emptied by the end of each visit.

All lockers will be checked and emptied by leisure centre staff at the end of every day and any

contents will be disposed of for security reasons. This policy is adopted for Member's safety and security.

Personal Belongings

Our liability to compensate you in the case of loss or damage other than death or personal injury is limited to a reasonable amount having regard to such factors as to whether the damage was due to a negligent act or omission by us.

If any personal property is found please hand in at the reception. Any property that is not claimed within 28 days will be donated to a local charity.

Cars must be parked correctly in the car park. No liability is accepted for loss or damage to cars or property and are left at the owners risk.

Questions 8-10

Read the information about rules and regulations for members of a leisure centre and answer the questions that follow.

Questions 8-10

Choose the correct letter **A, B, C** or **D**.

Write your answers in boxes 8-10 on your answer sheet.

8. Members who upset other users of the leisure centre

(a) will be reported to the Club Manager

(b) will be given a warning

- (c) will have their membership cancelled
- (d) will be reported to the Membership Secretary

9. Membership may be put on hold

- (a) within 14 days of joining
- (b) through arrangement with the manager of the club
- (c) if the Membership Secretary agrees
- (d) in cases of injury only

10. Damage to members' vehicles

- (a) is unlikely due to secure parking
- (b) will be paid for by the centre if it is their fault
- (c) is not the responsibility of the centre
- (d) may result due to negligence

Section 2A:

Rules and Regulations for Members Bringing Guests and Children to the Leisure Centre

Members' Guests over 18.

Members are welcome to introduce guests to the club. Guests are required to register, pay the current guest fee and must be accompanied by a Member.

Members must ensure that their guests are fully aware of the clubs Terms & Conditions and Rules & Regulations.

Each Member can introduce the same person no more than 6 times per year as a guest.

The owners take no responsibility for accidents, injuries, misadventure, theft or damage to personal belongings experienced by guests of the club.

Children

Members are allowed to bring their children to the leisure centre during certain hours. Children's hours are Monday to Friday 10am - 12noon and 3pm - 5pm. At weekends and on national holidays children are allowed to use the centre between 12 noon - 4pm.

A child is any individual under 16. All under 16's should be supervised by an adult (over 18) when using the facilities during children's hours. At age 17 all users must pay an adult membership fee.

Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to use the steam room, hot spa or sauna.

Questions 11-14

Complete each sentence with the correct ending A-G below.

Write the correct letter **A-G** in boxes 11-14 on your answer sheet.

- A. before 12 noon on workdays.
- B. cannot use all leisure centre facilities
- C. up to six occasions under guest terms.
- D. may use the spa in the company of an adult.
- E. unless a member is with them
- F. during times it is open to children.
- G. after 5pm on week days

11. Adult guests are not allowed to use the facilities

12. Non members can visit the gym

13. Children are not allowed to use the leisure centre.

14. 11 year olds

Section 2B:

Negotiating a pay rise

For many people, one of the hardest discussions they have with senior management is about a raise in pay. Employees often choose to look for a better paid position within another company rather than face their own boss, but that is a situation that can have a negative impact on the employee (who is seen to lack loyalty to the company) and the employer (who stands to lose a trained staff member who works well and has a good knowledge of the company). However, there are some salary negotiation tactics that might just help.

The most common error is, when finally gathering the courage to address the situation, many employees simply immediately accept whatever offer is first made. Research shows that younger job-seekers and female job-seekers often make this mistake - either from not completely understanding the negotiation process or from a dislike or discomfort with the idea of negotiating. There is, of course, the financial aspect of not receiving a higher compensation, but more importantly this can have a significant effect on motivation and morale and can eventually lead an employee who hastily accepted an inadequate offer to begin to resent both the job and the employer.

Another common error is rating your required raise based on a value you personally need or would like. Few employers care whether you have enough money to pay for your mortgage or other bills, so negotiations should be based on your value to the company, based on good research of similar companies. Also, if possible, the actual figure aimed for in the negotiation

should not be revealed until the last possible moment, giving as much flexibility as possible. Immediately blurting out a figure it then becomes clear the company will not meet puts both the employer and employee in an uncomfortable position.

As previously mentioned, one of the key factors in a successful salary negotiation is research and preparation. With the number and variety of salary resources available online -- from salary.com and salaryexpert.com to professional associations -- there should be no reason not to have an accurate market value in mind.

However, despite all the preparation and right attitude in the negotiation, there is another pitfall -- declining an offer too quickly as it was lower than expected. A careful balance needs to be struck here; we have looked at the risks of accepting too quickly, but declining an offer can mean that the negotiation has nowhere to go. There are two points to consider at this juncture: a raise can also come in the form of other benefits such as better health cover, so if the money offered is low, think about discussing the perks of the job. The second point is that you have to be realistic -- if the job market is low and the company is not having a particularly outstanding year, you may have to accept a lower offer. However, if this is the case, it is common to request a review of the salary at a time in the not-too-distant future.

The final point that is essential in any business negotiation is not to take any rejection or low offers personally. Employees should maintain a professional approach to their job, and a salary negotiation is no exception. If negotiations break down between you and the employer, move on graciously, thanking the employer again for the opportunity -- because you never want to burn any bridges.

Questions 15-27

Read the information below and answer Questions **15-20**

Do the following statements agree with the information given in the text on the previous page?

In boxes 15-20 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

15. A mistake equally common across all types of employee is the premature acceptance of the first offer for a pay rise.

16. Employees can become demoralised despite having a pay raise.

17. Many people are unsuccessful in salary discussions because of poor research.

18. It is important to be clear what pay rise is expected at the beginning of the negotiation.

19. A negotiation could include a discussion of other benefits as well as salary.

20. You should avoid a pay negotiation when the employment market is not strong.

Section 2C:

6 Rules for writing a successful cover letter

Rule #1

The first rule of most job applications is simple –never send your CV without a cover letter. Without it, your application will seem unprofessional and unprepared, and equally importantly, you will miss out on an opportunity to start ‘selling’ your abilities and qualifications to the potential employer.

Rule #2

When starting your cover letter, it is important to address it to a named individual rather than a general salutation like ‘Dear Sir or Madam’. It is, of course, very important that your cover

letter is tailored specifically for the position you are applying for – sending an almost identical cover letter and CV to 10 employers is less likely to succeed than specifically targeting 2 or 3 and adapting your application to highlight the key features you feel are most relevant for the position.

Rule #3

From there, the next step is the first paragraph, and this is the point at which employers often make the crucial decision whether to consider your application or reject it. Avoid beginning with a standard, non-specific phrase such as ‘I am writing with regard to the position advertised in...’; instead, try to be a little more dynamic – ‘My experience in the service industry offers much to a company that seeks motivated individuals in its employment, and I am eager to put my solid education to work in a position such as the one you advertised in ..’. Obvious statements such as ‘Please find my CV enclosed’ written in a cover letter should also be avoided – the potential employer will be well aware of what has been enclosed. In total, the cover letter should never spill on to a second page – if it does, then you haven’t been succinct enough.

Rule #4

In your letter, your aim should be to highlight the areas in which the company would benefit from having you as an employee; make sure that you don’t make the mistake of writing about how the job would be of benefit to you. For example, ‘I feel that working for such a dynamic company would suit my personality’ would be better phrased as ‘I feel that I could contribute to such a dynamic company.’

Rule #5

Other points to bear in mind about your letter are that you should always avoid negativity in any form, and make sure you have included a number of ways that the employer can contact you, even if that same information is on your CV. The more work you make the employer do to

offer you the job, the less inclined they may be to actually offer it. When you have finished your cover letter, read it again carefully (ideally, ask a friend to read it as you might not notice typographical or grammatical errors you have made). Once that's done, make sure that you sign the letter by hand, preferably in blue ink to stand out from darker, printed text.

Rule #6

The final point is that if you are serious about applying for the position and are keen to get an interview, you should take the initiative in your letter and tell the employer that you will follow up. Opinions vary, but it is generally acceptable to call 3 days after sending the CV, without necessarily waiting for the closing date for applications.

Questions 21-27

For which rules are the following statements true?

Write the correct letter **A-F** in boxes **21 - 27** on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- A. Rule #1
- B. Rule #2
- C. Rule #3
- D. Rule #4
- E. Rule #5
- F. Rule #6

21. Simplify for the employer
 22. Don't use redundant phrases
 23. Avoid generalisations
 24. Highlight your abilities to your employer.
 25. Focus on the employer
 26. Add a personal touch
 27. Keep it concise
-

Section 3

The dawn of culture

In every society, culturally unique ways of thinking about the world unite people in their behaviour. Anthropologists often refer to the body of ideas that people share as ideology. Ideology can be broken down into at least three specific categories: beliefs, values and ideals. People's beliefs give them an understanding of how the world works and how they should respond to the actions of others and their environments. Particular beliefs often tie in closely with the daily concerns of domestic life, such as making a living, health and sickness, happiness and sadness, interpersonal relationships, and death. People's values tell them the differences between right and wrong or good and bad. Ideals serve as models for what people hope to achieve in life.

There are two accepted systems of belief. Some rely on religion, even the supernatural (things beyond the natural world), to shape their values and ideals and to influence their behaviour.

Others base their beliefs on observations of the natural world, a practice anthropologists commonly refer to as secularism.

Religion in its more extreme form allows people to know about and 'communicate' with supernatural beings, such as animal spirits, gods, and spirits of the dead. Small tribal societies believe that plants and animals, as well as people, can have souls or spirits that can take on different forms to help or harm people. Anthropologists refer to this kind of religious belief as animism, with believers often led by shamans. As religious specialists, shamans have special access to the spirit world, and are said to be able to receive stories from supernatural beings and later recite them to others or act them out in dramatic rituals.

In larger, agricultural societies, religion has long been a means of asking for bountiful harvests, a source of power for rulers, or an inspiration to go to war. In early civilised societies, religious visionaries became leaders because people believed those leaders could communicate with the supernatural to control the fate of a civilization. This became their greatest source of power, and people often regarded leaders as actual gods. For example, in the great civilisation of the Aztec, which flourished in what is now Mexico in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, rulers claimed privileged association with a powerful god that was said to require human blood to ensure that the sun would rise and set each day. Aztec rulers thus inspired great awe by regularly conducting human sacrifices. They also conspicuously displayed their vast power as wealth in luxury goods, such as fine jewels, clothing and palaces. Rulers obtained their wealth from the great numbers of craftspeople, traders and warriors under their control.

During the period in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe known as the Age of Enlightenment, science and logic became new sources of belief for many people living in civilised societies. Scientific studies of the natural world and rational philosophies led people to believe that they could explain natural and social phenomena without believing in gods or spirits. Religion remained an influential system of belief, and together both religion and science drove the development of capitalism, the economic system of commerce-driven market exchange. Capitalism itself influences people's beliefs, values and ideals in many present-day, large, civilised societies. In these societies, such as in the United States, many people view the

world and shape their behaviour based on a belief that they can understand and control their environment and that work, commerce and the accumulation of wealth serve an ultimate good. The governments of most large societies today also assert that human well-being derives from the growth of economies and the development of technology.

Rapid changes in technology in the last several decades have changed the nature of culture and cultural exchange. People around the world can make economic transactions and transmit information to each other almost instantaneously through the use of computers and satellite communications. Governments and corporations have gained vast amounts of political power through military might and economic influence. Corporations have also created a form of global culture based on worldwide commercial markets. As a result, local culture and social structure are now shaped by large and powerful commercial interests in ways that earlier anthropologists could not have imagined. Early anthropologists thought of societies and their cultures as fully independent systems, but today, many nations are multicultural societies, composed of numerous smaller subcultures. Cultures also cross national boundaries. For instance, people around the world now know a variety of English words and have contact with American cultural exports such as brand-name clothing and technological products, films and music, and mass-produced foods.

In addition, many people have come to believe in the fundamental nature of human rights and free will. These beliefs grew out of people's increasing ability to control the natural world through science and rationalism, and though religious beliefs continue to change to affirm or accommodate these other dominant beliefs, sometimes the two are at odds with each other. For instance, many religious people have difficulty reconciling their belief in a supreme spiritual force with the theory of natural evolution, which requires no belief in the supernatural. As a result, societies in which many people do not practice any religion, such as China, may be known as secular societies. However, no society is entirely secular.

Questions 23 – 40

Questions 23 – 29

Do the following statements agree with the opinion of the writer? Write

YES if the statement agrees with the writer

NO if the statement does not agree with the writer

NOT GIVEN if there is no information about this in the passage.

28. Aztec civilisation, fighters, craftspeople and traders demanded blood sacrifices from the rich.

29. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, European people began turning towards science.

Questions 30 – 34

Complete the summary of the reading text using words from the box.

belief	latter	religion	faith	ascendancy
former	rational	decline	secular	shaman

There are two main **(30)** systems which can contribute to our ideology – animism and secularism. The **(31)** can be said to dominate older civilisations and tribal societies, whereas larger, more contemporary societies have gone in a more **(32)** and scientific direction. One reason that explains the **(33)** of more secular beliefs is the importance given to other factors, such as free will and capitalism. Nonetheless, **(34)** remains at least to some degree even in the most secular of societies.

Questions 35 – 40

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

- What are beliefs, values and ideals specific categories of?
- What was said to be necessary for the continuation of sunrise and sunset in ancient Mexico?
- In Europe, what title was given to the advance of science and logic?
- What two things influenced the development of capitalism?
- Before modern advances in technology, what did anthropologists consider societies to be?
- What theory is symbolic of the tensions between religion and science?

Reading test 2 answers

1. FALSE – There are only 5 copies of Bill Benjamin but 10 of Gerome and the Jives.
2. FALSE – it will not be expected in the shop until 25/9.
3. TRUE - it is available this month only.
4. NOT GIVEN – the information says first time in the shop but we do not know if it is the first time in the UK.
5. TRUE – the information says she is the best known female singer, so therefore must be famous..
6. TRUE – free delivery is only available for UK customers.
7. FALSE – normal delivery is £6.50. Express is £16.80.
8. C - 'The owners reserve the right to terminate membership for breach of the rules, or behaviour which is damaging to the character or interests of the club or offensive to other members or staff'
9. B - 'In the case of having to temporarily suspend membership due to long/medium term injury, illness or pregnancy, you must obtain written acceptance of the suspension from the Club Manager.' **Note: The Membership Secretary deals with CANCELLATIONS.**
Memberships can be put on hold due to pregnancy and not only because of injury.
10. C - 'No liability is accepted for loss or damage to cars or property and are left at the owners risk'
11. E - 'Guests are required to register, pay the current guest fee and must be accompanied by a Member.'
12. C - 'Each Member can introduce the same person no more than 6 times per year as a guest.'
13. G - 'Children's hours are Monday to Friday 10am - 12noon and 3pm - 5pm. At weekends and on national holidays children are allowed to use the centre between 12 noon - 4pm.'

14. B - 'Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to use the steam room, hot spa or sauna.' This is a tricky one and we've had students comment on it before. The key here is that they can use some of the facilities, but not all of them. If the statement was saying that 11 year olds could not use the facilities, it would say ANY, not ALL.

To clarify:

- 11 year olds cannot use all leisure centre facilities (but they can use some)
- 11 year olds cannot use any of the leisure centre facilities [this would be incorrect]

15. FALSE

16. TRUE

17. NOT GIVEN – the text simply says that 'one of the key factors in a successful salary negotiation is research and preparation' – no mention of many people not researching.

18. FALSE – the actual figure aimed for in the negotiation should not be revealed until the last possible moment

19. TRUE – 'so if the money offered is low, think about discussing the perks of the job.'

20. NOT GIVEN – the text only says 'be realistic'

21. Rule #5 - "The more work you make the employer do to offer you the job, the less inclined they may be to actually offer it. "

22. Rule #3 - "Obvious statements such as 'Please find my CV enclosed' written in a cover letter should also be avoided "

23. Rule #2 - "rather than a general salutation ... very important that your cover letter is tailored specifically for the position you are applying for "

24. Rule #1 - "'selling' your abilities and qualifications to the potential employer"

25. Rule #4 - "highlight the areas in which the company would benefit from having you as an employee"

26. Rule #5 - "make sure that you sign the letter by hand"

27. Rule #3 - "In total, the cover letter should never spill on to a second page – if it does, then you haven't been succinct enough."
28. No (it was the wealthy and privileged that called for sacrifice, not the fighters, craftspeople and traders).
29. Yes
30. Belief
31. Former
32. Rational
33. Ascendancy
34. Religion
35. Ideology
36. Human sacrifice OR human blood
37. Age of Enlightenment
38. Religion and science
39. Fully independent systems
40. Natural evolution

Reading test 3

Dear Householder,

Request for unwanted but useful items for school jumble sale

As part of this year's fund-raising event, Edgehill College will be holding a jumble sale on May 24th. All profits will be used to assist in funding of the new children's play ground in the centre of town.

We are now requesting donations of unwanted but useful items of usable quality to sell on our jumble sale stalls. We would much appreciate donations in any of the following categories:

- Clothes – Please place washed items in bags or boxes and mark them 'For Men', 'For Women' or 'For Children'
- Kitchenware – any items are of use (e.g. plates, cups, glasses, cooking utensils, kitchen equipment such as food mixers etc), currently in short supply.
- Books– complete books (no missing pages), we are especially looking for children's novels.
- Miscellaneous – Ornaments, pictures, toys, games, handbags etc. Please place in boxes and write the names of the items inside clearly on the box.

We will also be collecting food which will be donated to the local homeless shelter. If you wish to make a food donation please provide tinned, dried or packet foodstuffs only. Please do not donate food items that are likely to spoil.

If you are able to, please bring your donated items to the school reception (Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.00pm). Otherwise, for larger loads, if you are unable to get to

school, we can arrange for a member of the team to collect your items. Please ring 762 8894 and ask to speak to Mr William Taylor our School Liaison Officer who will arrange for one of our volunteer parents to pick up your donation.

On a final note, we are also still looking for additional volunteers to take care of stalls on the day of the jumble sale. The event will take place between 9.30am and 2pm. If you are free on that day and willing to help out, please contact the Deputy Headmistress Mrs Jayne Browne on 762 8889.

Thank you in advance for your help and support. We look forward to seeing you on May 24th.

Best wishes
Karl Blackman
Headmaster

Section 1 Questions 1-14

Read the information below and answer Questions **1-4**

Match the pictures below to the appropriate statement. Write the correct letter **A-D** in boxes **1 - 4** on your answer sheet.

1. Should only be packaged in boxes.
2. The school does not have many of these items to sell at the moment.
3. Should be labelled in one of three ways.
4. The school wants more of these which would be suitable for youngsters.



Questions 5-9

Look at the statements below. In boxes 5 - 9 on your answer sheet write,

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

5. The event is being held to raise money for school facilities.
6. The school is collecting fresh fruit and vegetables to donate to a homeless shelter.
7. Items will be picked up by volunteers between 9.30am and 3pm .
8. Mr William Taylor will make arrangements for items to be collected.
9. All helpers for the event are now confirmed

Section 1B:

Examples of Books Available at Edgehill School Jumble Sale!

- A. A delightful children’s story suitable for those who have recently started to learn to read. The tale and illustrations follow the story of the heroic Sam and the friends he meets on his travels across Europe. Great fun for parents and children to enjoy together.
- B. A must for any art appreciator. Informative historical accounts and full page illustrations based upon acclaimed Masters from France, Italy and Germany during the 19th and 20th Century.
- C. Young and enquiring minds will adore this book. Over 500 pages of information ranging from the field of science to history, geography and art. This special addition also includes end of chapter quizzes to check understanding. A superb learning tool!
- D. Lovers of hiking and the great outdoors will appreciate this! It has lots of information on lesser known tracks for those wishing to escape the more usual paths and trails used by the masses. Enjoy this picturesque part of the country in solitude.
- E. A useful handbook for lovers of the great outdoors. Informative regarding tips for lighting campfires, setting up and cooking. An up to date list of various places to stay throughout the country.
- F. An academic appreciation and comparison of inspiration in the past. Exploration of art work in Egyptian and Greek culture and its significance in evolution of creativity.
- G. Stimulate your children’s natural curiosity and artistic flair – a wide range of subject matters are covered, from bird and wildlife – easy to follow steps from creative models and drawings to Plaster of Paris modeling and origami.

The list of book titles has seven story descriptions **A-G**. Choose the correct title for each book from the list of titles below. Write the correct number **i-ix** in boxes **10 - 15** on your answer sheet.

List of Book Titles

- i. A Guide to Walks in the Peak District
- ii. The Children’s Guide to Bird-watching

- iii. European Art
- iv. Get the Most out of Camping
- v. Ancient Art
- vi. The Children's Encyclopedia
- vii. Creative Pastimes for Children
- viii. Mystical Egypt
- ix. The Adventures of Sammy Swan

EXAMPLE Book A ix

10. Book B

11. Book C

12. Book D

EXAMPLE Book E iv

13. Book E

14. Book F

15. Book G

Section 2A:

Corbridge teacher training

Welcome to the Corbridge teacher training course. Please keep this guide with you throughout the course so you know the structure of what you are studying.

Week 1

In the first week, trainees are typically introduced to different teaching methodologies and styles as modelled by your trainers. This first week requires a significant amount of reading and discussion, but at this point you will not be expected to do any teaching.

Week 2

During your second week, classroom practice begins. At this stage you will be delivering short lessons to small groups of students. You will not be required to plan the lessons at this point, but you will be observed by your peers. You will also be expected to hand in your first draft of assignment 1 - a lesson plan (at this point you will still be permitted to use published resources).

Week 3

At this point comes an intensive study into grammar; although you may know which tenses and voice to use for each situation, you need to develop the ability to actually impart this information in a coherent and learnable manner. For many trainees, it can come as a surprise to find that they actually had no clear understanding of the mechanics of their own language, and this can be as difficult to learn as it is for non-native speakers! You will also be presenting to larger groups of students and will be formally marked on your classroom performance. The first assignment needs to be handed in to your teacher trainers.

Week 4

You will deliver five lessons to varying group sizes, ages and on different aspects of the language; each lesson will be monitored and your final grade based on how you are assessed. You will also be required to hand in your second assignment. Remember that, unlike the first assignment, this assignment must be computer typed.

NOTE: Towards the end of the course, the numbers of lessons trainees have to deliver increases, as does the criticism of their performance. There is a high dropout rate from the third week as many people find the pressure of being assessed by their mentors and their peers too much to handle, and the rate at which trainees leave increases in the following week. If you are feeling under pressure it is important to talk to your teacher trainer immediately.

Section 2 Questions 16-21

For which rules are the following statements true? Write the correct letter **A-D** in boxes **16 - 18** on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- A. Week #1
- B. Week #2
- C. Week #3
- D. Week #4

- 16. The first assignment must be completed
 - 17. The first assessed teaching is done
 - 18. Different ways of teaching are demonstrated
-

Look at the statements below. In boxes 19 - 21 on your answer sheet write,

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

- 19. Assignment 1 can be hand written.
- 20. The grammar training is easy for native speakers.
- 21. The fourth week has the most trainees quitting the course

Section 2B:

To all staff

Starting the 3rd of next month, there will be a number training sessions for all staff.

Attendance at the first and second session is compulsory, as well as one additional session which you may choose from the remaining options. Please note that seating may be limited so you should arrange with your supervisor which of the sessions you would like to attend.

Session 1: Dealing with complaints. Ms Weldgrove will be facilitating this session aimed at making sure that all staff are aware of current office policy regarding complaints. There have been some incidents recently that have not been handled effectively so this session will focus on appropriate procedures when dealing with complaints. As this is a compulsory session, attendance will be high so we will be using the main conference room on the third floor.

Session 2: Company image. As you should all be aware, the company is changing its image and branding colours, and this is expected to be completed within the next month. This will require a number of changes to the logo, stationery and uniforms for front-of-house staff. Business cards will be changed, although this is expected to take a little longer. Mark Lorins has organised and will run this training session, focussing on what is expected from you during the changeover period. This will also be held in the conference room on the third floor

Session 3: Word processing suite. Gordon Sumner will be offering training in the new word processing software that is being installed in all departments over the next few weeks. There will also be a guest speaker from MacroSwift to introduce the new Visual Presentation software. The session will be in the computer room; there are 70 places available for this seminar so it is recommended you confirm attendance as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Session 4: Internal communication systems. This is more of a refresher course, in that Jane Williams will be running through policies and procedures for internal messaging that you should already be familiar with. She will be joined by Ruth Madocs from the HR department.

Due to space requirements, this session will be held in the conference room in the Logan Hotel.

Questions 21-26

Questions 22-24

Choose the correct letter **A, B, C** or **D**.

Write your answers in boxes 22-24 on your answer sheet.

22. Staff...

- A. must attend all sessions.
- B. must attend only the first and second session.
- C. do not have to attend if they make arrangements with their supervisor.
- D. must attend 3 sessions.

23. The first session...

- A. is about how to make a complaint.
- B. has been arranged because of previous problems.
- C. will be held outside the company.
- D. is likely to have few attendees.

24. The third session...

- A. is the only one to have two facilitators
- B. will have 2 speakers from another company
- C. is already fully booked
- D. has limited seating

Questions 25-27

Answer the questions below using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 24-26 on your answer sheet.

25. Which session will not be held in the company?
26. Which session will have two facilitators from within the company?
27. Which session is to prepare staff for future changes?

Section 3

Ford – driving innovation

- In 1913 an American industrialist named Henry Ford employed an innovative system in his factory that changed the nature of American industry forever – the production line. Instead of a group of workers constructing a complete product, Ford's production-line techniques relied on machine parts being moved around the factory on a conveyor belt, passing each employee who had a single task to perform before the component moved down the line. This saved time in that employees were not required to move around, collect materials or change tools; they simply stood in one

place and repeated the same procedure over and over again until the end of their shift. In this way, Ford was able to mass produce the now famous Model-T car for only 10% of traditional labour costs.

- Working on a production line was monotonous work, undoubtedly, but it was not in the production line alone that Ford was something of a pioneer. In 1913 the average hourly rate for unskilled labour was under \$2.50 and for such low wages and repetitive work, the labour turnover in Ford's factory was high, with many employees lasting less than a month. In order to combat this problem, he took a step that was condemned by other industrialists of the time, fearful that they would lose their own workforce – he raised wages to \$5 an hour. The benefits were twofold. Not only did Ford now have a stable and eager workforce, he also had potential customers. It was his intention 'to build a motorcar for the great multitude', and the Model-T car was one of the cheapest cars on the market at the time. At \$5 an hour, many of his employees now found themselves in a position to feasibly afford a car of their own. Ford's production practices meant that production time was reduced from 14 hours to a mere 93 minutes. In 1914 company profits were \$30 million, yet just two years later this figure had doubled. Until 1927 when the last Model-T rolled off the production line, the company produced and sold about 15 million cars.
- Although Ford was without doubt successful, times changed and the company began losing its edge. One problem came from the labour force. Ford was a demanding employer who insisted that the majority of his staff remained on their feet during their shift. One error meant that the whole production line was often kept waiting, and Ford felt that workers were more attentive standing than sitting. Yet the 1930s saw some radical changes in the relationships between employer and employee, as an increasing number of industries were forming Labour Unions. Ford flatly refused to get involved, employing spies in the workplace to sabotage any plans for a union within his factories. Eventually a strike in the early 1940s forced Ford to deal with unions. Another example of Ford being unable to adapt came from his unwillingness to branch out. Ford's competitors began operating the same systems and practices, but also introduced the variety Ford was lacking. The Model-T had remained essentially the same, even down to the colour, and by the time he realised his error, he had already lost his pre-eminence in the industry. Subsequent involvement in

aeroplane manufacturing, politics and publishing was a failure. Leaving the company to his grandson in 1945, he died two years later leaving an inheritance estimated at \$700 million.

- Yet the legacy of Fordism lives on. The development of mass production transformed the organisation of work in a number of important ways. Tasks were minutely subdivided and performed by unskilled workers, or at least semiskilled workers, since much of the skill was built into the machine. Second, manufacturing concerns grew to such a size that a large hierarchy of supervisors and managers became necessary. Third, the increasing complexity of operations required employment of a large management staff of accountants, engineers, chemists, and, later, social psychologists, in addition to a large distribution and sales force. Mass production also heightened the trend towards an international division of labour. The huge new factories often needed raw materials from abroad, while saturation of national markets led to a search for customers overseas. Thus, some countries became exporters of raw materials and importers of finished goods, while others did the reverse.
- In the 1970s and '80s some countries, particularly in Asia and South America, that had hitherto been largely agricultural and that had imported manufactured goods, began industrialising. The skills needed by workers on assembly-line tasks required little training, and standards of living in these developing countries were so low that wages could be kept below those of the already industrialised nations. Many large manufacturers in the United States and elsewhere therefore began 'outsourcing' – that is, having parts made or whole products assembled in developing nations. Consequently, those countries are rapidly becoming integrated into the world economic community

Questions 28-40

Questions 28 -32

Choose the most suitable headings for Paragraphs **A-E** from the list below. Use each heading once only.

List of headings

- I. Effect on modern industry
- II. New payment procedures
- III. Labour problems
- IV. The Model-T
- V. Creating a market
- VI. Revolutionary production techniques
- VII. The Ford family today
- VIII. Impact on the global economy
- IX. Overseas competition

28. Paragraph A
 29. Paragraph B
 30. Paragraph C
 31. Paragraph D
 32. Paragraph E
-

Questions 33 -37

Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS**.

- What was the main saving of production line techniques?
 - What level did Ford cut production costs down to compared with more traditional methods of the time?
 - When was the last Model-T Ford produced?
 - What did Ford unsuccessfully oppose the organisation of?
 - What is the name given to the principles of mass production and associated practices?
-

Questions 38 – 40

Complete the following summary using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS FROM THE TEXT**.

One of the long-term effects of Ford's business practices was that many developing countries became industrialised as a result of (38) some work to other countries. For those working in the factory, the skills for (39) were easily acquired and (40) was minimal.

Reading test 3 answers

1. B - 'Miscellaneous – Ornaments, pictures, toys, games, handbags etc. Please place in boxes and write the names of the items inside clearly on the box.'
2. C - Kitchenware – any items are of use (e.g. plates, cups, glasses, cooking utensils, kitchen equipment such as food mixers etc), currently in short supply.
3. D - Clothes – Please place washed items in bags or boxes and mark them 'For Men', 'For Women' or 'For Children'
4. A - Books– complete books (no missing pages), we are especially looking for children's novels.'
5. FALSE - 'All profits will be used to assist in funding of the new children's play ground in the centre of town. '
6. FALSE - 'If you wish to make a food donation please provide tinned, dried or packet foodstuffs only. Please do not donate food items that are likely to spoil.'
7. NOT GIVEN - 'If you are able to, please bring your donated items to the school reception (Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.00pm). Otherwise, for larger loads, if you are unable to get to school, we can arrange for a member of the team to collect your items.' - The text does not say *when* the items will be collected, only when they can be *taken* to school.
8. TRUE - 'Please ring 762 8894 and ask to speak to Mr William Taylor our School Liaison Officer who will arrange for one of our volunteer parents to pick up your donation. '
9. FALSE - 'On a final note, we are also still looking for additional volunteers to take care of stalls on the day of the jumble sale. '
10. III 'A must for any art appreciator. Informative historical accounts and full page illustrations based upon acclaimed Masters from France, Italy and Germany during the 19th and 20th Century
11. VI - 'Young and enquiring minds will adore this book. Over 500 pages of information ranging from the field of science to history, geography and art. This special addition also includes end of chapter quizzes to check understanding. A superb learning tool!'

12. I - 'Lovers of hiking and the great outdoors will appreciate this! It has lots of information on lesser known tracks for those wishing to escape the more usual paths and trails used by the masses. Enjoy this picturesque part of the country in solitude.'
13. IV
14. V - 'An academic appreciation and comparison of inspiration in the past. Exploration of art work in Egyptian and Greek culture and its significance in evolution of creativity.'
15. VII - 'Stimulate your children's natural curiosity and artistic flair – a wide range of subject matters are covered, from bird and wildlife – easy to follow steps from creative models and drawings to Plaster of Paris modeling and origami.'
16. C (week 3) - "The first assignment needs to be handed in to your teacher trainers" (in Week 2 a *draft* needs to be submitted)
17. C (week 3) - "You will also be presenting to larger groups of students and will be formally marked on your classroom performance"
18. A (week 1) - "different teaching methodologies and styles"
19. True - "Remember that, unlike the first assignment, this assignment must be computer typed".
20. False - "For many trainees, it can come as a surprise to find that they actually had no clear understanding of the mechanics of their own language, and this can be as difficult to learn as it is for non-native speakers!"
21. True - "There is a high dropout rate from the third week ...and the rate at which trainees leave increases in the following week".
22. D – "Attendance at the first and second session is compulsory, as well as one additional session"
23. B – "There have been some incidents recently that have not been handled effectively so this session will focus on appropriate procedures when dealing with complaints."
24. D – "there are 70 places available for this seminar"
25. Session 4: "this session will be held in the conference room in the Logan Hotel."
26. Session 4: "Jane Williams ... joined by Ruth Madocs from the HR department"
(session 3 has a facilitator from another company)
27. Session 2: "... changing its image and branding colours, and this is expected to be completed within the next month"

28. VI

29. V

30. III

31. I

32. VIII

33. Time

34. 10% / TEN PERCENT / TEN PER CENT / 10 PER CENT 10 PERCENT

35. 1927

36. Labour Unions

37. Fordism

38. Outsourcing

39. Assembly line tasks

40. Training

Writing tests

Writing test answer 1

Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear.....

A family member is coming to stay with you. He/she will be arriving by train in the morning, but you won't be home until the evening.

Write a letter to your relative. In your letter:

- *explain arrangements you have made for them to have keys and get into the house*
 - *tell your relative how to get from the train station to your house*
 - *say when you will be home and suggest what you could do together that evening*
-

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries, people do not recycle their rubbish as much as they could.

Why do you think this is? What can be done to change this?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answers test 1

Dear Uncle John,

I am so excited that you'll soon be here! I'm sorry that I won't be there you at the station – I have a work meeting I really have to go to but I've left the keys with David. Just go and see him so you can let yourself in. I'm sure you remember, but he's the man living at number 21. Make yourself at home – there will be food in the fridge and your bed will be made.

The easiest way to get to the house is to jump in a taxi –it's not expensive and the buses are so unreliable! I was thinking that when I get back we could perhaps go out for dinner? I'll be back no later than six, so we could go to that restaurant we went to last time you came.

Well, I think that's everything. It's going to be great catching up!

Safe trip,

Patrick

(155 words)

With an increasing world population and subsequent environmental concerns, it is important to dispose of trash in an eco-friendly manner, yet there are a significant number of places around the world that fail to do so.

There are a number of reasons that mean that recycling is not done as effectively as it could, the primary problem being the attitude of the general public. Lethargy or lack of knowledge leads people to throw all of their rubbish into one place, meaning that material that could have been sorted and reused is buried in landfills. In the UK, for example, over 20 million

tonnes of waste is buried whilst less than 1 per cent of that amount is actively recycled.

There is also the matter of availability, as there are situations in which recycling facilities are either extremely limited or non-existent.

In order to combat these issues, the first step would be educating the general public about the facts of waste disposal and recycling, perhaps even enforcing participation by levying a fine against those who do not separate their rubbish into different types. Hand in hand with this, making recycling centres more available would also help, or perhaps adopting a system used in some Asian countries where households are given a number of different containers into which to sort their rubbish for collection.

Overall, it seems that a change of attitude is needed as well as more resources to manage different recyclable materials. This can be achieved through a combination of education and penalties, as well as ensuring better access to facilities.

(261 words)

Writing test answer 2

Task I

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear.....

You have enrolled in an evening course but you have found that you are too busy to continue and would like to take the course next term instead.

Write a letter to your teacher. In your letter:

- *explain the situation and why you cannot continue the course*
- *say what you would like to do about your studies*
- *ask for advice about what you can do about the situation*

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Smoking can cause serious illnesses and should be made illegal.

To what extent do you agree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answers test 2

Dear Mr Williams,

I am writing with regards my attendance at your Business Marketing course. Although I have found the last seven weeks of this course to be extremely informative, I am afraid that I will be unable to continue as a family situation has arisen and I will be out of town for the foreseeable future.

As I have already completed three of the five course assignments and I am only missing the final 4 weeks of the semester, I was hoping that I would be able to return later in the year and join another intake of students in their final month rather than repeat the entire course.

If you feel that this would not be advisable or you have any other suggestions, I would be very keen to hear them.

Once again, my apologies for the enforced absence and I hope to complete the course soon.

Looking forward to hearing from you regarding my options,

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Bourne

(162 words)

There are clear arguments for banning smoking, based largely on health, but there is perhaps a stronger case to be made for maintaining the current situation, as will now be explained.

The most important factor for keeping smoking legal is that the decision to smoke is not something that should be controlled by the government, but by the individual. If a person decides to smoke, they do so of their own free will and this should be respected, as it is the

government's role to advise against harmful practices, but ultimately not to make decisions for its citizens.

The other reason for allowing smoking is that by making laws against it is more likely to result in the sale of tobacco moving to the black market, and consequently increasing the level of associated crime. There will still be people who cannot overcome their addiction, and will search for any means available to access cigarettes. A clear example of this reaction can be seen in the illegal sale of other drugs such as cocaine and marijuana.

Of course, there is the fact that smoking is known to have adverse health effects on both the smoker and those around them who are affected by passive smoking. Yet there are other lifestyle choices that also have a negative impact, such as fast food and alcohol, and banning these items would restrict the choice available to the consumer.

In conclusion, the decision to ban smoking, although having some advantages, would be more likely to have an overall negative effect. It would therefore be better for the government to continue campaigns that educate people about the potential dangers of the habit.

(276 words)

Writing test answer 3

Task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear.....

New neighbours have recently moved into the house/flat next door to where you live. You have examinations soon, but your neighbours play music late at night which is affecting your studies and sleep.

Write a letter to your neighbours. In your letter:

- *explain what the problem is*
 - *why it is causing you difficulties*
 - *what action you would like them to take*
-

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

We no longer need to have animals kept in zoos, so zoos should be closed.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answers test 3

Dear neighbour,

First of all, let me welcome you to the neighbourhood. I am sure you will enjoy living here.

However, I do have a concern that I would like to address with you. I am currently in the final semester of a course I have been attending at the local college, and in the coming weeks I will be sitting the final examinations. In order to prepare, I find it essential that I have both a quiet place to study and am able to get a full night's sleep, yet the volume of your music during the evening and night is causing some issues for me as I am unable to concentrate or sleep soundly.

I am not suggesting that you stop playing your music and, but I would be grateful if you could lower the volume after about 10 p.m., and perhaps also shut your windows? My examinations will be over by the 18th, but until that time I would be appreciative of a little consideration. Your neighbour, Mark Smith

Mark Smith

(171 words)

There has long been an argument against maintaining zoos in which animals are kept away from their natural habitat, and there is strong evidence to suggest that technology has developed to a point where such institutions are no longer needed, as will now be argued.

Traditionally, the principal argument voiced by those who wish to retain zoos was that it allowed children and adults to see animals which they more than likely would not have had a chance to do if this had required visiting the creature's natural environment. Yet there are now online videos and websites where these animals can be seen in high definition, therefore no longer needing to go to enclosures to see the animals. This is clearly evident by the declining number of visitors in recent years.

In addition, there are many cases in which animals held in captivity are not well cared for and are used solely to exploit them for profit. In some rare cases, the animals can suffer from neglect or malnutrition, and rather than being kept healthy are simply replaced when they are no longer of any value.

Granted, there are situations in which endangered species are protected and their numbers allowed to rebuild by housing them in the security of a zoo. However, in most cases the same effect is better achieved by using more open plan wildlife parks rather than traditional caged enclosures.

In sum, the factors which first led to the creation of zoos have been reduced by the ability of technology, so unless there is some advantage for the species itself, then the use of zoos should no longer be supported.

(273 words)
