

Tapescripts



Tapescript | Test 1

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 1.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear an education expert called John talking on the radio about fake news.

John: Fake news. The way it is being discussed of late, you'd be forgiven for believing it is an entirely new phenomenon. Indeed, it was recently announced that children at school in the UK will study how to differentiate fake from real news on the internet. But fake news hasn't arrived out of the blue, and without wishing to pan the initiative entirely or dismiss it as worthless, I think the conception of this fake news programme is indicative of our complete lack of faith in young people's common sense. That, to me, more so than fake news, is the most worrying aspect of the real news of this initiative being started up.

Have young people really lost all semblance of common sense? If the internet says x or y, does that mean the majority are typically naïve enough to simply believe that without batting an eyelid? I would find this assumption dubious to say the least. You're not going to tell me now, are you, that if I wrote a viral article about aliens launching an offensive against Planet Earth tomorrow, we'd instantly have thousands of headcases roaming the streets and screaming for their lives? I think, rather, inclined to use their innate common sense, most people would summarily dismiss the article for the nonsense that it was.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear a woman called Alexandra talking on the radio about poverty.

Interviewer: How did you react, Alexandra, when children came up to you asking for money on your visit to the local village?

Alexandra: Well, it's hard not to have a significant degree of sympathy for them. However, what I did notice, while not feeling this way about events myself, was that a lot of the people in my group were put off by the behaviour and viewed it as harassment. I think, personally, we should exhibit a semblance more understanding than that. After all, you're not going to tell me the children would rather be going around begging than doing the things they ought to be doing. These are not sinister and corrupt professional con artists trying to trick us out of our hard-earned money. They're simply in a desperate situation.

Interviewer: But, clearly, not everyone is as understanding as you, so what can be done? Given their distress, is there a more effective way perhaps in which they can appeal for help?

Alexandra: Yes, I think there certainly is, and indeed it's fair to

say that a lot of such villages have now come to the realisation that sending their children out running after visitors begging for money isn't going to win them the friends or support they need. What we're seeing now is a change of tack. Instead of asking for money, such impoverished village communities are learning crafts so that they can make souvenirs for sale, for example. Another recent initiative is trading. They will, for instance, offer to trade something of theirs for something of yours. I think people generally ought to be more responsive to this type of appeal.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear two lawyers, Emma and Keiran, discussing the outcome of a recent case.

Emma: The recent case of the woman suing for damages when she injured herself out walking in the hills raises an important issue; several actually. I, for one, was appalled that the judge ruled against the claimant. It was a serious and life-altering injury after all.

Keiran: Emma, whilst I sympathise with the woman and regret her misfortune, I can't, like you, support her case. I think you are pointing the finger of blame in the wrong direction if you think the government should foot the compensation bill for this.

Emma: Keiran, who then? You're not suggesting the poor woman herself is culpable for the injuries she received when she tripped on a wooden panel?

Keiran: Actually, I think, in this particular case the finger ought to be retracted altogether. Accidents, unfortunately, happen. Besides, the claimant had private health insurance, luckily, so her medical bills were covered.

Emma: But there are long-term implications for the poor woman.

Keiran: Perhaps, and I don't not sympathise; however, had the judge ruled in her favour, there would have been more far-reaching long-term implications. For instance, many parts of the countryside would have to have been shut to walkers as the government and private landholders simply couldn't afford to risk further claims. This would have been a tragedy. What I'm saying is that I think the decision was right for the greater good, not that it was necessarily a 'right' decision. I believe the judge was caught between a rock and a hard place in this instance.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1. Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a radio presenter called Tania Parades discussing the subject of whale beaching along an area of New Zealand coastline. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Tania Parades: Hello and welcome to the programme. I'm Tania Parades and today I'll be discussing the whale-beaching phenomenon that has sadly hit the headlines here in New Zealand again this week.

Of course, beachings occur every now and then in various parts of coastal New Zealand, so another whale beaching in and of itself isn't particularly noteworthy. However, the fact that beachings in Golden Bay have become an annual event is what makes the recent headlines worth some further discussion.

No doubt, most of you will be aware by now that the mass stranding earlier this week involved more than 400 pilot whales. Given that on average only around 300 whales and dolphins become stranded on our coastline in total each year, this was, therefore,

a very significant event.

Unfortunately, as most of you are probably also aware, despite the best efforts of conservation officials and volunteers, who came out in astonishing numbers to help in this life-or-death crisis, the vast majority of the whales died; only a handful were successfully coaxed back out to sea.

There are various theories for why beachings are such a regular occurrence in the bay here, ranging from noise pollution confusing the whales as they navigate, to the number of boats active in the area disturbing the whales and throwing them off their regular migration routes. However, I think the key issue here is far simpler than that. All beaching hotspots that I am familiar with throughout the world tend to have one thing in common: shallow water. To reiterate, therefore, for once I do not believe that it is human interference which is the main cause.

Not only is the water not deep anywhere in the bay, but it also gets shallower very gradually indeed. It is speculated that this gradual reduction in depth combined with the abundance of soft sand - there are very large sand banks present throughout the bay - may confuse the whales by making the echo-location method ineffective at identifying the water depth until it is too late.

And the bay really has the perfect recipe for disaster, because the tide also moves in and out very quickly. This is the final nail in the coffin for the whales; by the time they realise the depth of the water has decreased dramatically, it can be too late if the tide has already begun to go out. Before they know it, they are beached.

However, while this combination of depth, sand and tide is thought to be the most likely explanation for beachings of individual whales, what is harder to explain is why or how so many can get their navigation so badly wrong at the same time - 400, for example, in the case we had this week. It is incredibly unlikely that so many of these relatively intelligent creatures could all make the same navigational error.

That has led scientists to suggest another explanation for mass strandings: whales are known to have very strong social bonds. Perhaps, therefore, the reason so many can find themselves in the same predicament in mass beachings is because they have attempted a rescue effort in vain. Indeed, this would also explain another puzzling behavioural trait of stranded whales. Often, when they are re-floated by rescuers, they are known to return to the same point and beach themselves again. Perhaps this behaviour is indicative of their refusal to abandon the members of their pod which remain stranded - quite remarkable loyalty, really, if you think about it.

This could be yet another example of animals exhibiting a trait normally only associated with ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2. Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two people, James Reese and Yordanka Hellmans, are discussing a planning decision by the local council. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: With me today are James Reese and Yordanka Hellmans, who represent a local community action group and the Hillsberg Investment Company respectively. Welcome both.

I've invited you on to discuss the council's new planning policy. James, let me start with you. I assume you take great issue with what has just been announced, is that correct?

James: Yes, well, I simply do not believe it is in the interests of our community to rezone land in Buttersdale Park for industrial purposes. Now, regrettably, I've resigned myself to the fact that the motion has been passed and there is little chance of it being revoked. However, resigned I may be, but my anger has not waned. It is, though, I think, important to focus our frustrations - I say 'our' because I represent a large group of people who are equally appalled by the rezoning - on what can constructively be achieved now. For instance, I think we must fight the council's planning decisions tooth and nail on a case-by-case basis from now on. Whilst we may not have the zoning laws on our side, we can, if we are smart, find other legal means to dispute future planning applications.

Interviewer: Yordanka, would you like to respond?

Yordanka: Yes, well, at this stage I would just like to correct James on a point of fact. Buttersdale Park has not been rezoned as he claimed; at least, not in its entirety. We are talking about a relatively small section of the park which sits directly beside an existing industrial zone - a zone that has been so designated for some twenty-five years. Indeed, if anything, the motion passed by the council should assuage James' fears for the park's future. After all, there is a clause in it guaranteeing that no further land from the park will be industrialised in the future. I don't really understand where James is coming from if I am perfectly honest with you.

Interviewer: I see. Well, I'll invite James to come back in on this in a moment, but, first, Yordanka, can I ask you for your reaction to James' promise to challenge every planning approval on a case-by-case basis going forward?

Yordanka: To some extent, I welcome the attention of James' group to planning applications because I believe we do need to be very careful about what is approved. Let me explain ... People are under the misconception that just because I represent a group of investors, I am only interested in the bottom line - profit - but that would be incredibly short-sighted of me. I believe it is very important that the types of industry we invite to occupy this new zone are carefully vetted. Indeed, my business group will also be paying close attention to the planning process. However, we will not challenge approvals simply to handicap the planning process. We will do so constructively where we believe a particular applicant is ill-suited to setting up here.

Interviewer: And by what criteria would you gauge applicants as suitable, please, Yordanka?

Yordanka: Well, for instance, we will be operating on the basis that any new enterprise we welcome into our town should add value. It's very important to be selective. Amongst the criteria we would have for suitable business activities would be the requirement for a skilled workforce, good export potential for the end product and a commitment to investment in the local community; in other words, businesses we invite to set up here should commit to a policy of hiring locals first and buying local first where at all possible. This way, we maximise the benefit for our townspeople.

Interviewer: James, much of what I'm hearing from Yordanka sounds reasonable. Would you care to respond?

James: Well, first of all, I'm glad to see that Yordanka's investment group is not totally blinded by profit and I agree that there

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are important criteria new businesses ought to meet. However, we differ on the fundamentals of what's important in that respect. For me, foremost is the effect on the natural environs. This must be kept to the absolute minimum. All other issues are side ones. And as for Yordanka's earlier assertion that the new zone represents an insignificant area of the park, this is on the face of it true, of course. However, I have here an independently commissioned environmental impact assessment suggesting that the entirety of the park will be negatively affected irrespective of the size of the area rezoned. Therefore, I think it is irrelevant how much of the park will actually be built on because all of the park will be affected.

Interviewer: I see. Thank you, James. Now ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which students discuss a social studies class project. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about their decision. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker suggests. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: If I could change one thing about the world, what would it be? That was the title of our project. And it's not as easy a question as it sounds. Which one thing? Why only one thing? I agonised about it to be honest and went in several different directions before finally deciding that we simply ought to never lose the innocence of childhood. Young children don't fear or hate, and they don't see race or colour or anything like that, so maybe it sounds silly, but I'm convinced that it would create a sort of utopian world totally in contrast with the one we know presently.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: I had already reflected on this countless times myself in the past, so consequently I had a readymade answer. I would remove the human race. Why? Well, because it seems to me that the natural world is a very harmonious place, and then we come along and wreak havoc, pain and destruction. Now, don't get me wrong; I don't wish for all of us to be exterminated; that would be horrific. Just that it were kind of as if we never even existed in the first place.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: The question is never one I'd contemplated seriously before, but it didn't throw me for a second and I conceived of the answer more or less instantaneously. It's just so obvious to me. I would bring back all the disappeared species; the wonderful creatures of our planet lost to extinction. Although perhaps not as far back as prehistory because I'm not sure ourselves and the dinosaurs could coexist peacefully. Although we could have a kind of Jurassic park for them like in the film. Oh, but that didn't end well, did it? No, best to leave well enough alone there, I think.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: I had a last minute change of mind and went for the obvious answer rather than try to be clever. Even though it's

a cliché, what is wrong with wishing pure and simple for world peace? I mean, in a society of peace, everything else would more or less take care of itself. It would have a kind of cascade effect, a bit like a rolling snowball picking up momentum and volume as it raced down the hill. Every serious problem from poverty to crime would be solved in due course as a matter of course then, I believe.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: There's a film called Love Actually. I watched it the night before our teacher introduced this project in class and it had already got me thinking about a kind of tangential question: What if love, actually, did exist? Only love, nothing else. So that is what I would change about the world. Because, if we only have love in our hearts and nothing else, then I think we can envision and create a beautiful world; a world in which we start again and reengineer things the way they should be; a world in which we all want to exist, inclusively and equal. Now that is a world I would like to live in.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there's one minute left, so you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 2

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 2.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear Nicola and Joel, two panellists on a current affairs show, discussing the hosting of the next Rugby World Cup.

Nicola: I was initially pessimistic about the government's campaign to bring the next Rugby World Cup to our country, not because I don't think we have the required fan base to support it, but because I would have had reservations about the vast amounts of money it will be necessary to spend and whether there will be any long-term benefit from such spending. One need only look to places like Athens and Rio, where big global events were held in the past. There, much of the new infrastructure now lies abandoned and unused. Such a wasted opportunity.

Joel: Yes, Nicola, but you are referring to the Olympics. Hosting the Rugby World Cup, you must surely agree, is not an in-

vestment on quite the same scale. Besides, much of the infrastructure is already in place. The government's feasibility study clearly showed that we have an existing transport and hospitality network capable of coping, and that no major modifications to our stadia will be necessary.

Nicola: I think, Joel, for a small country like ours, the hosting of the Rugby World Cup is as challenging as is hosting an Olympics for larger countries. Therefore, I don't buy into that aspect of your argument. But I did say I was initially pessimistic. I must admit that report you cite has indeed allayed some of my fears about spending.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear part of a radio discussion about language apps by two linguists, Sarah and Dan.

Dan: I don't want to sound like an app-basher or a traditionalist, but I think the excitement surrounding language apps is a little overhyped. If the apps introduce more people to language learning, don't get me wrong, this is not to be sniffed at, and I'm not here to question recent reports suggesting this may very well be the case. However, it is a very superficial sort of exposure. Language acquisition requires a more committed approach. I think app developers ought to set the expectations of their learners/customers at the right level and not make face-tious claims, Sarah.

Sarah: Dan, I would give the developers a little more credit; firstly, because you must bear in mind that a lot of these new language apps are free. People are always calling for tech companies to have a more social conscience in their approach and not simply be profit driven. Should we not be applauding this? Furthermore, just to expand on something you mentioned, not only did the report suggest higher take-up rates due to the availability of language apps, it also suggests, surprisingly, that many users tend to persevere with their language learning after sampling the app. So it is not some novelty or fad, in other words. I wouldn't be so deluded as to suggest we don't need greater levels of immersion than apps offer to acquire a second or subsequent language, but if they open the door for many people, I am not going to criticise them for that.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear an astrophysicist called Paul being interviewed on the radio about the Aurora Borealis.

Interviewer: How likely are aurora sightings from the UK, Paul?

Paul: Well, this is not a straightforward answer. Using a camera in the northern aspects of the mainland, the likelihood of aurora spotting on clear nights in winter is actually quite high. Of course, on overcast nights, you can forget it irrespective of your location. Spotting the aurora with the naked eye, however, is much rarer even in the optimal locations. This is very infrequent indeed and requires dedication - you only stand a chance far away from habitation with very clear skies. Now, in the rest of mainland UK, only the most favourable conditions with the strongest auroras mean there is any likelihood of spotting them with digital equipment, and you would be very fortunate indeed to do so with your biological lenses, so to speak.

Interviewer: So, for those desiring to optimise their chances of seeing the phenomenon, what advice do you have?

Paul: Well, first and foremost, I think if you really desire to see it, you must go further north than any point on our own mainland.

I'm talking Scandinavia, basically. Time of year is essential, too. Whilst the phenomenon is not exclusively a winter one, bear in mind that night time is not sufficiently dark during the summer months the further north you go. The aurora may indeed occur overhead, but you will be oblivious to it. In the heart of winter, then, in Scandinavia, and preferably far far away from habitation. If you can only holiday in summer, though, all is not lost. Remember that the far south boasts its own similar phenomenon and there the seasons are reversed, so viewing is optimal during our summer. However, that's going to perhaps mean Antarctica, which is a very costly endeavour.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a radio presenter called Simone Poole discussing the origin of the superstitions surrounding Friday 13th. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Simone Poole: Hello and welcome to the programme. I'm Simone Poole and what with the day being what it is - this being Friday the 13th and all - I thought we'd start the show by taking a look at some of the superstitions people have about today and where those superstitions come from. And it's no laughing matter because some of us take Friday the 13th very seriously indeed! There is even a word used to describe those who have a genuine phobia about the date - paraskavedekatriaphobia. This is derived from Greek and literally means fear of Friday the 13th.

According to research conducted by a popular chain of hotels, almost 75% of adults in the UK claim to have suffered from bad luck at some point in time on this day. And speaking of hotels, given that the digit is associated with misfortune, did you know that many go so far as to skip 13 altogether in their floor-numbering system? So, for example, you may find that your hotel lift can take you from Floor 12 direct to Floor 14, with Floor 13 simply not existing at all.

So, as you can see, the fear, or superstition, is very real. Indeed, the Society of the Motor Industry in Ireland was so concerned about the public's discomfort surrounding the number 13 that it completely changed the registration number plate system. For fear that the number 13 appearing on car plates would hit sales, a new registration system was introduced for the start of 2013 and has been in operation ever since.

Further evidence of the public's fear of this unlucky digit can be found in the fact that, according to one online property agency, house buyers can make savings of up to £9,000 if they are willing to call Number 13 their new home.

But why all the fuss - what is it about the number 13 that makes us so superstitious? Well, there are many theories for the origin of this illogical fear. For instance, in Norse mythology the superstition can be traced back to the banquet at Valhalla where the god of mischief caused chaos when he turned up unannounced as the 13th guest.

Then there are religious references, too. For instance, Friday was the day Eve tempted Adam with the apple from the Tree of Knowledge and it also marked the start of the great flood during the time of Noah. Numerous other references with negative connotations for both Friday and the number 13 can also be found elsewhere in religious texts.

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From the world of literature, Thomas W. Lawson's novel Friday the Thirteenth, published in 1907, may have added fuel to the fire of and popularised the superstition surrounding the day. Lawson's story tells of the deeds of an unscrupulous banker on Wall Street, who takes advantage of the superstitions around the 13th to cause widespread panic and chaos in the markets.

In parts of the Mediterranean, though, whilst the number 13 is similarly associated with misfortune, it is Tuesday and not Friday - in Spain and Greece, for example - which is synonymous with bad luck. Tuesday the 13th then, would be regarded there as the greatest calendrical omen of misfortune.

However, the number 13 has not always been associated with misfortune. Indeed, the Ancient Egyptians regarded it as a lucky number, believing that the 13th stage of life was related to the afterlife, a sort of higher spiritual state of being. Indeed, although Friday the 13th is a widely held superstition today, closer examination at local level of perception of the day, and date, in different cultures tends to be quite revealing. It really is interesting that the whole idea of Friday the 13th ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two athletes, Julia Im and Darren Finn, are discussing their success at a recent athletics event. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: Now, a warm welcome to local heroes Julia Im and Darren Finn, who have just returned from the World Championships with gold medals in their respective disciplines. Julia, first to you. Hearty congratulations on being the first tennis player from the country never mind the district to have medalled at the games. Julia, why has it taken so long in your opinion?

Julia: Well, had you asked me that question when I was starting out in the sport, I would have said the infrastructure was lacking; however, that has come on in leaps and bounds in recent years. Likewise, our once inadequate coaching system is now on a par with the best and sets the standard internationally. I feel. Indeed, we always had willing coaches, but as a nation relatively new to this sport, I think what we were lacking was the experience and expertise. The policy of inviting coaches from elsewhere in the world to lead our programme has paid dividends in a big way. It has added a level of professionalism to the programme that has given our athletes the edge. Granted, there has been a huge increase in financial investment alongside the investment in human resources, but, as we have seen from examples in other sports, that alone is not sufficient by any means.

Interviewer: Darren, you have also tasted success in one of our newer disciplines. Do you feel the same way as Julia?

Darren: Well, on the back of my success, we are due to see a hugely significant increase in funding going forward. This has been approved by the government, but we won't know whether or not the improved funding will make a difference for some time. What I can say for sure, then, is that even lacking appropriate funding, the evidence of my success clearly demonstrates that we can overachieve with professional coaching mechanisms in place, and, at present, the best coaches are indeed foreign, so

attracting them here to train us has made a massive difference. And with the new investment we are expecting to receive now, hopefully the infrastructure will also improve, leading to further success at future championships.

Interviewer: How, Darren, were you able to achieve so much in light, as you say, of patently having so little by way of resources at your disposal compared to competitors in other countries?

Darren: Well, aside from the coaching, which I have already highlighted as pivotal, I, personally, was fortunate to attain private sponsorship for my training. This allowed me to focus full-time on achieving my goals. The majority of my colleagues have not been so lucky. Sports grants are given out only in disciplines where our athletes do well, so, up until now, we have had to self-finance our training and most of my colleagues do this by holding down a job. We cannot be expected to compete with full-time professionals when, for all intents and purposes, we are still operating in an amateur system. The dire situation, lack of interest and funding, certainly motivated me to do as well as I could, knowing full well that success would ensure better support for myself and my colleagues in future.

Interviewer: Indeed, many people are critical about the sports funding system in this country. Clearly, Darren feels that his sport was somewhat neglected. Do you think the funding system is fair, Julia?

Julia: Obviously, in an ideal world, all sports would be funded equally, but we must be realistic here. There is limited investment to go around and we are in a results driven environment. The reason, for example, that my discipline is well funded today where that was not so in the past is simple; it is because we, my fellow athletes and I, have been making tangible progress for some time now. My success was only a matter of time. I do feel athletes must justify their funding. We must spend smartly in this country in order to maximise the return in terms of medal success.

Interviewer: That's a fair point, Darren, isn't it? There simply isn't enough money to go around, so investment decisions must be results-based.

Darren: Perhaps if such decisions were truly taken based on this criterion, I might cede that it's fair. But, answer me this: why then does long-distance running receive such a disproportionate amount of funding? After all, when was the last time we medalled there? In reality, certain traditional disciplines attract more investment than warranted or deserved, while other smaller newer ones like my own are neglected. I believe the approval process is biased towards traditional disciplines because most of the investment board members come from them. We ought to have an independent panel approving grants and so forth instead.

Interviewer: I see. So a need for greater transparency is what we should be striving ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which young actors talk about their path into the discipline. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about how their career started. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker dislikes

about their profession? While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: I'm not normally a bag of nerves, and thankfully I think my cool demeanour has really helped me cope with my new-found fame. Friends call me the accidental movie star, but what they don't realise is it had nothing to do with luck; just a whole lot of dedication. My big break came because I'd been doing amateur theatre for ages and taking professional acting classes. I wasn't simply spotted. I earned my shot. The best thing about acting? It's the limelight - I'm not a shy boy! The worst thing? Well, there's nothing glamorous about the hours we have to put in on set, let me tell you.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: My elder sister started out as a child model and she appeared in a number of TV commercials. Everyone thought she'd be the big star, but that was really my parents' influence. She wasn't really interested in the limelight herself. As for me, I went for my first audition as a dare. It was for a part in a new TV sitcom and much to my amazement I got called for a second reading. The part went elsewhere in the end, but I suddenly realised I wasn't half bad at this and began to take it seriously. After all, what a job! What I love most is getting rave reviews; although, contrariwise, I must admit it's hard not to take the negative ones to heart.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: My father was a film director and my mum a screenwriter, so I was always around the set as a young child, my ambition back then was to be just like my dad and follow in his footsteps. But when one of the child actors pulled out of one of the shoots last minute, well, he had a big crisis and little option but to cast me. That's when we discovered being in front of the camera suited me better. I think, truthfully, that my connections have aided my swift progress, but I don't doubt my talent either. People who say you can get to the top just by who you know are kidding themselves. I still love spending time around the set when my dad works, but we avoid the same projects as it's just awkward to be honest. Besides, I get a kick out of working with different directors all the time and learning something new from each of them.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: I started out directing short films at school and I would sometimes not have enough cast members and have to cast myself. A talent scout spotted me in one of my productions and signed me up to his agency, and things moved on really swiftly from there. I love having the opportunity to travel to so many different set locations. I only lament the fact that I don't get to spend more time enjoying the places I visit, but I wouldn't swap this job for the world.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: I always shunned the limelight as a kid and kind of withdrew from things and hid in the background. When we had to make a film as part of an art class project, I reluctantly found myself in front of the camera. Little did I expect that there I would be a person transformed. I totally came out of my shell. On screen, I am a flamboyant and charismatic person. Isn't that funny? Whereas, off screen, I'm just the same as I always was, which makes dealing with my publicity and media commitments

difficult. The best thing about the job is the job itself and I wish I could just hide away from all the rest.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 3

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 3.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers onto the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear a charity director called Adele being interviewed about voluntourism on the radio.

Interviewer: What is it about voluntourism that you are so against, Adele?

Adele: I don't want to phrase it quite so strongly as that. I am not wholesale against the practice in the sense that I think most people who go voluntouring do so with good not ill intentions. However, I believe their efforts are misplaced. There are, unquestionably, a lot of very worthwhile charitable organisations for whom I would urge people to volunteer, provided, of course, that they have the prerequisite skillset; however, and this is the crucial difference, please bear in mind that voluntourism is a business. It is profit-driven.

Interviewer: But surely, irrespective of the fact that the bottom line is profit, as it is nowadays for most things in this world, aren't voluntourists themselves in their actions facilitating a better world to some extent?

Adele: This is the other issue I have because, contrariwise, I think, the vast majority of the time, what they are doing is damaging for the local communities they aim to assist. For instance, most voluntourists don't have the specific skillset required to really help. Instead, they end up doing kind of quasi work placements, where they actually have to learn the skills required to contribute. But locals could be learning these skills instead and their contribution would be permanent. What's more, it would be providing them with hireable skills; empowering them and giving them the independence that they lack to break through the glass ceiling of poverty. Essentially, but unintentionally, what is happening is a form of job stealing.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear a fitness expert called Pamela being interviewed on a radio programme.

Interviewer: So, Pamela, what is HIIT?

Pamela: High Intensity Interval Training, or HIIT as it is better known, is a form of gym workout in which you exercise very intensively for very short spurts.

Interviewer: And is it effective? Reports seem to suggest so and it is certainly all the rage in gyms around the country at the moment.

Pamela: Well, to a point, all training is effective, in the sense that any exercise is better than none. However, I wouldn't put too much weight in such reports. They are often funded and commissioned by vested interests. The results are almost a foregone conclusion. Besides, recently, there have been a series of independent reports favouring more traditional low-intensity workout sessions. In other words, exercising at an average intensity for a longer period of time.

Interviewer: So are you against HIIT and saying we should revert to more traditional methods of working out?

Pamela: Not entirely. Exercise is a very personal thing. Some people, for example, will find the gym a distasteful place to work out, so, for them, HIIT is ruled out anyway as it is, generally speaking, gym based. However, as I alluded to before, all exercise can be beneficial. HIIT, though, given its intensity, is not for everyone. Personally, I would favour more traditional, less intensive methods, and research on the whole suggests they get at least as good results. But, as many HIIT advocates have shown, it can be a very effective training technique. So this is not simply a fad or craze that will disappear. It has merits. However, I think the average person is more likely to continue exercising and getting the benefits, therefore, if their regime is less intensive and more easily sustainable. A lot of us arrive home in the evening exhausted after work. We do not have the appetite to further exhaust ourselves at the gym. This is not realistically sustainable and it may well put many people off altogether.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear a professor called Victor talking about the hunting methods of the San Bushmen, a native African nomadic tribe.

Victor: Most fascinating about my time with the San Bushmen was to learn the manner in which they traditionally hunt. Sadly, they could only demonstrate as their particular method has been for all intents and purposes outlawed in this country now. It is not illegal as such, but targeting animals in the wild is, so, basically, they might as well be banned from leading their traditional way of life. That in itself is very unjust and a great shame. However, it is perhaps a necessary evil because wild animal population numbers have reduced dramatically, though the part the bushmen played in causing this is miniscule. Their hunting numbers are barely a drop in the ocean of the total killed.

So I was afforded only a demonstration, yet, nonetheless, I marvelled at what I witnessed. Their ability to locate potential prey is the most impressive thing of all perhaps and I was left bewildered by their methods. They could see signs on the ground that I was quite certain they were imagining until, lo and behold, we indeed came across the animal in question, time and again. Clearly, therefore, luck had little to do with it. What also struck me was their conditioning. As I tracked them on a motorised vehicle (electric so as to be quiet and not interfere), these men essentially followed and outlasted wild beasts. Their method is

incredible. They have little chance of beating the animals with acceleration so they basically do so with stamina. This is not a game of stealth, but a game of attrition. Astonishingly, the bushmen win.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a radio presenter called Giles Franklyn discussing a weather phenomenon known as a fogbow. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Giles Franklyn: ... and that's tomorrow's forecast for you, but, before I say cheerio, one of our listeners sent in a marvellous photograph today of a very unusual phenomenon - a white rainbow - inquiring as to what exactly it is. We've uploaded the photo to our website and social networks and due to the immense amount of interest we've had since, by way of comments and likes, I just wanted to take this opportunity to explain what exactly people are seeing in the image.

Although it is sometimes called a white rainbow, and, indeed, it is a similar weather phenomenon to that of the rainbow in most respects, a fogbow, as the arc in the photo is more commonly known, is, as the name suggests, notably different to behold. Fogbow is the preferred name because using the term white rainbow is actually somewhat inaccurate. From a distance and without careful examination, a fogbow may indeed appear completely white. However, this is not so. Whilst the bow only consists of weak colours, it has more than one of them, including a reddish outer edge and a blueish inner one.

The reason the colours are so weak as compared with a typical rainbow is due to the dimensions of the water droplets that cause fog, which are considerably smaller than those produced by other forms of precipitation. Indeed, in many cases, the water droplets are so small that the entire fogbow can appear white - there is a direct correlation between the droplet size and colour vivacity, you see, so the smaller the droplets, the weaker the colours. However, a closer inspection will reveal that, though faint, the colours are present. No fogbow is ever, therefore, in the strictest sense, a white rainbow.

Because fog is essentially low cloud, it is hardly surprising that the phenomenon is also frequently visible from aircrafts, typically when they are flying above clouds - looking downwards, if you like. Such fogbows are often given the alternative name cloud bows, for obvious reasons. Another name for fogbows was given to them by mariners, who tend to encounter the phenomenon regularly out at sea. To them, they are sea-dogs. Fogbows are also occasionally visible at night time, when they are known as lunar fogbows.

But why does droplet size have such an impact on colouration? Well, as I may have mentioned, fogbows are formed in much the same way as rainbows. Here are the basic steps: First, white light enters the water droplet. As it does so, it is divided into its seven different colours due to a process called dispersion. The different colours of light refract, or change direction, after entering the droplet at slightly different rates. Therefore, when the seven separate waves of light then get reflected off the inside of the droplet, they each go in a similar but slightly different direction, emerging to form the familiar large, colourful arc of the rainbow.

The difference with fogbows is that the light is not refracted, however; whilst refraction is at work in large water droplets to change the direction of light, the tiny droplets found in fog cause light to diffract instead. In simple terms, the process of diffraction involves breaking the light waves up and spreading them out into many different directions. The diffracted light produces weaker colours and the familiar broader and paler arc of the fogbow.

Knowing what we now do about fogbows, it's unsurprising, therefore, that the photographer who captured the striking image that provoked such interest when we posted it on our website and forums was in the Scottish Highlands at the time of capture. After all, fog is a very frequent weather event in mountainous and hilly regions where there are often stark temperature contrasts. For the same reason, spectacular fogbows are regularly seen over Arctic waters, too.

Indeed, if you find you now have a taste for fogbows and a hankering to find more, you'd do well to ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two people, Michelle Evans and Fred Knowles, are discussing the results of a recent government election. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: A warm welcome to Michelle Evans and Fred Knowles, who are joining me to discuss the state of affairs in parliament since the election. Michelle, what is going to happen?

Michelle: I think we will have to return to the polls. No party has a clear majority so it is going to be impossible to form a government.

Fred: I fundamentally disagree. The people have spoken. I believe the parties have a responsibility to compromise so that a coalition government can be formed. That is clearly what the voters want.

Michelle: I admire your faith in the democratic system, Fred; however, I fear agreement is extremely unlikely. We must be realistic. After all, the parties are ideologically opposed. There is no starting point for them to even open discussions.

Fred: There is the mandate the voters gave them, Michelle.

Michelle: Perhaps the electorate should have more carefully considered the consequences of the way they voted, Fred. It is a very difficult situation.

Fred: I think you give them too little credit, Michelle. I believe this election result was very deliberate. It was their way of telling the parties that they are tired of the old politics of extremes. The voters have an appetite for a centrist agenda. They want the right and left side to meet in the middle and compromise their philosophies.

Michelle: Fred, barely fifty percent of the electorate voted. I think you are trying too hard to be positive about this result. For me, it is a very sad time indeed for politics in our country.

Fred: Yes, the turnout was extremely disappointing on face value, Michelle, but look at the finer details. What I found very satisfying and extremely surprising was the proportion of young

voters who turned out. Traditionally, this voting group normally has the highest level of voter apathy, yet, as we can see from the turnout, a huge number of young people engaged with the political process. That is cause for optimism, surely.

Michelle: I think it was largely coincidental. You are giving it too much importance. The election was held at the weekend, where it normally takes place midweek. More young people were, consequently, at home. Therefore, it was easier for them to get to the voting stations.

Fred: That might account for a slight increase but not the level of participation we actually saw from young voters, which was huge.

Interviewer: That brings us to the other demographics, though, does it not? Why was there such a sharp drop in voter participation amongst more mature groups?

Michelle: I think it is because these people are already well-represented. They were content. They didn't feel the need to engage. From their perspective, they were already being well looked after.

Fred: I agree to some extent with that. Politicians have a nasty habit of pandering to the groups they know typically vote in and decide elections, such as pensioners, for example. I believe, therefore, that there was a protest vote here by young people. They deliberately went for the opposite of what the current political system represents so that politicians would finally have to stand up and take notice of them. That is why we have seen such a shift from the traditionally popular conservative parties. Young people decided to lean in the other direction.

Interviewer: How did you both vote, incidentally? If I may be so bold as to ask.

Fred: Well, I voted with the young people, of course.

Michelle: Naturally, Fred. Your politics is well-known from the articles you write for the Herald, so, whatever their reasons for voting, protest or otherwise, we already know yours were purely political. I actually voted for none of the main players, Dominic. I would typically be inclined to vote for the more conservative parties Fred says the pensioners tend to support, but, and I guess in a way this was my own form of protest, I instead voted for a centrist party. I am sick of the divisive politics we have in this country. So, although I am hugely disappointed with the election turnout and result, if it creates a change in how we do politics in this country in the long term, that will be a very good thing.

Interviewer: We shall see. Now, another interesting story ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which athletes discuss their sporting lives. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) how each speaker started their profession. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) how each speaker feels about their present situation.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: Growing up in a family of athletes, I suppose it was only natural that I would follow in their footsteps. It's in the genes

after all. But I never had my father's love of football, and was not as talented as my mother at squash, though it was through that latter sport that I eventually found my way into tennis - rather a late starter it must be said, only picking up a racket for the first time aged 12. But I immediately took to it like a duck to water as if I had been playing all my life. When I turned pro, I did become somewhat - well, very - disheartened at my lack of progress through the ranks, but I've yet to fall out of love with the sport and I believe that although I presently struggle to make ends meet, through hard work, determination and no shortage of natural talent, I can turn things around.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: Hailing from a family of couch potatoes and nerds, it was pure fluke that I ever got into sports. A friend in primary school constantly raved about badminton and I suppose her enthusiasm was quite infectious rather than tiresome, so off I went along with her one day and joined the club, much to the bewilderment of my family, who thought they were raising a rocket scientist! I guess I'm the black sheep! However, pride in my achievements is in no short supply and they are genuinely ecstatic for me, for I have more or less tasted instant gratification. Success has been swift, and with it financial security for life has been guaranteed, not just for me, but for all my close family. To know that I have their full backing, though, is what counts more than anything else.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: I fell into the river while fishing with my older sister and nearly drowned when I was three. Luckily, she was an excellent swimmer and she got to me in time despite the strong current. But the incident prompted my parents to start taking me to swimming lessons from there on. Needless to say, it took me a long time to overcome my fear of the water, and, truth told, I still to this day do not feel one hundred percent comfortable; however, my talent shone through from the start. I was a natural; that much was clear. I have been competing at the highest amateur level now for several years and my next port of call is the Olympics, where, I'm thrilled to say, I am considered a genuine medal prospect. Wouldn't that be amazing!

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: My aunt died tragically in a racing incident while I was growing up, so many people question my logic concerning my decision to choose the same path as her and go into motor racing myself. However, she was a first-class go-kart driver and could have achieved great things. I was immensely proud of her not only for her achievements but also for leading the way for women in the sport. To me, it always made perfect sense to follow her into the sport that she loved, which I did as soon as I could legally sit behind the wheel. I still think about her every time I race and I dedicated my kart championship win last year to her, when I became the youngest victor in the competition's history. I know she would be so proud. Next, I'm aiming to become the youngest F1 driver and progress to the top of the elite field.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: People think to be a skydiver you must be some sort of crazed adrenalin junkie. Well, sure, I get a kick out of it, but that's not the reason why I chose this sport. As a child growing up, I always had a fascination with birds and bird watching was my favourite hobby. The two activities might seem very disconnected, but not to me. I always wished I could soar through the sky like a bird, so when I discovered skydiving at university, I was

immediately fascinated and hooked. Friends say it's dangerous and what about all the fatalities, but little do they realise you're more likely to get injured crossing the street. I'm a professional now and to begin with I made a living doing tandem jumps, but nowadays I'm a stunt diver. It's much more lucrative and I get bragging rights when I occasionally appear on the big screen.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 4

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 4.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear two speakers on a current affairs show, Raul and Erica, discussing the causes for optimism and pessimism in today's world.

Raul: Erica, many people are worried about the state of our world and I can sympathise with them. Indeed, I share their concerns. People, for example, in elections, are tending to vote more and more for the extremes, where the centre used to always get the most support. How can you be so optimistic about the future?

Erica: I admit, Raul, that not all is hunky dory. However, the world we live in has always been far from perfect. I don't dismiss your concern either about certain trends, particularly those in politics. However, I see other trends that give me cause for hope. Besides, I think we have a new generation to be proud of. When they are polled and asked for their views, they do not share the same negativity as current voting generations. They express their ideologies in terms of a more inclusive and united world. I look forward to the day when they are old enough to cast their vote.

Raul: Hmmm, I don't share your enthusiasm for this inclusivity, actually. I think globalisation is part and parcel of the problem.

Erica: Well, on this we are poles apart. For me, it is the only solution. In a world where everyone has to work and function together, we have, ultimately, to do the best for the greater good, whether we want to or not. In such a world, we all have a vested interest in the same thing. If what affects one person, affects the

other, then suddenly there is a common ground. They must co-operate because both endure the same struggle. This is what I love about globalisation.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear two film critics, Gemma and Henry, discussing a new movie release on the radio.

Gemma: Did you not think the acting was a little over-the-top?

Henry: Personally, I loved the chemistry, Gemma.

Gemma: Oh, there's no denying that was there - for all to see. That's not exactly what I meant, but I thought they overdramatised things a little, making for quite sloppy performances. It could have done with a more serious undertone because it lacked sincerity, in my opinion.

Henry: I felt they got the balance just right, actually. Had they mellowed their performances, I think the otherwise quite dull plot would have been exposed.

Gemma: True Henry, but a story should speak for itself. It shouldn't have to be propped up by the actors.

Henry: I agree with you there. But, nonetheless, that was necessary. Indeed, I give the production team full credit for their casting, but that's where I draw the line. I was left underwhelmed by the rest. This was a whisker away from being a really good watch. It had all the ingredients with a strong cast and a savvy director, but it lacked any depth, and instead was a complete let down. I think they, cast and director, got every ounce of value they could out of what they had to work with in that regard - very limited resources.

Gemma: Yes, it is certainly disappointing that such a well-financed production began with such a vacuous plot at the starting point.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear part of a radio interview with a safari guide called Rihanna.

Interviewer: Rihanna, you are a walking safari guide. That sounds rather dangerous.

Rihanna: Yes, well, there is certainly an element of risk and I wouldn't discount it completely. However, in all my years doing this, I have seldom found myself in a compromising position.

Interviewer: But you are going, on foot, through grassland occupied by the big cats, some of the most fearsome predators on the planet. The lion, for instance, is king for a reason, is it not?

Rihanna: Certainly, lions are ferocious predators, but while I would rather avoid close encounters with any big cats, give me a whole pride of lions any day over a solitary leopard in a tree.

Interviewer: Really? And why is that?

Rihanna: Because they - lions - don't tend to call your bluff. They, for the most part, will false charge and not carry through.

Interviewer: And leopards?

Rihanna: Leopards hunt by stealth, so if a leopard is stalking you, by the time you realise, it is possibly already too late. This type of encounter is not accidental, whereas most with a pride are.

Interviewer: And hyenas? There appears to be an abundance of them on the plains. The cackle of hyena laughter echoes all around.

Rihanna: Yes, and they have quite fearsome jaws - the strong-

est bite pound-for-pound perhaps of all these grassland predators. Not to be underestimated, certainly. Logically, therefore, you ought to be extremely wary around them. However, I have found hyenas to be, for the most part, very disinclined to bother humans. They'd rather exit the scene post-haste. Remember, although competent hunters not incapable of taking on big prey, these creatures are by and large opportunists and scavengers, and we are not seen as viable opportunities, thank goodness.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a mountain rescue team leader called Sean McKinley giving a talk on avalanche awareness on a daily radio show. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Sean McKinley: Thank you for having me on the show today. My name is Sean McKinley and I'm here to discuss avalanche awareness and safety, which is particularly important at this time of year. I do not want to put people off exploring our wonderful hills and mountains, but, as a mountain rescue team leader who has seen the worst consequences of ignorance, I would like people to be well-informed so that they can make good decisions out there.

So, first and foremost, what causes an avalanche? Well, typically the culprit is the force of gravity. That is what produces a natural avalanche in most cases when conditions are right. Such snow-slips are known as spontaneous avalanches.

Other less typical causes of natural avalanches include rock falls and, rarer still, of course, seismic events, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Although such geological phenomena are extremely rare in most parts of the world, obviously, given the unique set of geological conditions we are faced with here in the Pacific Ring of Fire, they present a much more real and present threat to us, and one we can do little to control.

What we can control, however, is our own behaviour, which is to blame for a disproportionate number of avalanches which result in human injuries or fatalities. I'm referring, of course, to human-triggered avalanches, but more on this later. For now, let me just say that around 90% of avalanche victims trigger their own avalanche, and let that sink in.

There are two main types of avalanche; powder avalanches and slab avalanches. The former occur during or shortly after periods of intense snowfall on days when winds are very light or non-existent. You will almost never see one in the absence of snowfall because once lying snow has gone through the thawing and freezing cycle, it takes on a different composition to fresh powder and becomes part of the main snowpack. As a rule of thumb, watch out for more than 30cm of continuous build-up of snow in one day or more than 2cm in one hour.

The latter, on the other hand, can occur at any time when there is a vulnerability in the existing snowpack. Snow builds up in layers and if there are weak layers of poorly bonded snow beneath the surface, this can cause upper layers to break away and slide. Slab avalanches most frequently happen on slopes of between 30 and 45 degrees, so extra caution should be exercised at such angles. The risk of being avalanched is also highest when you are positioned lower down ridges.

So, already we have identified some of the major risk factors,

such as slope angle and snowfall intensity. Another major risk factor is sudden temperature change. This can disrupt the snowpack and lead to instabilities.

Heavy rain can also sometimes destabilise the snowpack by making the snow wetter and consequently denser, with the increased density raising the likelihood of wet snow avalanches. A similar problem can occur without precipitation when temperatures rise suddenly and sharply, causing thawing; again, a wetter, denser snowpack is the result.

Another factor always at play is wind speed. Strong winds can deposit more snow on lee or downwind slopes. And even when there is no new snow, such winds can redeposit snow from the existing snowpack on the same lee slopes. During and directly after such windy periods, great care should be taken in selecting slopes to traverse. Signs that there have been gales recently can often be seen in the presence of large cornices or overhanging snow-tops on peaks and ridge edges, not to mention in raised footprints in the snow itself.

So, clearly, when considering a day out in the hills, forewarned is definitely forearmed. Also, we should not forget the importance of ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which a caller called Calum Best and a musician called Nathan Williams are discussing the success of Williams' band. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: I have Calum Best on the line from Chesterfield. Calum, I believe you have a question for my next guest on today's show, Nathan Williams, lead singer in the band Nougat Island. Welcome, Nathan. Thank you for joining me. And Calum, your question is?

Calum: Yes, um ... My question for Nathan is what he attributes the band's success of late to?

Nathan: Well, this has all happened so fast for us, Calum, I've yet to really have a chance to reflect on things properly. We've gone from playing in front of a handful of people to being household names in homes across Europe in a matter of months, so, as you can imagine, I'm still getting my head around it to be honest with you.

Interviewer: Incidentally, Calum, I know you are a big fan, so what do you think is the reason for the band's success?

Calum: I would put it down to their talent. I think talent always shines through and these guys have that in abundance. Their live performances are outstanding.

Nathan: Thank you, Calum. That's very kind of you to say. Though, believe me, there are a lot of mega talented musicians out there waiting to be discovered. We are not unique and would be kidding ourselves if we believed so or claimed that. I think a lot of it has to do with being in the right place at the right time and getting the breaks. Talent will only get you so far in this industry.

Interviewer: Do you not think talent is important then, Nathan?

Nathan: Oh, it is certainly key and any musician with talent will

be able to forge a modestly successful music career. However, to enjoy the level of fame we are currently experiencing, I think talent alone is not the explanation for this. A lot of bands put their success down to hard work, but bands that don't rehearse a lot and make the effort are a rarity these days, so I don't buy into that. Combine the two, hard work and talent, and you will make a living in this industry, but to hit the bigtime is rather more of a lottery, I feel.

Interviewer: You have an adoring fan base, Nathan. I'll now ask Calum why he and fellow fans are so loyal. Calum?

Calum: Well, the guys are just so down to earth. For example, the last concert of theirs I was at, they chatted and mingled with fans in the crowd prior to kicking off the show and didn't leave at the end before doing exactly the same thing again. That's fantastic, and speaking as a music fan, let me tell you that it is really appreciated. You could so easily be one of those bands which just go through the motions, but you're not. You give back so much to us.

Nathan: Thank you, Calum. It's nice that our efforts are appreciated. It's not something we do consciously to promote loyalty, though, or anything like that. It would be very tiresome and an incredible amount of work if that were our sole reason for engaging with our followers. The truth of the matter is that we simply love it. We are very social guys and it is neither tiresome nor daunting for us to connect with the crowd; it's simply the most natural thing in the world. We don't do it to impress but because we enjoy it and because we learn so much from what people say.

Interviewer: I know you are riding high now, Nathan, but how do or did you deal with criticism in the past, which I'm sure you've had your fair share of?

Nathan: Yes, indeed. But don't be fooled into thinking success leaves one immune to criticism because people are seldom so keen to put you down or see you fall as when you have tasted that. To be honest, we try to ignore the hyperbole on both sides of the coin. You're neither as brilliant as your biggest fans claim nor as awful as your harshest critics make out. Never believe your own hype but never allow yourself to be beaten down by negativity either. We just do what we love doing to the best of our ability. Whether we get criticism or otherwise then is irrelevant to us because we are truly proud of what we have produced. And that is all the matters.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about their choice of professions. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) what influenced each speaker's choice of university course. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about their current profession. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: Growing up in the countryside, when I infrequently ventured into the big city with my family, the sheer scale of things would almost overwhelm me. I developed a love affair with the

concrete jungle which would profoundly influence my choice of university course later. As an appreciator not creator of beauty, a career in architecture was off the agenda, so, instead, I took to photography in order to capture the visual delights of man-made structures. Ironically, though, my true passion in this field would only reveal itself back in the countryside. Having spent so much of my childhood obsessing over city-scapes, I'd failed to appreciate the ones overhead. Nowadays, armed with my tripod and camera shooting the stars, my work has brought me full circle - it's brought me home.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: Born into a family of famous barristers, I was totally immersed in the world of law as a child. To say that this didn't influence my choice of university course, would, of course, be nonsense. It's impossible not to be affected by your environment growing up. However, if anything, the experience pushed me in another direction. I wanted to escape this familiar world and do something - anything - different. What, I didn't know, so it was really nothing other than pure chance that first introduced me to the world of architecture at university. I picked the course not for any logical reason, but because it was near the start of the prospectus! I ought to thank my lucky stars, then, that I discovered my passion, despite the ridiculousness of the method I used.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: As a child, I would obsess over the different legal shows on TV. I couldn't miss an episode or I would simply be devastated. My parents were slightly worried by my behaviour, but they didn't intervene because it seemed to have a positive influence on my schooling. It fired my ambition. Besides, I think that, neither of them being professionals themselves, it made them proud that I went on to study law. I was the first person in my family to get a third-level education. However, once I started to practise, all the romantic notions I'd had about being a lawyer vanished into thin air. Law as depicted on TV and the reality of being a lawyer are as far removed as two stars - lightyears from one another.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: I never gave it much thought as I child; my university path was predetermined. I would study medicine as my parents had, making them incredibly pleased; otherwise, they would be terribly disappointed with me. I took these as facts - without ever actually asking them - and set out on a path to make everyone happy. However, two years into med school, things unravelled. I was miserable. Only then, when I confided in them, did I realise my parents didn't care what I did as long as I was happy. So I dropped out. I needed something to do until I got back on my feet and started giving stargazing tours for tourists. I'd turned to astronomy in my time of despair at university because I found the stars inspirational - the little rays of light or hope emerging from the darkness. So, perhaps, if I'd never experienced such lows, I would never have found my way into a career that has since and continues to deliver me such highs.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: My childhood was incredibly unhappy. Both my parents being doctors, they were very busy and seldom around, and I had to mostly fend for myself. I struggled to make friends or fit in and this left me very low indeed. It was only later in adolescence after much pain and struggle that I began to understand why. I was on the autism spectrum. I was a little different from most other people, but my differences were not things to be

ashamed of, they were what made me unique as a person. So I was determined to study medicine at university and then specialise in the fields of psychiatry and psychology in order to help other young people like me through their difficulties. My work is at times very intense and emotive, but it is incredibly fulfilling. I like to think my job is helping scarred young people find the good in themselves.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 5

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 5.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear a dog breeder called Patricia giving a talk on animal temperament.

Patricia: We are all familiar with Nanny from Peter Pan, perhaps the most famous fictional Newfoundland dog. And while fiction rarely synchs with reality, the Newfoundland's docile reputation around children is well-deserved. However, that being said, I suggest you'd be ill-advised to leave even such a docile breed unsupervised around young ones. Indeed, I'd go so far as to say that's highly irresponsible. After all, every rule has its exception and it's not worth taking the chance, even with such an instinctively well-tempered creature.

Besides, a dog is only as good as its owner lets it be, irrespective of breed. The notion that buying a pedigree dog somehow guarantees a good temperament is highly flawed. In reality, even for the most responsive of breeds, a lack of training can be detrimental to their behaviour. In that sense, no dog is low maintenance. They all require great care and attention, and disciplining from a young age. But neither is it pure myth to suggest that some breeds are more predictable than others. Chances are, with proper care, attention and devotion, your Newfoundland will turn out the way you hoped. However, if it does not, you probably ought to be taking a hard look in the mirror.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear an outdoors enthusiast called Donovan giving a talk about a traditional walking

route.

Donovan: The Camino is a very long walk which terminates, traditionally, in Santiago De Compostela in Spain, or, for some, on the coastline beyond the city at a place known as *The end of the world*. Not only is the terminal point flexible, but so too is the departure point, with options in at least three countries. And, again, sticking strictly by tradition, the starting point would actually be considered your home.

It was traditionally a pilgrimage undertaken for religious reasons, but today religion has much less to do with it and people of all faiths are equally inclined to go on this spiritual adventure. Flexibility exists in terms of pilgrimage length, too, with the only qualification to that being that if you want to receive the official certificate recognising your accomplishment at the journey's end, you must be able to prove you have navigated the last one-hundred kilometre stretch successfully.

The most popular route runs across northern Spain, though those looking for solitude would be well-advised to seek out an alternative, such as the routes starting in the south of Spain or Portugal. However, the caveat if doing so is to be mindful that these roads less travelled are also less well defined, lacking, at times, in appropriate signage, whereas you'd do well to even purposefully get yourself lost on the popular northern trail.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear part of a radio discussion between two bee experts called Jenny and Keith.

Jenny: If I had a pound for every time someone asked me after the welfare of the humble honeybee, I'd be, well, in exactly the same financial position I am at present, despite the fact that its status is becoming progressively more perilous by the year.

Keith: Quite, but it doesn't pull at the heartstrings in the same way as say our close cousins the apes, or elephants for that matter, the plight of both of which we seem to innately exhibit more empathy for.

Jenny: Indeed, so this is why it is vital to make an extra effort to highlight their situation. The more glamorous causes, no less worthy or important, of course, tend to monopolise the headlines to such an extent that we could be forgiven for thinking that there are hardly any consequences to bees dying off at all.

Keith: Yes, of course, Jenny; yet, nothing could be further from the truth. Dramatically reduced bee numbers could have a devastating impact on the welfare of our indigenous flora.

Jenny: Which is why it is essential, Keith, that we start to discuss ways in which we can give these little critters a leg up so to speak.

Keith: Yes, quite. One of the simplest measures, given the irreversible loss of habitat which has occurred due to urbanisation, is to keep a wild flower garden. This can never compensate for the habitat lost, but it gives the bees more of a fighting chance. The added beauty of a wild flower garden is that it is also, by default, very low maintenance. That is why I am keen to highlight this method above all others, given the hectic nature of life today.

Jenny: Quite, but for those willing to become a little more vested in the issue, you can also plant orchards or indeed maintain your own bee colony, both of which have the added benefit of providing a potential revenue stream, too.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a critic called Dan Fallon talking on a radio show about a film called the Man from Snowy River. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Dan Fallon: ... so I would give that four stars.

But now, moving on to the small screen, let's have a look at what's on television this week, and the first film I've picked out is a relatively old and little known Australian movie, 1982's *The Man from Snowy River*. Now I say little-known, but that's not quite true. Indeed, until eclipsed by the release of the first film in the *Crocodile Dundee* franchise four years later, it was the country's most successful movie export. Besides, it also boasted a Hollywood heavyweight in the ranks of its cast, in the form of Kirk Douglas. However, 1982 was a very long time ago, relatively speaking, and I feel this film may well be lost to more recent generations of movie-goers. So I was very pleasantly surprised to see it appear on this week's TV schedule in a prime-time slot.

But now to the film itself; this is a charming story based loosely on the famous Australian poem of the same name penned by Banjo Paterson. As mentioned, it stars Kirk Douglas, unusually in a dual role, as he plays two brothers, Harrison and Spur. Alongside him is Tom Burlinson as Jim Craig, the film's main protagonist, not to mention Sigrid Thornton as Jessica, Jim's developing love interest as the plot unfolds. Burlinson and Thornton have excellent on-screen chemistry, and, indeed, the strength of the cast overall is unquestionably one of the film's great assets.

However, it is neither the only nor the best one. More impressive still, especially considering when it was filmed, is the cinematography. Given the number of horses involved in the production, the challenge of scene-shooting must have been immense, yet the pans and sweeping shots of riders galloping their animals at break-neck speed over breath-taking yet treacherous terrain are spectacular and a very fitting tribute to the magnificent Australian outback itself.

In case you hadn't guessed by now, this is a horsey story at heart. Craig was born and bred in the mountains, but is forced to leave and look for work in the lowlands after his father's passing. There, he carries the stigma of the mountain man with him and faces a lot of discrimination from some of the workers on the ranch where he finds a job, based on his roots. But life is not all bad on the ranch, and that is where he meets the owner's daughter, Jessica, with whom he quickly falls in love. The feeling is obviously mutual and before long their relationship begins to blossom. However, not only are Jim's chances of winning her father's approval for the relationship with Jessica lessened by his poor social status and lack of means, there is a further twist to this tale. It involves Spur, Jim's good friend and fellow mountain man.

The plot plays out this complicated web of romance very well, but undoubtedly its main focus is on Jim's coming of age. He is determined to prove himself the equal of his fellow ranchers, almost at any cost, and as the film draws to a hair-raising climax, he finally gets his chance.

The film was so loved by people in its homeland that Burlinson was asked to reprise the role of Jim for the opening of the Sydney Olympics in 2000, a full eighteen years after its release. It is a charming, heart-warming story with awe-inspiring moun-

tain scenery, which, despite the presence of a Hollywood heavy-weight in its cast, is unashamedly and unmistakably Australian and always stays true to its roots.

I strongly recommend that you tune in on Saturday evening and watch it ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two people, Ana Mar and Heider Gregory, are discussing La Palma as a stargazing location. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: Welcome to Astro Weekly. Joining me on today's show are representative of the tourist board of the island of La Palma, Ana Mar, and astrophysicist, Heider Gregory. Welcome to you both. So, let me start with you, Ana. What is it about La Palma that makes it such a unique place for stargazing, reputedly the best location in our hemisphere? Presumably, it's got something to do with the famed Canarian weather.

Ana: Well, yes and no. Whilst it's true that, relatively speaking, we get more than our fair share of sunshine compared to most places in the world, some would say we are the poor cousin of the Canary Islands in that respect. The other islands boast more consistently clear skies, but, believe it or not, the clouds play to our advantage. They are one of several factors which make stargazing here quite so special. Indeed, it is also the moisture in the air that gives our island such a lush and unique range of plant life, too, compared with the other islands, where greenery is perhaps in shorter supply. But that's a conversation for another day.

Interviewer: Oh, I see. Do explain.

Heider: Yes, well, if I could come in here, you see, there is a phenomenon called inversion, which basically means that the clouds tend to form a carpet of cover at around one thousand metres. La Palma being the steepest island in the world, what this means is that above that altitude, and there is much terrain here at 1000-plus metres, the island is completely shielded from light pollution. That equates to perfectly dark skies; the ideal conditions for stargazing.

Interviewer: So it's necessary to travel to altitude to enjoy the starlit skies, then, would I be right in saying?

Heider: Yes and no. On cloudy nights, the best opportunity for stargazing certainly exists at 1000-plus metres; however, in the complete absence of cloud, which is not unusual either, there are vantage points throughout the island, both at low and high altitude, which offer spectacular viewing. I guess the point to get across is that even under cloudy conditions, all is not lost here, which cannot be said of most places, and the clouds themselves can be advantageous as already explained.

Interviewer: So the mountain tops are always clear regardless of the weather at lower altitude, is that correct?

Ana: The vast majority of the time, yes. You see, the prevailing winds in this area play a part in forming the perfect conditions for inversion to take place. That means that for the majority of the year conditions are very favourable. Occasionally, however, when the weather patterns change and winds come from a different direction, inversion does not take place below the tops

and clear skies are not guaranteed there. More often than not, though, conditions are favourable thanks to those aforementioned prevailing winds, the trade winds, so the likelihood of excellent stargazing opportunities at altitude is extremely high.

Interviewer: Would it be fair to say, though, that good stargazing is only possible away from habitation?

Ana: Yes, well, dark skies are essential, of course, so light pollution from towns and villages could be a potential problem. However, and this is another key factor which makes our island such a perfect astronomy location, the government has taken measures to ensure light pollution is kept to an absolute minimum.

Heider: Indeed, for example, white light is not used on the island. This is too intrusive. Lighting is required to be yellow or orange in colour. Furthermore, all street lighting, etc, points downward. This is a requirement by law, further limiting the extent of possible pollution. That is why, for instance, the area in the south of the island around Fuencaliente is an excellent spot for stargazing on clear nights despite its low altitude and high population levels. Indeed, there is a huge tourist hotel at the southernmost point, yet you would hardly know it was there at all due to the lighting policies on the island. Under normal circumstances, stargazing could not be enjoyed in such a location, but thanks to the government's commitment to maintaining dark skies, even densely populated areas of the island can make surprisingly good viewing points where they would not elsewhere.

Interviewer: Fascinating, and for our listeners, what tips ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about their evening study programmes. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) the reason each speaker first started their course. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about their tutor.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: I've made lots of new friends on my evening course and what's struck me about it most is the sheer diversity of attendees, not to mention the variety of reasons why they're there. Many cite boredom; others say it's a matter of self-development; some are doing it to link in with an existing or prospective career. I guess maybe I fall into the latter bracket in the sense that the possibility of one day moving into a job where I use Spanish every day definitely motivated me to join. However, perhaps more so as time has gone on, I've found myself being drawn back to the lessons each week by the opportunity to interact with so many different people from so many different walks of life. Variety, as they say, is the spice of life, and it certainly makes the lessons interesting, which is just as well because as competent as our tutor is, she is a little flat; dare I say, dull.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: My primary motivation for wanting to do this evening course was the fact that I'm in a new town. I would describe myself as relatively outgoing and certainly not shy, so I've no inhibitions as such to overcome, but I think it is difficult for someone when they first arrive in a new place; most people have an

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established circle of friends and it is hard to find where you fit in. What our tutor lacks in competence, though, she certainly makes up for in kindness because she's been instrumental in helping me to form a network of my own here. My new life no longer feels so daunting or lonely. So, whilst my Spanish may not improve a whole lot, I won't be short of things to do at the weekend.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: Virtually my entire circle of close friends has been raving about this new language course for a while. Unfortunately, they're all linguists, discounting myself, so when a famous language instructor moved to our town and started offering lessons in Spanish, they jumped at the chance. Now, it's all they ever talk about, which leaves me feeling like a spare part in our circle. So, fearing I'd be nudged out of the group completely, I decided to join up, too. And while I don't exactly take to languages like a duck to water, I've been pleasantly surprised by how much I've enjoyed it, I must say. That's down in no small part to the tutor, of course, who lives up to her fame and reputation and has expertise in abundance.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: Initially, my employer was going to insist on my enrolling in Spanish lessons, as the company was in talks to take over a large rival in Spain, but when those discussions fell through, the necessity to learn disappeared, as did my boss's desire to fork out the money. I had actually been against the idea at first, but I'd warmed to it over time and was so disappointed that I put my hand in my own pocket and enrolled anyway. I'd figured it would come in handy on my vacations as I was a frequent visitor to Latin America. I hadn't reckoned on it improving my love life, though, so it was a huge bonus when I met my soulmate at the lessons; none other than my tutor, Virginia. We're about the same age and just clicked. I credit her making me use my Spanish all the time we are together rather than the lessons specifically for how much I've improved in such a short space of time.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: I'd always wanted to learn a second language. I guess, like a lot of people, it was somewhere on my to-do list, but a way down! However, my employer moved it right up to the top by announcing the head office would be relocating to Spain. They didn't make lessons compulsory, but it was pretty clear that if I wanted to continue to excel and progress in my job, I'd need to knuckle down and learn, so that is precisely why I enrolled. I've heard it said many times by fellow students that my tutor is fantastic and a very knowledgeable linguist. I've little doubt that that's so; however, for me, I think there is room in a beginners' class for the use of our native tongue and not just Spanish. I think I would have progressed more quickly in this way.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 6

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 6.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear a speaker called Leanne lecturing on the application of robot technology in the classroom.

Leanne: South Korea has been using robot technology in the classroom for some time now, and not without some degree of success. For instance, in elementary schools, bots have been used as teaching assistants, where they can help with things such as pronunciation. And they are more than just a novelty. Research suggests that kids respond positively to them, which motivates their desire to learn. The kids themselves don't take the bots too seriously, but this is precisely why they are surprisingly effective. There is no fear factor and the children interact to a greater extent in English than they otherwise would, viewing interaction with the bot as a kind of game.

There are also practical reasons why bots have been introduced at other levels of the education system. For instance, placing native speakers in schools in remote areas is highly impractical. Most prospective teachers don't have the appetite for such locations, preferring to be somewhere more stimulating and exciting. In such circumstances, bots have also been employed effectively. These bots are more interactive. Indeed, think of them not as bots at all really, but as interfaces. The bots themselves contribute little or nothing. They act as merely a medium and on their screen appears the face of a real teacher communicating remotely. While there is no substitute for an authentic native-speaker classroom presence, this is surely the next best thing where having one is simply unfeasible.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear a travel writer called Davina discussing a visit to Ireland on a radio programme.

Jeremy: The Wild Atlantic Way, as it is officially known now, is one of the longest coastal routes in the world, designed for vehicular travel not footfall. Since its official launch several years ago, it has garnered a lot of attention in travel publications. Joining me is travel writer, Davina Wallace, who, having just completed the route, will give us her take on this west coast of Ireland gem. Davina, where has it been hiding all this time?

Davina: Well, it is not as if the route has only just come into being as such, of course, Jeremy. It is not purpose-built. The meandering, narrow roadways of the west coast were there long long before this crafty marketing rebrand, but what the tourism board has done by officially categorising the route is bring it to the attention of a mass audience.

Jeremy: And, in your experience, does it live up to the hype, Davina?

Davina: It is certainly spectacular. Ireland's wild west is already well-known as such, so this didn't come as a revelation to me, though seeing it's natural beauty in the flesh, it was even better than what I'd read about it. Curiously, though, the country's infamously unpredictable weather detracted not an ounce from my enjoyment of the journey. Indeed, I would go so far as to say it only made the adventure more adventuresome and pleasurable.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear part of a radio talk on the subject of performance by a sports scientist called Jason.

Jason: Why do athletes train at high altitude? Well, there's some serious science behind it as it happens. The air is thinner, as most of you probably know already, the higher up we climb. Training at high altitude does things to us physiologically that give a genuine competitive edge as a direct result. The effect is most pronounced above 2,500 metres; however, it is to some extent evident even a thousand metres lower. Below that, however, there is little in the way of difference compared with training at sea level.

Because there are fewer oxygen molecules per volume of air at altitude, every breath taken gives the muscles less of what they require, so the body has to work harder. This triggers a hormone called EPO to produce more red blood cells in order to help deliver more oxygen to the muscles. As a consequence of the increased red blood cell count, athletes have a higher capacity to deliver oxygen to the muscles, which translates into a noticeably improved performance. However, the effects are not indefinite. It is necessary to get the timing of altitude training just right as they will largely wear off between ten and twenty days later. There are, however, some people with a rare genetic disorder which sees them able to sustain lasting effects. Indeed, they don't even have to train at high-altitude to achieve the desired results as their bodies are permanently in a high-altitude state. The condition is called Chuvash polycythemia and essentially it means that even at sea-level the increased red blood cell count is triggered.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a financial expert called Alexandra Harrow talking about the influence of the mobile phone on the way people transfer money on a radio show. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Alexandra Harrow: Now I want to turn to a service which is little known here in the UK but which is revolutionising the way business is conducted in certain parts of the world. The service I'm referring to is M-Pesa. Let's take a look at this M-Pesa revolution and how it is transforming the way money is circulated in some African economies and elsewhere.

First of all, what is M-Pesa? It is simply a way of making money transfers and purchase or payment transactions via mobile. The story of this money via mobile concept first began in 2002 at a conference in Johannesburg on sustainable development. Present at the conference was the head of the UK's Department for International Development, who had a fund at his disposal to invest in a project that would help improve access to financial services.

A lack of access to the banking system was a particular problem for millions of poor people living in Africa. How many would-be entrepreneurs were being denied their chance to contribute to the economy as a consequence? Even if such people wanted only small loans, which they could afford to pay back, in reality, they were too poor for the existing banking system to bother with; the loans would not have been profitable enough to make them worthwhile. Therefore, what was needed was a new system tailored to meet their needs - a source of financial services for entrepreneurs and small businesses lacking access to the traditional banking system. This new system would become known as microfinance, and mobile money transfer would soon play a big role in it.

The Department for International Development (DfID) had already noted a rising trend in African countries whereby mobile phone customers were themselves developing a sort of currency (or quasi-currency) by transferring pre-paid airtime to one another as a means of payment. It decided to try to take things one step further and create an official payment system modelled very similarly. To do this, it teamed up with the Vodafone network, with each partner committing one million in funding to the fledgling project.

Although neither partner envisaged the system serving any purpose other than to repay small microfinance loans by SMS, users, however, had a different idea and it was ordinary mobile phone customers in Kenya, where the project first started, that drove its development into something much more influential. They started using it to send money to one another as a means of payment for things other than loans - from everyday purchases to utility bills. Not only that, but they also found it incredibly convenient for sending money home from big cities where they worked to their families in remote villages.

Within eight months of launching, more than a million Kenyans had signed up to mobile money. Today, there are well over twenty million users and about 100 times as many M-Pesa kiosks as there are cash machines. In a country where cash used to be king, now mobile money does the talking.

And the mobile money revolution has now spread to around two-thirds of all developing countries, though it has yet to be introduced or embraced in any sense in the developed world. However, that may yet happen because, in actuality, mobile money payment is a far simpler and quicker service than any existing banking app can offer.

Why it has been embraced in the developing world so quickly is clear, though. Cash-driven economies have a lot of corruption. Introducing mobile money helped to tackle this and was an unexpected benefit of the service. For example, in Afghanistan, policemen only started to realise how much of their basic salary was being taken illegally by their superiors before being passed on to them when they started to receive their payments by mobile instead of cash - the amount of money they received was shockingly more than what their superiors had been giving them.

Meanwhile, back in Kenya, drivers there realised that traffic officers harassing them for bribes would not be so keen to accept them through the M-Pesa system, since such bribes were then trackable and could be used as evidence, so they stopped carrying cash altogether and then the harassment petered out too. Another benefit of this track-ability, of course, is the fact that it helps prevent tax evasion. If payments and income can be tracked, it becomes very difficult to avoid paying tax.

Tapescripts

It is incredible how such a simple idea could really revolutionise the whole concept of ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two people, Olivia Wilde and Michael Asimwe, are discussing the African tour company they work for. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: I'm joined today by the head of African overland tour company Joy Adventures, Olivia Wilde, and one of her veteran tour guides, Michael Asimwe, for this week's travel feature, in which we throw the spotlight on Africa, and, in particular, land-based touring and adventures there. Olivia, turning first to you, can you tell me what an overland tour company offers that is so unique?

Olivia: Certainly. Africa is, of course, a huge continent, so the logistical challenge of seeing much of it in one go is stern to say the least. Usually, extensive travel comes at a price which affords it only to a privileged few. What we aim to do at our tour company is make Africa accessible and affordable to all. We offer overland itineraries which enable tourists to see many different parts of the continent, while keeping costs in check. This is one factor which differentiates us from other tour operators out there, and we pride ourselves on our inclusivity. We make Africa accessible to all.

Interviewer: But this sounds almost too good to be true. Otherwise, why don't all tour operators have the same model?

Olivia: Well, let me explain. There is, of course, a trade-off for keeping costs low. We offer a no-frills experience. This is not the luxury African adventure most of your listeners will be accustomed to hearing about. It's quite hands-on. Tour members are expected to partake in cooking, cleaning and pitching tents and so forth. It is all part of the experience. They are not waited on hand and foot. And by and large the accommodation is basic - camping for the most part, as I mentioned, though there are occasional stops in large towns where we use dorms rooms, and upgrades are possible to private accommodation in most places where we stay for those prepared to pay a little extra from their own pocket who would like improved comfort.

Interviewer: I see. And what is your role, Michael? What does tour guiding on such a no-frills adventure entail?

Michael: Well, I have to be a bit of a jack of all trades. I am a driver, entertainer, guide and chef. Again, in order to offer the best value for money, it is necessary for us to keep staffing levels to a minimum, so there are seldom more than one or two guides accompanying each tour. We, if you like, oversee and manage things, and the tourists themselves also pitch in to bring everything together and make the experience as pleasant as possible as Olivia already mentioned, I think. It is a very rewarding and fulfilling experience. And I use my local knowledge to make it even more so.

Olivia: Indeed, Michael makes an important point. Our company is committed to using local staff and supporting the local community. This is another excellent reason to choose our packages. You are, essentially, giving something back to Africa for the won-

derful experience you enjoy there. We source local produce for food and supplies where possible, only stay in accommodation owned and staffed by locals and exploit the in depth knowledge our guides have to provide a truly unique and unrivalled experience of Africa.

Interviewer: So are you the only company offering such tours? You make your packages sound very unique indeed.

Olivia: Well, that was so until recently, yes. However, copycats are emerging and trying to jump on the back of our success, having seen the great appetite amongst tourists for what we offer. But there is no substitute for the experience we have amassed from being in this business for twenty-plus years. It's simply impossible to replicate what we offer, therefore, I believe.

Michael: I would agree with Olivia, having worked for a number of different tour operators. I can certainly vouch for the fact that Joy Adventures is the best. For instance, take the overland vehicles. Even these are tailor-made. While other tour operators use modified buses or trucks, we have designed, commissioned and produced one-off vehicles purpose-built for overlanding in Africa. They offer unrivalled practicality and comfort. It's another example of the lengths we go to to ensure our offering is truly unique and value for money. The overland vehicles alone, of course, do not justify the choice of our tour, but they are one of the many key ingredients which mean that it is truly unrivalled.

Olivia: Michael is right. We leave the competition trailing to be perfectly honest with you, and not just in terms of the experience but also in terms of price.

Interviewer: Right, thank you. Now, let's look a little, shall we, at some of your specific itineraries. ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about their study abroad programmes. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) the main reason each speaker originally wanted to study in a foreign country. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) how each speaker now feels about their time abroad.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: I wanted to study abroad mainly because when you come from a small place like I do it can get quite suffocating after a while. Of course, while being a foreign student is not as cost-prohibitive as it once was, I wouldn't regard it as cheap either, so it was a major undertaking to finance my studies in this way. However, I felt it would be worth it, and, luckily, my parents agreed to help out when I couldn't get a scholarship. And time has proven me correct because, once I overcame the initial sense of anxiety that accompanies homesickness, I never looked back. My time in Australia's most populous city was life changing in the best way possible. Indeed, speaking of looking back, on reflection my overriding sense is one of deep gratitude. It was such a privilege to be afforded this opportunity.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: My family couldn't afford to support me through third-level education, so I scoured the net hoping to find a solu-

tion myself. That's when I chanced upon a bursary offered by a wealthy British expat to any fellow Brit willing to come and study at his old university, UBC in Vancouver, Canada. The only condition of maintaining the financial support was that I had to pass all my exams first-time no re-sits. The offer sounded almost too good to be true. Unlike the scholarships I didn't qualify for, the only thing that mattered was nationality, which I satisfied being a Manchester Brit. Once I received the bursary, I applied myself intently and studied incredibly hard. Reflecting now on my time there, I only lament the fact that I didn't allow myself to enjoy the experience more. I was so focused on my academic performance that I never stopped to appreciate Vancouver itself until it was too late.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: I told my parents that the reason I wanted to study abroad was to improve my language skills, which was a sort of white lie because, while I do love languages, I really craved greater independence more than anything. Anyway, they bought into my argument and even offered to finance my studies, though that was unnecessary as I had already been offered a scholarship on account of my golf handicap. Quebec was memorable for many reasons, but, casting my mind back now, perhaps, with hindsight, I ought to have chosen an area where English is less widely spoken. Had I been reliant on my second language, I believe my fluency would have progressed more. In that sense, it was a missed opportunity, but I wouldn't change a thing about the place itself or my experiences there, which were out of this world.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: I'm one-third Native American, yet this factored in very little to my decision to study in Saskatchewan. Simply, I had always wanted to visit North America and take in all the famous tourist sites, and I was able to exploit my heritage to avail of a scholarship to go to university there. Otherwise, I could not have afforded to study abroad. By the end of my studies, however, I was a person transformed. I feel a strong sense of affiliation with the aboriginal people now and have great pride in this aspect of my background. I believe I would never have connected with my roots had it not been for the time I spent in Saskatchewan. Ironically, I spent very little time on the tourist circuit there at all, and regretted every minute that I did because I was never so happy as when I was in Saskatchewan itself with the native people learning about their and my culture.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: My motivation for studying in Alberta, Canada, was very logical. I'm a fossil enthusiast and what better place to study palaeontology than in the region of the famed Dinosaur Provincial Park. There'd be no need for long field trips when the subject of my research would be on my very doorstep the whole time. I was so sure of myself and how much I would love studying there that I was confidence personified on arrival; however, not all of us are suited to being far from home for an extended period as I would soon find out, and my overriding recollection of my time there is not as I'd hoped the terrific opportunity it presented for my professional studies but rather how isolated and far removed from the familiarity of home I was and how much I looked forward to returning to same.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 7

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 7.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear a psychology professor called Humphrey lecturing on the subject of happiness.

Humphrey: Can you really talk yourself into being happy? Well, perhaps it's not quite as simple as that. However, don't dismiss the notion too likely. There is indeed a great amount to be said for positive thinking. For a start, the opposite is what can lead us into a rut. This occurs when we dwell overly on the negative things impacting or happening in our lives. Doing so is entirely counterproductive, however. As the saying goes, worrying about them won't make your troubles go away. Indeed, it will do far worse than that. It will compound them and make the situation seem more and more overwhelming if you continue to think in such a way for a prolonged period of time. On the other hand, trying to find the upside to the situation allows you to break out of the cycle of negativity. Whilst this won't 'disappear' your problems as such, it will ensure they are not compounded and, furthermore, will put you in the best frame of mind possible to resolve them.

But here is something else to ponder. People often make snide remarks about those who deliberately try to be overly positive, suggesting they are trying to convince themselves that they are happy. My point is this: if you do manage to convince yourself that you are happy, well, are you not actually so? Only you have to believe it, no-one else, so snide remarks aside, I would be a very strong advocate of positive thinking. The 'delusion' of happiness, as some would claim, can perhaps become something entirely more tangible if you give this way of thinking a proper chance.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear a formerly homeless woman called Eleanor being interviewed on the radio.

Fran: Eleanor, how did you end up on the streets, and, more importantly, how did you manage to turn your life around?

Eleanor: Well, I can already hear people shaking their heads at what I am about to say and the usual chorus of NOs; however, based on personal experience, it is my belief that anyone can end

up in my position, even high-flying business people. Of course, I was not such myself, but I did have a very comfortable life. I cannot pinpoint the moment everything started to go wrong, but when my life did begin to unravel, I felt powerless to prevent my further descent into the abyss.

Fran: And so, before you knew it, you were sleeping in doorways, is that right?

Eleanor: Yes, that's pretty accurate.

Fran: So how did you find your way back?

Eleanor: Well, this is a little less difficult to pinpoint. Indeed, I know the exact moment. When one is filled with hopelessness, life seems very difficult indeed, and you begin to lose faith in humanity. I had lost all faith until one bitter winter's night, with my hands getting frost nip, when I could barely endure the severe weather any longer, out of nowhere a young woman barely half my age came up to me with a hot drink - not in and of itself unusual. But she looked me straight in the eye and spoke softly to me, saying: 'Why don't you go home, love? You know they're probably waiting for you. Everything will be all right.' Then she hugged me and left. The words stuck in my mind, I sucked up my remaining pride and reengaged with the world and asked for help. And here I am today.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear a lecturer called Philippa discussing the housing market.

Philippa: Talking about the housing market makes for a depressing conversation these days. It irks me most when I hear middle-aged people saying to the younger generation 'well, it was the same for us when we wanted to get onto the property ladder'. Actually, it most certainly was not. Whilst buying a first property has never been a piece of cake as such, the challenge in the past was not nearly as daunting as it is today. Past generations, of course, still had to get mortgages, and, at times, interest rates on repayments were very high indeed compared to the favourable ones we enjoy today, but the notion that housing used to be more affordable is not fanciful by any means. That was actually the case.

There is a reason why the average age of first-time house buyers continues to rise steadily and is now closing in on the forty years of age mark. That's because house prices, relative to salary, have never been higher. So, unfortunately, not only is it harder to buy a house, it is also harder to make the repayments, despite the favourable interest rates. Indeed, most young people today are priced out of the housing market altogether and can only get onto the property market through the bank of mum and dad if they are lucky. Either mum and dad fork out the deposit, or they guarantee the mortgage, meaning that they will pay for it if their child defaults, or indeed, in some cases, both. Times for young house buyers are very tough for sure.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear a radio presenter called Finbarr Baird discussing reports in the news about first-born children being the smartest siblings. For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Finbarr Baird: Welcome back to Today with Finbarr Baird. Now,

next up, I want to have a look at what's in the news, and one of the things that really caught my eye and, indeed, rubbed me up the wrong way this week is the way the results of new research by scientists into child performance have been reported. It is not the research itself that I take issue with, nor is it the main body content of the news reports either; however, I find the headlines that have been used extremely misleading.

For instance, one paper leads with the following, and I quote: 'First-born children are smarter than their siblings.' This clearly implies that the first child is more intelligent than any subsequent children born into the same family, yet that is not what the research suggests at all. Contrarily, the research found that first-born children have a tendency to perform better in their education. Note the distinction; perform better does not necessarily equate to being more intelligent. Indeed, the research specifically cited not higher innate intelligence but the fact that first-borns receive more attention from their parents as the reason for their superior educational performance.

And, actually, when you reflect on it, this makes perfect sense. After all, a first child is a big deal for any new family, and young parents are often understandably nervous, so they devote an extra special amount of time to the first-born and making sure they do the best they can with its upbringing. When the next child comes along, they are perhaps, naturally, slightly more relaxed as they have been there before, as it were, so, whether intentionally or otherwise, they give a little less of themselves to the child-raising process and put slightly less effort in.

The data, which was collected from thousands of families over the course of more than a decade, confirms this. It found that parents tend to do fewer activities with their second child and subsequent children, reading less to them, not encouraging them to do art and crafts or music as much, and so on. This extra focus that first-borns receive in their early childhood gives them the edge over their younger siblings. The advantage is evident in children as young as one year old and it shows up time and again in IQ tests.

Indeed, the research goes a long way towards explaining a phenomenon scientists call birth order effect, whereby children born earlier into a family with numerous siblings tend to have a superior chance of enjoying better wages and greater educational achievement in life.

It must be stressed, however, that the report does not accuse parents of being neglectful towards second-born and later children. Indeed, the research suggests all children in a family tend to receive equal amounts of emotional support. It is just the intellectual stimulation that is sometimes lacking for younger siblings. And, in fact, there are logical explanations for why this might be so; after all, two children is twice the work of one for parents, and so on. Clearly, parents cannot devote all of their time to a second-born child in the same way they could the first-born when it arrived because they are still caring for the first-born, so the time and effort must be shared between the children.

As I said, I find the research interesting, and I think it confirms a lot of what we already intuitively know and logically would understand; however, what irks me is the shabby reporting, so I would like to clarify once and for all; in no way does the research suggest that first-borns are innately more intelligent than their later siblings. It only suggests that they perform better on average because they receive more attention in their early childhood. In other words, the additional intellectual stimuli they are exposed

to early on give them a better chance of succeeding.

Speaking as a parent though, I think there is much we can learn from ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two people, Max Verstapp and Cara O'Dell, are discussing amateur photography. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: A warm welcome to Max Verstapp and Cara O'Dell, who join me on today's episode of Camera in Focus to offer their insights and advice for would-be photographers out there. Cara, as a professional photographer, I'd like to turn to you first. What advice do you have for amateurs just starting out? Photography, after all, can be a very expensive game.

Cara: There is no disputing that, but it doesn't necessarily have to be. There are, for example, some wonderful second-hand options on the market and it is possible to get your mitts on some really good equipment at an excellent price.

Max: I think that's sage advice from Cara, actually. This must sound strange coming from the owner of a camera shop, but I would advise against amateurs spending big money on equipment until they get a feel for what they really want to get out of their photography. Second-hand is definitely one excellent route down which to go. However, bear in mind that advances in technology have made the impossible possible, so to speak, in the field of photography today, and even cheaper new camera units can produce some quite impressive results. I'd lean towards recommending this latter option.

Cara: Indeed, Max has a point. Even the mobile phone cannot be totally dismissed anymore. Some of the latest models can rival even expensive purpose-built cameras for everyday purposes. However, they have their limitations and there remains no substitute for specialist equipment if you desire the best results.

Max: Absolutely, Cara. My point is: find your feet and find the area that appeals to you before spending on the relevant equipment. Experiment first; find your niche.

Interviewer: OK. So, mobile phones aside, what kind of camera would you recommend for a novice photographer?

Cara: Well, ideally a cheap DSLR. That's a camera that lets you change the lens for different purposes. There are some excellent value ones on the market now, especially second-hand.

Max: I would be hesitant about recommending the DSLR, actually. Notwithstanding the high quality images even cheaper models can produce, I think new photographers can be somewhat put off by their seeming complexity and also, more crucially, by having to carry a lot of kit, for example numerous different lenses.

Cara: I'm glad Max used the word 'seeming' because the level of effort it takes to familiarise yourself with the workings of the DSLR is not gargantuan by any means.

Max: No, that's true, Cara, but, personally, I would favour a single-lens camera; something a bit more versatile and portable. For example, a bridge camera. These tend to be slightly more affordable than DSLRs, yet they have most of the same func-

tionality, allowing users to experiment and become familiar with different camera settings without being overawed.

Interviewer: What about compact system cameras? Are these any good?

Cara: Oh, without question. Indeed, the higher-end ones are replacing the DSLRs in the kit of many a professional photographer today. However, they tend to be out of most people's price range. A mid-range compact camera, however, is comparatively expensive when compared to a second-hand DSLR or new bridge camera. Therefore, I would personally go with one of these instead.

Max: Yes, Cara. Again, I think the trick is not to invest heavily until you understand what you want to get out of photography. I would caution against the low-end compact system cameras; the build and image quality are dubious, but it's true that mid-range and upwards, the quality is unquestioned. However, why fork out on one of them when there are inexpensive alternatives that yield similar results, such as the two options we have mentioned already.

Interviewer: Is there anything to be said for your average point-and-shoot camera these days, Max?

Max: Well, from the point of view that anything that gets people out and about taking shots and experimenting is a good thing, they have their merits; I would say on a par with a mobile phone camera, for example. Which, incidentally, begs the question: Why buy something that you already have? However, I think, realistically, for those wanting to advance their skills, there are better avenues into photography that are just as affordable.

Cara: I would echo Max's sentiments, there, really, and add ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about their commute to work. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) how each speaker feels about commuting. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker says about their future commute.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: I don't mind my commute per se, despite the amount of time I spend getting to work and back each day. Some would say it is incredibly wasteful and unproductive to sit on a train for two hours every morning and evening. However, I think you have to make the best of every situation, and, while mine is not by any means ideal, I try to use my time constructively. For example, I'm learning a language using listening aids at the moment while I commute, and this has the added bonus of distracting me from all the surrounding commotion, which I would otherwise find at times very unsettling. I am not massively at home in large crowds, but, as I said already, it is important to make the best of things, and, for the foreseeable future I am stuck with my commute; thus, I have to cope with it as best I can until things change - maybe in a year or so.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: I actually miss my old route to work now that I no longer have to catch the 6.30 train in every morning. Indeed,

I'm incredibly anxious about whether or not I will lose some of the network of friends I had built up while commuting. We were commuter buddies; it was great; partners in crime and suffering together. Though, for me, it wasn't suffering at all, but an absolute pleasure and a wonderful opportunity to interact with people. My nerves are fraying now and I fear for my social life. All of my best mates commute and I see them much less now than I used to. It's going to take an incredible effort on my part to maintain those links, where before it was so natural. Ironically, I'll probably end up having to do a lot of commuting of a different sort, for social and not work purposes. It's the only option I have left as my move to the city centre is permanent. After all, I bought a house here.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: I am fed up of having to listen to what others are doing on the train. Has the entire world gone deaf? Is it really necessary to have your speakers turned up so loud? One day, the guy next to me is learning French, no less, and the next I'm listening to some hard rock nonsense. Sometimes, I want to strangle them, really. Though that's not the most intrusive thing. Worse still is when the person beside me starts trying to start up a conversation. I'll never fathom why people think I would want to be all social on my commute to work. For starters, I'm not a morning person, so my main priority is to use the time constructively to get a bit of extra shut-eye. Otherwise, I'll arrive at work grumpy and make my work colleagues nervous. I think a permanent move closer to my place of work for a reduced commute is very necessary for my sanity and I am taking measures as we speak to make that a reality imminently.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: I'm inquisitive by nature so I must say I find the commute to work intriguing. Seldom will you ever have the opportunity to observe and learn so much about other people and the way they behave. There are the nervous types, who are patently uncomfortable and wishing they were anywhere else. Then there are the ones who want to sit down and engage with complete strangers and all of a sudden be best friends. Not to mention those engrossed in their own world, completely oblivious to everything going on around them, headphones plugged in and sound blaring. I find the whole experience quite fascinating. Indeed, it's inspired me to commence further education in the evenings. I'm taking a psychology class. I intend to use the commute for research purposes going forward and to eventually base my thesis somehow on the many interesting things it can reveal about society.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: For me, the commute is an exercise in patience, and it tests mine severely by the day. I have a very positive can-do outlook on life; I am, if you like, a doer, who likes to get on with things. Therefore, the sense of inertia is painful for me. It literally feels like I'm throwing away hours of my life - time I could potentially be doing so much of something more constructive with. And I have tried to use the time wisely, but I find the commotion very distracting; therefore, it is impossible to concentrate on anything remotely worthwhile. I feel I am the eye of the storm. All around me are nervous, fidgeting and noisy commuters who can't settle. I just close my eyes and calmly wait for it to be over, which it will be permanently I'm pleased to say soon on account of my imminent retirement.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.

Tapescript | Test 8

Narrator: Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 8.

I am going to give you the instructions for this test. I shall introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound. You will hear each piece twice. Remember, while you are listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the real test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

In the exam, there would now be a pause. Please ask any questions you have during the pause, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Narrator: Extract One. You will hear Professor Clarke giving a lecture about mental health for psychology students.

Professor Clarke: The stigma attached to mental health is very real. Sufferers may convince themselves that they are being brave by keeping their problems pent up inside; however, if they were being honest, I think, usually, this is because they are afraid of being judged because of that stigma. And not without very good cause; after all, society is less than sympathetic and this is an issue we must face and overcome. However, the most courageous thing you can do is hold your hands out and ask for guidance. Trust me, there are some good people out there who will grasp them tightly for dear life and do whatever they can to support you, never letting go.

Recently, a celebrity whose name I think you all know spoke out about her own mental health issues. Although her struggle has been ongoing for years, it only came to light this week on account of her brave decision to discuss her issues in public. This celebrity did not fit the stereotype for mental health illness. She was young, beautiful, popular, famous and hugely successful. And now she is still all those things and even more. Her preparedness to face the stigma head on is incredibly laudable and she has done a true service to all the silent sufferers out there. She is their voice and their hope. Hopefully, they, too, will now come forward and seek help.

[REPEAT EXTRACT ONE]

Narrator: Extract Two. You will hear a skiing gold medalist called Julia Braithwaith being interviewed on a radio talk show.

Interviewer: A hero's welcome today for Julia Braithwaith, who joins me on the show hot on the heels of her success in the world championships. Julia, how does it feel to be the first gold medal winner from this country?

Julia: Extremely satisfying. Coming from a minority sport in this

country as I do, there has always been a serious challenge in obtaining sponsorship and funding.

Interviewer: I would have thought your biggest hurdle, Julia, would obviously have been the lack of snow!

Julia: Well, actually, it is not the snow we are lacking as such, but the winter sports facilities. There is sufficient snow depth in some of our ranges to accommodate such facilities, believe it or not, during the winter months. Of course, I had to go abroad, but my hope is that my success will generate sufficient interest in winter sports to prompt the government to provide these facilities. I'm not suggesting an if you build it, they will come attitude. That could be potentially wasteful, but what I am saying is that if the appetite is really there, we ought to be whetting it.

Interviewer: Was the dearth of facilities indeed the greatest challenge you had to overcome, then?

Julia: The most distressing thing for me was that I am a home bird and very dearly love those in my nest, so to speak. I had ample access to state-of-the-art facilities from my base in Bern once I'd acquired sufficient funding, which was no small chore, but, as I said, that necessitated being abroad for the vast majority of the time.

[REPEAT EXTRACT TWO]

Narrator: Extract Three. You will hear a reporter called Inga giving a radio update on an industrial relations dispute.

Presenter: Inga Muller now joins me for the latest on the threatened industrial action involving the Transport Workers Union. Inga, what is the current state of things?

Inga: Well, talks are continuing here as both sides burn the midnight oil hoping to reach a compromise that would prevent the scheduled strike action, which is expected to cause untold levels of disruption. However, the air of optimism from earlier in the day appears to have evaporated and the signs of a resolution are bleak.

Should the talks break down, a lightning strike is due to go ahead, closing all southern rail networks. The worst part for commuters is not yet knowing what will happen.

Presenter: What seems to be the sticking point?

Inga: Well, the dispute over pay increases held the talks up from progressing for quite some time, but appears to have been overcome now. The new working hours have not gone down brilliantly, but the union was prepared to compromise on that, on condition of assurances regarding improved benefits, but management is digging in when it comes to this, leading to the current stalemate.

[REPEAT EXTRACT THREE]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Narrator: You will hear arboriculturist Marcella Im discussing her job on a radio programme.

For questions 7-15, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 2.

Marcella Im: ... Thank you for having me on the show. Now, as I was saying, my job title is arboriculturist, which is a bit of a mouthful I'll grant you! But perhaps my role is better known by another name, so you can call me a tree surgeon if you like. I don't mind! Although the roles are actually not quite the same.

But don't call me a horticulturist; then you're into a closely related but very different field. Not all of us 'culturists' do the same work, you see! The viniculturists, for example, seem to have all the fun! Not that I'm jealous, mind you!

So what do I do? Well, mainly, I cultivate and manage trees, hedges and shrubs. That is, in a nutshell, what my role involves. I work in both rural and urban areas, and each present their own set of challenges. One of the biggest challenges in urban areas, for example, is working out how trees can inhabit the concrete jungle safely and in harmony with the buildings and people around them.

My work will regularly require me to use specialist equipment and machinery. For instance, I am very familiar with the inside of a climbing harness! After all, it is often necessary to climb high up into trees to remove loose branches and so forth. The choice of whether to use a rope and harness or modern machinery, such as a crane, for a job is usually dependent on two factors: accessibility and height. If I can get a lifting machine into the area and if it can take me up sufficiently high in the tree, then I will, invariably, choose this option today because using modern machinery is much safer and more convenient than employing traditional methods.

The most common activity I tend to do in my day-to-day work is thinning, which involves making the branches and foliage on mature trees less dense. This could be to promote growth, for safety reasons, or for a number of other purposes.

Some would say that technically makes me an arborist (an actual tree surgeon) not an arboriculturist. What's the difference? Well, an arborist is mostly involved in planting, thinning and groundwork, while an arboriculturist tends to operate in a supervisory role or a managerial capacity. They would, for example, select suitable trees for a given environment and design landscaping schemes.

However, I work in a hands-on role only by choice. I also run my own consultancy business where I am at the top of the hierarchical pyramid, involved in all major decision-making. Being honest, I prefer the hands-on work, but it is my consultancy that pays the biggest bills at the end of the day, so my motivation for running it is mainly financial.

I value the business very much and the benefits I enjoy as a consequence of owning it. There is a lot of paperwork and official correspondence involved, though, which I find quite tedious. For example, I must carry out tree inspections and surveys and compile reports for the likes of engineers, solicitors, mortgage brokers and insurance companies. I also do work for the local council in terms of reviewing planning applications. There are a number of vested interests in such projects, so, naturally, working on them is very different to my arborist work. I need a very different skill set and I must function as part of a team and communicate effectively, both of which are challenging when you work with people from all walks of life. That said, it is the former which I struggled with most initially on opening up my consultancy, as I had been so used to playing it solo on projects, as it were, for so long.

Now, there are a number of different factors which [fading ...]

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 2 again.

[REPEAT PART 2]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

Narrator: You will hear a radio programme in which two people, Janet Jennings and Hal Brentford, are discussing corporate tax rates. For questions 16-20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 1 minute in which to look at Part 3.

Interviewer: Here with me today to discuss the controversial corporation tax policy employed by our government are tax expert, Janet Jennings, and director of global tech company LED Blending Solutions, Hal Brentford. Hal, first to you. Your company enjoys the benefits of our favourable business tax rates. Why, in your view, are they justified?

Hal: Well, Giles, I think there is a lot of misinformation in the public domain spread by the media about the tax system and I would like to set the record straight. First of all, the low business tax rates in this country attract global businesses to set up here. These businesses, in turn, provide huge numbers of skilled jobs. Let's not forget that companies like mine employ hundreds of thousands of people. This generates a lot of income tax revenue for the government, not to mention saves it having to pay more social welfare benefits. So while businesses like mine do pay low tax rates, we support the government indirectly in other ways that, I believe, justify these tax incentives.

Janet: I take Hal's point, Giles. Indeed, it is important for a small economy like ours to attract international investment and low rates of tax are certainly one way of doing this. However, I think we must be careful to ensure that we attract the right types of companies. There's a danger if our tax rates are too low, that companies will set up here for the wrong reasons. I also believe we undersell ourselves. Were our tax rates slightly higher, I think we would still represent an attractive investment opportunity for many big corporations on account of our skilled and youthful workforce.

Interviewer: Hal, how would you respond to that? Would your company have invested here if the business tax rates were less favourable?

Hal: Well, remember that we are an established company here now, embedded locally. We are here for the long-run regardless of whether or not the tax conditions change. However, the global economy is extremely competitive and this is not the only country to boast a skilled workforce. I think a low tax rate is key to continuing to attract new investment, which, in turn, is vital for continued growth and prosperity.

Interviewer: So if tax rates were raised significantly tomorrow for arguments sake, you don't think this would result in some of the key international employers set up here abandoning the country?

Hal: Absolutely not. You see, once companies like mine establish themselves here, we make a long-term commitment. It is simply not practical to suddenly up sticks and leave. We are too heavily invested in this project, for example, to abandon it now. That is my very point. The low tax rate attracts businesses which, in turn, will reward the policy with a long-term commitment. However, raising the tax rates substantially would, I believe, create a lot of ill will, and would make other potential investors think twice. We look for stable economic conditions wherever we invest. If the tax policy were to change dramatically all of a sudden and the country were to become less business friendly, this would scare off potential investors.

Janet: I'm not sure that the evidence backs up Hal's claims, actually. For instance, we have one of the lowest corruption rates

of the developed world, one of its hardest working and most productive workforces and state-of-the-art technological, education and transport infrastructure. Surely, Hal, these are more important factors than the tax rate, or are you suggesting otherwise?

Hal: I don't dispute any of this, Janet. However, these characteristics are not as unique to the country as they used to be. Other countries have realised how important it is to improve transparency and fight corruption, and so on, and are making great strides in that direction. I don't suggest that the tax rate is the be all and end all and the only deal-maker for prospective investors, but I think it is one of the vital components in any company's investment decision, as I already said, and to suggest otherwise is a bit fantastical. As other countries catch up, the tax rate becomes more and more important; therefore, I believe we benefit from maintaining the low rates and whilst I do not think a higher rate would be totally detrimental, I think it would be a mistake and definitely put off some potential new investors, a shift the effects of which are likely to be seen more in the long run than immediately.

Furthermore, there is more evidence ...

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 3 again.

[REPEAT PART 3]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Narrator: Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about being self-employed. Look at Task 1. For questions 21-25, choose from the list (A-H) how each speaker feels about being self-employed. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26-30, choose from the list (A-H) what each speaker suggests they are likely to do next in their career.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part 4.

Narrator: Speaker One

Speaker 1: It started out as a labour of love; however, somewhere along the line many many moons ago, I lost the love and now it's labour, pure and simple. At first, freelancing seemed like quite an attractive prospect, and the idea of being my own boss was quite appealing. However, the lack of job security is very unsettling and the financial pressures are constant. The strain has taken its toll on me and I feel old before my time. Friends have suggested that I take early retirement but they are unaware of just how precarious my financial position is. I feel the situation will inevitably come to a head before long and I am at a crossroads now where I must decide whether to stick it out and persevere working independently or try to find an in-house position. The latter option is preferable and I have just been successful in a second and final interview for something I recently applied for, so perhaps there is light at the end of the tunnel yet.

Narrator: Speaker Two

Speaker 2: When I was made redundant, the situation almost got the better of me. However, now I realise that it was actually the making of me. Rather than allow myself to get completely overwhelmed, I decided to reinvent myself as an independent contractor. I had lost my job solely on account of the economic conditions, so I remained ultra confident in my own capabilities. Besides, I left with a glowing reference and excellent connections, so this has enabled me to speedily develop my own network of clients and amass a number of lucrative contracts. Financially, therefore, I am little strained and I am very content

with the status quo. I see myself continuing to work as an independent contractor and would never dream of surrendering my newfound independence for the security of an office job again. Though I will not be working on indefinitely. My success has meant the prospect of hanging up the boots, so to speak, for good is very real and indeed imminent.

Narrator: Speaker Three

Speaker 3: My work is my vocation; I live and breathe my job and am truly enthused when I get up each new day about what lies ahead. There are, of course, trade-offs to being self-employed. Salaried positions are undoubtedly more secure and come with perks such as health and pension benefits. However, forgoing such benefits is a small sacrifice when you enjoy what you do to the extent that I can truly claim. I could never get the same satisfaction being in-house. I'm not financially very secure. I must admit, and I will probably have to work well past the normal retirement age, which is approaching quickly - hold off on the retirement party, I often tell my friends. That's some time away yet. They are aghast at me when I explain that I intend working well into my seventies - truly, so long as I am fit and healthy enough to do so. But why not? After all, my work does not and has never felt remotely like a chore.

Narrator: Speaker Four

Speaker 4: I turned down a lucrative role in one of the Big Five accounting firms to set up my own practice five years ago. They offered me a directorship to stay with the company, with an outrageous salary. My only regret is not having made the break sooner, however. But I learned an important lesson. You cannot allow yourself to be riddled by fear of the unknown. I have never enjoyed being managed and always wanted to be my own boss, but I was afraid to go outside of my comfort zone, so I stayed in-house stagnating. Now I have a vibrancy about me again that I can hardly believe. Working for myself is invigorating and I have

never felt better. The only problem I face now is that of my own success. My business is growing at a rate that I can no longer sustain on my own, so I have to ask myself am I prepared to take the risk and allow it to continue to grow by becoming an employer. Well, if past experience has thought me anything, it is to be brave. The only thing to fear is the status quo.

Narrator: Speaker Five

Speaker 5: I've never worked in-house and, though I enjoy being my own boss, I must admit that I do wonder what life is like on the other side. I think my curiosity is sufficiently strong that I would like to find out one day before I retire. Indeed, I may do so sooner rather than later as my business has got to the point now where I would have to start hiring staff to cover the workload and, whatever about being my own boss, I am not keen to manage others. Therefore, I think my next move is obvious. However, I'm in no great rush to go in that direction and start applying yet. Give it a few more months at least.

Narrator: Now you will hear Part 4 again.

[REPEAT PART 4]

Narrator: That is the end of Part 4.

In the actual test, there would now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. The examiner shall remind you when there is one minute left, so that you are sure to finish in time.