

Tapescripts



Tapescripts

Narrator: Aheadbooks presents Ahead with FCE, by Sean Haughton, copyright Aheadbooks. Cambridge English: First for Schools. Practice tests.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece, you'll hear this sound. You'll hear each piece twice. Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper.

You'll have five minutes at the end of the test in the actual exam to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Normally, at this point in the exam, you'll be invited to ask any questions you have. Take the opportunity to ask questions now because you must not speak during the test.

Tapescript | Test 1

Narrator: Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a brother and sister talking about their teacher.

Brother: So what do you think of Ms. Aylmer then? She explains things very clearly, doesn't she?

Sister: Um ... I didn't understand half the things she was talking about in our lesson today so I wouldn't exactly say that. However, I will say that I admire her passion for the job. You can tell that she loves what she's doing.

Brother: Definitely. You only have to look at all the extra notes she prepares for us to understand that. Maybe that explains why she got so angry with Jenny today for not listening – because of how much it means to her.

Sister: You might be right but there's no excuse for that – you should never lose your temper.

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a teenager talking about her local gym.

Girl: The equipment is virtually brand new, so I've got no complaints there. It won't need modernising for several years. And I can't fault the staff; they have not been rude to me once since I joined and they are always terribly helpful and attentive. No, my only problem with my gym is that it's rather busy for the majority of the day. That's probably because it just opened recently so a lot of people are coming to test it out. I tend to go first thing in the morning at 6 o'clock because, although it's never very quiet, it definitely isn't as busy then as it gets an hour or so later.

Narrator: Question 3

You hear a brother and sister talking about a film they saw.

Brother: Well, that certainly wasn't a disappointment. I'm quite pleased with my choice of film this evening. Wouldn't you agree, Nora?

Sister: Um ... I wasn't too keen on the acting, Paul. I felt the lead actor – the supposed 'star' – was actually rather weak. He was a disappointment really. The plot wasn't bad, though, I'll admit that.

Brother: I'm surprised you felt that way about him. I'm not saying he was fantastic but I don't think he gave a terrible performance by any means. What impressed me most though, was the plot. I thought it was interesting and very unusual. It gets five stars from me!

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a father talking to his teenage daughter about her charity mountain climb.

Father: I like the route you've chosen. It seems very safe and sensible. I would probably have chosen the same one.

Daughter: Thanks, Dad.

Father: I'm still a little concerned, though, Lara, because I've just checked the weather forecast and conditions are going to be very difficult up there. Are you sure you've got everything you need?

Daughter: Well, I think so, Dad but I'll look in my bag and check again, OK?

Father: Thanks, Lara. That would put my mind at ease and make me feel better about letting you go up there.

Narrator: Question 5

You hear someone talking about a play he just acted in.

Man: Well, that was better. Not like the opening night when almost everything went wrong! I felt just awful when I forgot my lines. I'm really glad things went well tonight. In fact, I get the feeling the audience were quite impressed with the performance we gave. When I looked out at their faces, everyone seemed to be having a good time. During that first night, I didn't think I would ever look forward to another performance. But, you know, after tonight, I feel quite good about the next show. Bring it on!

Narrator: Question 6

You hear two friends talking about their technology class.

Boy: You look a little nervous, Clara. What's wrong? Did you have some trouble with the homework?

Girl: Well, yes, actually but it's OK; I managed to finish it eventually! I just wish it hadn't taken up so much time. If only I'd been able to do more study for the test, you know? I'm really worried about that. The trouble is I spent the whole weekend on my homework and that project we had to complete that's due in today.

Boy: The project? Oh no ...

Girl: Now look who's nervous! You didn't forget to do it, did you?

Boy: No but I left it at home ...

Girl: Oh dear!

Narrator: Question 7

You hear a reviewer talking on the radio about a new film release.

Man: The storyline in this film was frighteningly bad if I'm honest. It was very predictable and I guessed who the robber was at the very start. That made the whole thing feel quite boring then, unfortunately. There was no mystery to solve so I lost interest. I should have watched the action movie in Screen 7 instead. It can't have been any worse. What a horrible waste of money this was!

Narrator: Question 8

You hear a brother and sister talking about a holiday.

Boy: I wasn't very keen on the view from the hotel, were you?

Girl: Well, I guess not. But, on the other hand, I thought it was very convenient to be close to the town centre. We might not have had a proper mountain view from where we were situated but at least we didn't have too far to walk to the shops.

Boy: I suppose. Did you enjoy it, then – the holiday in general, I mean?

Girl: Yes, to be honest, what I most enjoyed was the place where we were staying itself. It was incredibly comfortable and very nicely decorated. But I wouldn't like to have stayed there any longer than we did. I think one week is definitely enough to see and do everything the area has to offer.

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You will hear a scientist called Jeff talking to some students about current issues affecting Arctic wildlife. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Jeff: Good morning, everyone. I'm delighted to be here today to talk about current issues affecting Arctic wildlife and my thanks to your teacher, Miss Milena, for the invitation.

The first thing I'd like to clear up is a common point of confusion, though and I blame advertising companies for causing this because ... well, think about how often you see scenes with both penguins and polar bears on ads on television. Now, I'll admit that these scenes are incredibly cute; however – and I hate to be the messenger of bad news – seeing polar bears and penguins together in the wild is impossible. There is not a single penguin species that inhabits the northern hemisphere, whereas polar bears, on the other hand,

are only found there. The moral of the story is: never believe what you see on the television!

Now, I guess the latter, polar bears, are probably the most famous Arctic animals and with good reason; after all, they are magnificent-looking creatures. So let's start our discussion with them. You might be surprised to learn that although they appear white in colour, their skin is in fact black. But ... their fur is white, though, right? Well, actually, that's not the case either. Polar bear hair is colourless, or see-through. It only appears white because the air spaces in the hair scatter light of all colours, giving the bear's coat that white appearance.

These air pockets in the fur help to keep the polar warm during the harsh Arctic winter, when it can turn incredibly cold. The average winter temperature at the North Pole, for example, is around -40 degrees Celsius and the temperature has been known to fall as low as -50 or below from time to time. Mind you, summers there aren't terribly warm either, with the average being about 0 degrees!

Polar bears, of course, are carnivores or meat-eaters. They mainly hunt seals, which make up the most significant part of their diet. They will occasionally hunt beluga whales and walrus too and, of course, their diet can also include fish, crustaceans and so on in coastal areas near the open ocean. And like all bears, they are opportunists, so they will eat anything they can get their paws on, including human garbage if the supply of food is low and they have no other options.

They are also the biggest land mammals to inhabit the Arctic but although they are classified as land mammals, they are incredibly skilful swimmers too. The longest recorded polar bear journey by water was a staggering 426 miles. That said, it is highly unusual for polar bears to travel this far by sea because they tend to lose a lot of energy and fat as a result. Indeed, the female bear which made that particular journey lost around 22 percent of its bodyweight in the process. Scientists believe this unusual behaviour is a sign of the species' struggle to adapt to global warming. Bears are being forced to make ever-longer journeys by sea in search of food because the pack ice is melting.

Unfortunately, for this reason, because they rely to a great extent on sea ice to hunt for seals, the staple of their diet, global warming is expected to impact polar bears very significantly. Sea ice levels have already declined a lot in the last number of years and the pattern of melting appears as if it will continue. For example, the minimum sea ice coverage in the Arctic is measured in September every year and it is currently reducing at a rate of 13.4 percent per decade. The maximum extent of sea ice is usually early in the year, in January or February and, worryingly, over the last few years even that has been unusually low too. It looks like the polar bear faces a very uncertain future. It is already

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classified as a vulnerable species and some scientists think it is only a matter of time before that classification changes to 'endangered species'. Now

Narrator: Now you will hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five extracts in which teenagers talk about clothes. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says is important to them about the clothes they wear. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: To me, fashion is about fitting in. What I mean by that is, I don't want to look or feel different to anyone else, particularly my classmates. I just want to be normal! Therefore, when deciding what to wear, I always look to them for inspiration. I try to copy their style. If they are wearing a certain type of clothing, I'll choose that too. My parents say that I shouldn't worry about what my friends do and that I should be proud to be an individual and find my own style but I'm not interested in pleasing them. They must understand that dressing like my friends at school is what makes me happy. And what's wrong with that?

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: I like designer clothing as much as the next person; I mean, it's nice to look at and all that but I'm not going to spend a fortune on what I wear. No, I prefer to dress myself as cheaply as possible. I feel that buying labels is such a waste of money. And I don't dress to please anybody – my friends or my family. The way I look at it is that there are so many other things I'd rather spend my money on; experiences like holidays abroad or courses in new languages, for example. I don't believe in spending money on material things. I believe in investing in memories.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: I only have one question when deciding what to wear: does it feel good? If the answer to that is yes, then it doesn't matter to me whether my clothes are expensive or cost as little money as possible, so long as I am happy in them. To be honest, most of the time I wear loose-fitting things for that reason. I find tighter clothes uncomfortable. Some of my friends say the tight clothing they wear is fashionable these days and that I should copy them but being fashionable isn't my priority, as I said. You can become too focused on fashion and what's the point in looking good if you don't feel good?

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: I'm not like some people I know who 'have to' wear expensive labels and designer brands. That said, I do wear some expensive clothes but only be-

cause I want to be like the person I really look up to. She's a famous musician called Leah. I admire her as an artist and as a person, not for what she wears but I think it's fun to dress like her too. It gives me a lot of pleasure. She doesn't wear any particular type of material all the time but she's incredibly stylish. And it's a style all of her own; she's really original and different from everyone else. That's part of the reason I respect her so much and copy her look.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: What does 'fashionable' mean anyway? To be honest, I don't want to look like everyone else. I'm an individual and I want to be recognised as one in what I wear. I make a lot of my own clothes, actually, which saves me a ton of money but I don't do it to be cheap. I do it so that my style is one of a kind. I am the only person who dresses like me – and isn't that a wonderfully special thing? Of course, some of my outfits and styles are very unique and maybe even a little bit crazy, which doesn't please my parents all the time. But I think they respect the fact that I'm brave enough to be myself and that I don't try to copy other people.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear an interview with a young woman called Michelle, who works as a travel writer. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: I'm delighted to be joined today by travel writer Michelle Koumba. Welcome to the show! So Michelle, tell me, how did you get into full-time travel writing?

Michelle: Well, I took the traditional route into journalism, Paul. I did a degree at college and then got unpaid work experience at a publishing company for a year. That got my foot in the door and my career progressed from there. I wish I had a great story about how I wrote an amazing travel blog or self-published an e-book but, sadly, I don't!

Interviewer: Right, OK. So you did an internship?

Michelle: Yes! I actually went to the Canary Islands and worked there for a year. I already had some Spanish, so it was a great chance to practise. I never expected to fall in love with the islands themselves, though. The image people in Britain have of the Canaries is of beaches full of tourists from all over the world. Yuk! But, in actual fact, less than five minutes from those horribly overcrowded beaches you can find beautiful, quiet landscapes and even some pretty wildlife. But what really got me hooked on the islands were the great paths through the mountains, where I went trekking and mountain-biking. They were awesome!

Interviewer: Michelle, you've been to so many places, so, apart from the Canaries, what's been the highlight so far?

Michelle: Um ... I loved another experience in northern Spain called the Camino, which is basically a really long walk where you meet lots of great people. Flying over a volcanic island in New Zealand in a helicopter was pretty cool too. Seeing the northern lights in Iceland while snowmobiling up a glacial mountain was also fabulous. Hmmm ... Spain or Iceland? Probably the latter. Yes.

Interviewer: Interesting. It sounds like you have the perfect job – are there any drawbacks?

Michelle: Um ... I'm a vegetarian so finding the right food for my diet can be tricky in some cultures but that's more of an adventure than a drawback! It's fun! I guess this isn't a drawback either but it's certainly my most difficult challenge – just sitting down and deciding what places and things to visit and do before I go away is really tough. There's so much to choose from and inevitably there will always be things I regret not doing afterwards. I've never found it very tricky to overcome cultural and language problems though. I find kindness is a language we all speak and relate to.

Interviewer: Indeed. Now, you talked of regrets – what's your biggest, Michelle?

Michelle: Um ... I mentioned that I speak Spanish. I learned that in college. I wish I hadn't avoided language subjects during my secondary education, though. I was really far behind the other students at uni. I also regret not trying to learn French before I went on the Compostela. That's a long walk in France that's a bit like the Camino I spoke of earlier.

Interviewer: OK. Now, tell me, how do you feel about the rise of voluntourism? It's becoming a huge industry, is it not?

Michelle: Yes, indeed. I'm not actually a fan of it to be honest. I think the people – voluntourists – are trying to be unselfish but they often make the situation worse rather than better. For example, they sometimes do work locals who need jobs could be doing instead. I would like to see more people get involved in the traditional charity industry. I feel there's too much ignorance about what really needs to be done to help people.

Interviewer: Interesting. And, lastly, speaking of charity work, tell me what happened in Tanzania?

Michelle: Ah, well that was a fundraising climb up Kili-manjaro, a mountain there. Yes, I did run into some trouble. Nothing too serious or permanent, though. What happened was down to my own stupidity! I took my sunglasses off for ten minutes on the snow-covered mountain top and got sun blindness. It wears off after a while but it's quite frightening ... I had been really afraid of getting a bad case of acute mountain

sickness, which can lead to serious brain problems, before I left, though. If you get that, you have to be helicoptered off the mountain to hospital immediately. But, luckily

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.

Tapescript | Test 2

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a brother and sister talking about lunch options at a local café.

Brother: I was surprised at how good lunch tasted today, weren't you?

Sister: Yes, that new café is so inexpensive, I was certain everything would taste awful but it was surprisingly delicious!

Brother: I don't think I'll be going back too often, though. There wasn't a huge range of choices on the menu, was there?

Sister: No, you're right. I think that's how they can keep the food from being expensive, though. They have a very small selection of stuff, so I guess it costs less to prepare.

Brother: Good point. I hadn't thought of that.

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a teenager talking about her neighbourhood.

Girl: I never feel unsafe here, which is definitely positive – not even late at night. Where I used to live was the exact opposite – it always felt dangerous when it got dark. It's very convenient to have a local park just down the road too but it does get incredibly busy there because there's nowhere else for people to go. That's a shame. We should have more options like that in the neighbourhood. Then it wouldn't get so crowded. I can't fault the range of shops in the area, though. Everything I need is under a five minute walk away, which is fantastic.

Narrator: Question 3

You hear a brother and sister talking about a party they went to.

Brother: The food at that party wasn't bad at all, was it?

Sister: No, I agree. It was very tasty. In fact, I was pleasantly surprised by the whole experience. It was a fun night – good music and good company, too.

Brother: Yes, if only the music hadn't stopped playing so early. I was incredibly disappointed that it was all

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over so soon. As you say, we were having so much fun.

Sister: I agree but there might have been complaints from the neighbours about the music if it had continued playing. Besides, I'm glad we finished early as I had to get up at 6 the next morning!

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a father talking to his teenage daughter about her school report.

Father: Obviously, I'm not going to congratulate you on those grades Tina, because I think we both know you can do a whole lot better.

Daughter: I know, Dad. I'm not celebrating either. I feel like I've let myself down.

Father: Well, let that be a warning to you – a lesson learned. You now know you have to work hard to get the results you want. It doesn't happen by magic. But, come on now, you shouldn't be too hard on yourself either. You look like you're going to cry.

Daughter: I'm really angry with myself, Dad.

Father: Tina, we all make mistakes. The important thing is that you learn from them. I know you'll do better next time.

Narrator: Question 5

You hear someone talking about his job.

Man: In my latest role, I play a mad dental surgeon. It's a comedy and this guy is basically the strangest man you'll ever meet. Anyway, that's a coincidence because I had to go to the dentist's myself very recently and my character reminds me of the actual guy who did my teeth. He's a little bit crazy too, you know? One of those people who says the first thing that comes into his head all the time. It's quite entertaining, though. I call him 'the crazy tooth doctor'. To tell you the truth, I'm actually really glad I met him. After all, it gave me someone to base my character on!

Narrator: Question 6

You hear two friends talking about their school tour.

Boy: Why do you look so worried, Selma? Are you not a good flier?

Girl: I don't know, Leo. I've never actually gone anywhere by plane before. I could love it or hate it. We'll find out!

Boy: So what's the problem?

Girl: Nothing really. I know I should be looking forward to this. I've never gone on holiday without Mum and Dad before and I guess I am a little excited about that.

Boy: So what then?

Girl: Well, I checked the weather forecast at the airport and I hadn't realised it's going to be so cold when we get there. I hope I've brought enough layers with me ...

Narrator: Question 7

You hear a reviewer talking on the radio about a new

book release.

Man: This novel starts off so well that I got very excited when I began reading it. 'Surely the ending is going to be equally good,' I thought. However, sadly I was disappointed. To my surprise, it had nothing interesting to offer after that great beginning I mentioned and I got bored of reading it about halfway through. The only reason I finished it was to do this review. One star – and that's being kind.

Narrator: Question 8

You hear a brother and sister talking about their dad's new job.

Boy: What do you think of Dad's new job, then?

Girl: Well, look, I think we'll probably see a lot less of him in the evenings from now on. He's going to be very busy and it's a lot of responsibility.

Boy: Yeah. That's what I'm afraid of.

Girl: Well, yes, it's a shame but at least he's going to finally be doing something he's really passionate about, right? I'm tired of seeing him look so unhappy. That last job was terrible for his health. He might have to work long hours now but he's doing what he loves, so I don't think he's very likely to get stressed again. I'm really pleased about that. He was under too much pressure before.

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a talk about Mount Everest given by a mountaineer called Nicola. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Nicola: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm delighted to be here in front of you today and my thanks to your teacher, Mr Moyles, for the invitation.

Before I tell you about my own climbing experience on Everest, let me first give you some facts about this incredible mountain, which of course, is the tallest on the planet, at almost 8,850 metres above sea-level.

Everest's peak separates two different countries, Nepal on the south side and Tibet on the north side. The traditional name for the mountain amongst the people of Tibet is Chomolungma, which means 'mother goddess of the universe'; while the people of Nepal called it Sargamatha, or 'goddess of the sky'. Climbers can tackle the mountain from either side, though routes starting on the southern side tend to be the most popular.

The climbing season usually begins in about mid-May. This is the time of year when success is most likely because of the prevailing weather conditions. For most of the year, the jet stream blows over the top of the mountain and wind speeds can reach more than 200 miles per hour, making climbing incredibly dangerous. However, during May, the jet stream tends to move

north and, as a result, wind speeds decrease considerably. At the same time, the temperature increases and it becomes somewhat milder, so this is regarded as the optimum moment to attempt to reach the summit – the top of the mountain – and it is known as ‘the summit window’. There is a second period with similar conditions in late Autumn each year but this is less popular with climbers.

The first ever attempt to summit the mountain took place in 1921, when a British climbing went up from the north side. However, it was not until more than 30 years later in 1953 that climbers made it successfully to the top, from the south. Then, a local Sherpa called Tenzing Norgay and a New Zealander by the name of Edmund Hillary became the first two mountaineers to step foot on the peak. Most people believe that the key reason for their success was the use of bottled oxygen. Previous efforts to climb the mountain hadn’t availed of this and that was widely regarded as the reason for their failure. In fact, for a very long time after Tenzing and Hillary’s ascent, it was thought that climbing Everest without extra oxygen was impossible. That was until an Italian climber called Reinhold Messner and his partner, an Austrian named Peter Habler, reached the summit without an artificial air supply in 1978.

Today, however, almost all climbers do use extra oxygen to help them as it is regarded as much safer to climb this way. The climb starts at base camp, which is at a little over 5,300 metres high but it is not common to use extra oxygen until you get to approximately 7,900 metres. Of course, doing the entire climb with oxygen would definitely be easier but climbers prefer not to for two reasons. One is the practical side – oxygen is very expensive. The other is the fact that it reduces the sense of challenge and achievement.

Now I mentioned that one of the first climbers to summit was a ‘Sherpa’. What do I mean by this? Well, Sherpas are the local people of Nepal’s western part. They have an advantage over most of us as climbers because their biology naturally makes them better adapted to high-altitude climbing. That is why there have been so many successful climbs by Sherpas over the years. For example, the record for the most number of successful ascents is held jointly by two Sherpas, Apa Sherpa and Phurba Tashi. They’ve climbed Everest an incredible 21 times each. Sherpas also play a key role in getting routes up the mountain ready to climb before the climbing season begins each year and many of them also provide their services to climbing teams as guides. Now

Narrator: Now you’ll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five short extracts in which teenagers talk about their best friends. For questions 19–23, choose

from the list (A–H) what each speaker says about how they met their best friend. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: I’ve known most of my friends since primary school but my best friend, Ciara, is a different story. Although we did go to the same school together, we were in different years so we never met there. Ciara’s actually a year older than me, you see. The first time I spoke to her was when one of my other friends, Mel, introduced us. I was queueing up for tickets for a concert for my favourite band, Warmplay. Then I spotted Mel just ahead of me in the queue and waved. She was with Ciara and she brought her over for a chat. We got on well from the very beginning and have been best friends ever since that day.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: I’ve always wanted to go travelling abroad, especially to Latin America when I’m older. But to do that properly, I’ll need to speak at least one foreign language, though preferably two. I’d like to speak both Spanish and Portuguese fluently. Anyway, I decided I’d better make a start and so I signed up for an evening course in Spanish. That’s where I met Niall. He had the same interest in travelling to the Americas as me and that’s also why he was doing the course. We had so much in common that we instantly became best friends. We even went to primary schools with the same name – John’s College – but in completely different places. What a strange coincidence!

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: Helen and I were both football mad but we went to different primary schools, so, obviously we played on opposing teams. Anyway, we met in the final of the Schools Cup. She was a striker and I was a defender, so basically it was my job to try to stop her scoring goals. Well, unfortunately, I wasn’t very successful that day because she got a hat trick and her team won the match and the cup comfortably by five goals to nil. The only good thing was that we got to know each other a little bit that day. We chatted a lot, I mean, during the game and I knew instantly that I liked her. She must have felt the same way because we’ve been best friends ever since.

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: Michael and I have always had the same taste in music. Next week, we’re going to see our favourite rock band, Meltzer, play live in concert in London. I can’t wait. It was actually music that started our friendship too. I remember I was at a house party for some person from school who I didn’t really know very well. I just went because I was bored. Anyway, it was a big mistake; the party was really dull and the music

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was just awful. I started making a joke about it to one of my friends and suddenly I heard this guy laughing really hard at what I was saying beside me. We got talking and soon found out that we shared a love of rock music. That was the start of our friendship.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: Mary and I were in the same year at primary school but I never met her there, so I must have been in a different class. We actually met in Amsterdam of all places. I'd flown there to see a rock concert by my favourite band, Jet Blast. When the concert was over, I still had one full day left in the city so I decided to rent a bicycle and go cycling in the park. Mary was competing in a running event there and she looked really tired so I offered her a drink of water. We started talking and realised that we were both from the same town in England. And that was how it all began.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear an interview with a young woman called Lara Guernsey, who is the lead singer in an up-and-coming band. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: Joining me today is singer Lara Guernsey. Lara, congratulations on your recent success! Tell me, what's the secret?

Lara: To success? I think there are number of factors but the principal one is probably that we took the risk to quit our jobs and devote all our time to the band. It definitely also helped that we already had a good name locally for our live performances and, indeed, we were also lucky that a really big name in the music industry saw one of those live performances, too. That was a great connection to make. But the main reason was, in my opinion, definitely the first one I gave.

Interviewer: Interesting. And, now, of course, you're on to your second album. What can we expect?

Lara: Um ... well, there are actually a few cover songs on there – some of our favourite tunes from other bands. That's quite unusual but we've always wanted to do a few of those as well as our original material. Of course, we did write the majority of the songs, though. It was different, this time, working with a large record label instead of independently. There were a lot more people who had a say in what the album finally looked like. I guess, in that sense, we had less freedom to be creative ourselves but we also learned a huge amount from working with experienced musicians and producers.

Interviewer: And now that you're finished in the studio, how do you feel about going back on tour again?

Lara: Well, it's been almost a year, so I'm actually more nervous than excited about facing the fans on the

stage again! I hope I'll get over those nerves quickly! What most encourages me is the fact that the band we are touring with is one of the biggest on the planet, so there are going to be sell-out concerts every night, which means we have the opportunity to attract a huge number of new fans who've never heard of us before. We felt it was better to tour as a supporting act rather than to try to go out on our own as we don't feel big enough to sell out venues yet but I look forward to the day when we can.

Interviewer: Indeed. And where do you see yourselves going after this tour is completed – over the next few years, I mean?

Lara: Well, we've asked ourselves that already and we've tried to be honest. I think all the members of the band do want to do their own solo projects eventually – probably before we record a third studio album but I think it's highly unlikely that we'll split up for good, nor do I think we'll take an extended break for longer than a year or so.

Interviewer: Exciting times for you all! What will you miss most when you start touring, do you think?

Lara: Well, most people say 'my best friends' or 'my family' or similar but, you see, one of the reasons I'm confident we won't split up is because the other members of the band basically are my four best friends. That's a big bonus to have around you when you are touring. Oddly, I miss home the most – but I don't mean home comforts like my bed or my sofa; I mean things that are very British, like the weather, for example, which people find hard to believe.

Interviewer: Hmm. British weather, really?! OK, now what about the highlight of your career to date?

Lara: Um, well it hasn't happened yet, so it can't be a highlight but when we support Rocket Set on this tour, it's going to be amazing. But ... so far the most memorable thing has probably been playing in front of our local fans in our little village in Oxfordshire. OK, the venue was tiny but it was full and it was incredibly special to get that kind of response from the people we grew up with. We're really proud of recording our first album independently and then signing our first recording contract but that's not quite the same.

Interviewer: Interesting. And, lastly, what advice have you got for musicians starting out in the industry today?

Lara: I think my advice would be that you have to take a gamble and risk everything. If you don't commit fully, it won't work out. But above all else: expect to fail – and fail and fail. And whatever you do, don't quit. You can't give up and you've got to keep trying. Sometimes you can get lucky and success comes without a lot of hard work but not very often. Keep going

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.

That's the end of Part Four.

Tapescript | Test 3

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a brother and sister talking about the weather.

Brother: They've changed the forecast from snow to rain now – did you see that?

Sister: Yes, I did. So why do you look so happy? That means school is unlikely to be closed. We're going to have to sit our test.

Brother: Yeah but you're forgetting my team's supposed to play in the final of the league tonight. I don't want that to be cancelled.

Sister: Oh yeah. But will it be on in the rain?

Brother: Of course. We never cancel for rain. It doesn't matter how much there is. It's just wintry weather that makes it impossible to play, you know?

Sister: Hmmm. Well, you're going to get very wet. Have fun!

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a teenager talking about her pets.

Girl: I had a pet dog but then it ran away. Unfortunately, we never found it and I felt really bad about that, like it was my fault. My parents wanted to get me another dog but I was afraid the same thing would happen again. Instead, I asked for a goldfish. Well, they didn't bring home a fish, though. When they went to the shop, they saw a talking bird and decided to buy that instead. This was about four weeks after Rex, my dog, had disappeared. Anyway, imagine my surprise when he turned up at the door that same day before they arrived home. I told my parents to bring the other pet back to the shop. I was so happy and relieved!

Narrator: Question 3

You hear a brother and sister talking about a new classmate.

Brother: What do you think of the new student?

Sister: I don't know. He doesn't seem to be very intelligent, though, does he? I mean, he hardly said a word in the debate in English class today. It was like he had no ideas.

Brother: I'm not so sure, Greta. I think maybe that's just because he's not very confident. Maybe he'll have more to say in a few weeks when he's feeling comfortable around us. I mean, did you see how quiet he was at lunch time? It's not like he made lots of friends on

his first day now, is it?

Sister: No, I hadn't thought of it like that. Perhaps you're right.

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a father talking to his teenage daughter about her choice of course.

Daughter: Aren't you going to try to convince me to change my mind, Dad?

Father: No, Sarah. I think you already understand how important a decision this is for your future. It's possibly the biggest choice you've had to make, isn't it? But you're aware of that. I admit I'm a little surprised you are interested in Photography. I had always thought you wanted to do Science, Sarah.

Daughter: Do you think I should, Dad? Have I made a mistake?

Father: I didn't say that at all. If Photography is in your heart and that's what you really want to do, then it's the right decision. Only you can know that. You just have to have confidence in yourself, Sarah.

Narrator: Question 5

You hear someone talking about getting his car repaired.

Man: I decided to try out a new mechanic when I needed some repairs done to my car because the last mechanic I used gave me a huge bill and I think it was far too expensive. So, anyway, I can't complain about the work the new guy did on the car. It's driving incredibly well since he returned it to me. That said, I feel he could have done the job a lot quicker. That's the one thing I'm disappointed about.

Narrator: Question 6

You hear two friends talking about their holiday plans.

Boy: Are you excited about the trip?

Girl: Yes, very much. I've never been abroad without my parents before so it will be a totally new experience.

Boy: I wish we weren't staying in a hostel, though.

Girl: Well, I'd prefer a hotel too but I'm trying to see the positives. At least we'll meet a lot of different people there.

Boy: Do you think there'll be many Spaniards?

Girl: I hope so. I've heard the area is very popular with people from Spain. I can't wait to try out my language skills. I've been practising a lot.

Narrator: Question 7

You hear a reviewer talking on the radio about a new car.

Man: I test-drove the Merculado 700 last Friday and there were many aspects of the new model that I was impressed with. For example, I thought it would be uncomfortable to drive like the previous one was but

actually if felt really smooth and there was great control over the steering. I didn't dislike the design either. It's stylish inside and out. I think the only negative the car has is that the basic model costs the same as the Audreno 4 but it doesn't have electric windows, fog lights, satellite navigation or an alarm like the Audreno does. They cost extra and I feel that's unacceptable. For that reason only, I'd probably buy the Audreno even though it's not as nice looking.

Narrator: Question 8

You hear a brother and sister talking about their babysitter.

Boy: This is ridiculous!

Girl: What is?

Boy: Well, why do we need a babysitter at our age? I'm old enough to take care of myself now.

Girl: I don't mind having a babysitter, actually. I don't know why Mum changed from the previous one, Anna, though. She was really kind and polite - the exact opposite of the one we have now, actually, who just shouts at us the whole time.

Boy: Mum said why; she didn't think Anna was old enough.

Girl: Well, she was very mature for her age. Besides, anyone would be better than this babysitter.

Boy: Agreed!

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a talk by a historian called Martha about dragons. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Martha: Dragons are a part of myth and legend in many different parts of the world, from the Americas to Europe to China. They are, for example, synonymous with Chinese New Year and, of course, China also celebrates the Year of the Dragon, which falls once every 12 years. The dragon also makes an appearance in Wales, where it can be seen on the national flag. An example of dragons in American tradition is seen in the paintings of the native people there. For example, the Piasa bird is a dragon-like creature which appears in rock and cave paintings in Illinois.

But what about real dragons? Have they ever existed or are they all just myths and legends? Well, the belief in dragons in the past can be partly explained by the discovery of huge bones that could belong to no known animal. Of course, up until a few hundred years ago, no-one could explain where these bones came from. Today, of course, we know the creatures that left these bones – or fossils to be more correct – behind as dinosaurs. So, in a way, dinosaurs are responsible for giving rise to the belief in dragons.

Although, of course, today, we can explain away such mysteries of the past with the help of science, dragons have remained popular in many different parts of our culture. For example, they frequently appear in works of fiction, especially the fantasy genre, with recent examples of this including the books of J.K. Rowling and J.R. Tolkien. They are also frequently brought to life on the big screen in cinemas.

The word 'dragon' comes from the Ancient Greek language and means 'to watch'. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that, in legend, dragons typically performed the role of guards. Usually, they guarded treasures such as gold or priceless gems in mountain caves or similar. They were often depicted as powerful, fire-breathing beasts of considerable intelligence. Many had wings and could fly and some could even speak. Generally, they were regarded as evil creatures and the enemies of the humans they encountered. However, this was not true in every culture. Indeed, in modern-day China, for example, the dragon is a symbol of power and good luck, so it has much more positive associations there.

Of course, there is at least one real dragon in existence today that we know of: the Komodo dragon; although this is not a dragon at all despite its name but rather a huge lizard. When Europeans first discovered it in the early 20th century, however, it caused fascination and excitement. No-one had seen such a huge creature of this kind on land before.

And big they certainly are. Komodos can, in rare cases, reach a size of 3 metres or more long. Their unusually great size compared to other lizards has been attributed to the fact that they are the top hunter on the islands where they live. With no animals to hunt them, these lizards could thrive and become very successful, therefore.

They hunt by ambush, sneaking up on their prey, which includes a variety of birds, mammals and invertebrates. Big Komodo dragons mainly eat deer. They have a great sense of smell and can locate injured animals at a range of up to 9.5 kilometres.

Although these giant lizards did initially cause fear and alarm among Europeans when they first visited their islands, of course, they are not proof that dragons really do or ever did exist. However, I still find dragons a fascinating subject, even if they are only fictional characters from our myths and legends

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five short extracts in which teenagers talk about their role models. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the role model who each person is talking about. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: My role model is also an actual model; he wears clothes for a living and walks up and down the catwalk looking really good. His name is John Montel. He does a lot of photo shoots for magazines you probably see his picture around a lot. The reason he's my role model is not because of his profession, though but his determination. When John was a young teen he used to play football for Manchester. People said he would be the next big star. However, he got a head injury in a terrible tackle and lost all control of his legs. He had to be coached to walk again. John could never go back to playing football, unfortunately but I think what he's achieved as a model is amazing.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: I've known Len since I was a young child. He lived in the house just down the road from us and he was best friends with my grandad. For some reason, we used to call him by the nickname 'Uncle Len' even though he wasn't related to us. I guess that's probably because we saw so much of him all the time. The reason I admire and look up to Len is simple, though; he's one of the kindest people I've ever met. He taught me the value and importance of treating everyone you meet properly, no matter who they are. It's the most important lesson I've learned.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: When I was about 13, I used to play football for the local team. I loved football but, unfortunately, our coach was incredibly mean and, well, he scared me. After a few years playing for him, my confidence was really low at that point. Anyway, during one game, I missed a penalty and he started shouting at me in front of everyone. Then, I couldn't believe what happened next. I saw Mark Long, the star player for Cheltenham FC walking onto the field towards me. He came over and shook my hand and smiled. Then he looked at the coach, who went completely silent. Apparently, Mark had been in the area for the day visiting his family home and had decided to watch a local football match. I'm so glad he did. His actions meant so much to me – a truly great role model.

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: My role model isn't someone famous and it's definitely not someone you've ever heard of. Her name is Jackie Wallace and she's my best friend at school. The reason I like Jackie is because she is never afraid to be herself and, more importantly, to be different. That's hard for young people and most of us are afraid to stand out or be noticed but not Jackie. She even makes all her own clothes as a hobby. To be honest, some of them look ridiculous but she doesn't care and I think that's fantastic. I try to be like her in that way and not worry about what people think.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: There aren't a lot of famous people in my little village. There used to be an England footballer called Tom Marshall but he moved to London a few years ago. After that, I didn't think there was anyone famous left. One day, though, when I was walking my dog in the park with Dad, I let go of the lead by mistake and the dog ran away. Anyway, this old man brought him back and just smiled at us and waved goodbye. Dad pointed at him and said: 'You see that man, Johnny. That's Trent Flanders, the greatest racing driver who's ever lived.' I couldn't believe it. I went on the internet afterwards and he was right. The reason I admire Trent is because he's so normal and leads such a simple life for a star. That's pretty cool, I think.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear an interview with a young actor called Takeshi Santos. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: I'm delighted to be joined today by actor Takeshi Santos. Welcome to the show! Takeshi, that's an unusual mix of names. Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Takeshi: Yes, indeed! My first name is Japanese and my surname is Brazilian. My mum's Japanese, my dad's from Brazil and I was born here in the UK. My Japanese roots explain how I actually first got into acting. I used to love Japanese animation when I was growing up and I began studying it at university. There, while doing some on-set work experience as part of my course, I was asked to audition for a small part in a film. I got it and the rest is history. Some people think I started acting because of my dad, who's a well-known actor in Brazil but no-one's heard of him over here so that didn't help. Besides, I didn't even want to be an actor when I was younger. My mum tried to get me to audition as a child but, of course, I refused!

Interviewer: I see. Now, you've said your latest role is incredibly important – why is that?

Takeshi: Well, because I can't think of any half-Japanese, half-Brazilian actors who've starred in a Hollywood movie, can you? In fact, I can't even think of many Japanese or Brazilian ones either. I don't care about the money I'll earn from this blockbuster film or anything like that. All that matters to me is the message my getting this role sends to people: you don't have to look a certain way to be successful. That's huge!

Interviewer: I agree. How do people react to you in Japan, by the way?

Takeshi: Um ... to be honest, no-one there has re-

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ally heard of me yet. I know that will all change after this film, so maybe in a few months I won't be able to walk down the street without a huge amount of media and public attention following me but for the moment everyone leaves me alone. Besides, critically, I speak Japanese, so it's really easy for me to blend in!

Interviewer: Now, going back to your new movie, Moon North, why do you enjoy working with the director so much?

Takeshi: Miri Lloyd and I have a great working relationship. She's an incredibly demanding director and she wants to get the very best performance from me every time. I love how creative she is in her filming methods too. We also share a passion for Japanese films. Well, for her, it's a new passion since she met me, so she doesn't know much about them yet but she's learning!

Interviewer: And can you let us in on what your next role might be after this big break?

Takeshi: I can't say too much ... Um, it's not a Hollywood movie but rather a Japanese one. It's based on an English spy classic – you know James Bond, right? But it's adapted. I'm also incredibly nervous about the fact that Japanese martial arts expert, Akira Anami, is going to train me for the role.

Interviewer: Exciting! You mentioned that you were at university when you took your first role – do you regret not finishing your degree?

Takeshi: Although anime, or Japanese animation, was my first love, I believe my true talent lies in acting so I'm really glad that I took the chance to become an actor when it was given to me. You have to say yes to your opportunities in life. I used to worry a little that my mum would be angry with me for dropping out because I once promised her I'd finish uni but she tells me all the time how proud she is, so I can't say that there are any regrets.

Interviewer: And after the Japanese movie, Takeshi, what then? Where do you see your longer-term future?

Takeshi: Well, I'd rather be in front of the camera than behind it, so I haven't got any wish to see what it's like to be a director. Once I've acted in one Japanese movie, I'd like to focus on Hollywood again, though. I don't see myself staying in the Japanese film industry permanently but I really wanted to do this to honour my mum. On the other hand, I've never done any stage acting and that appeals to me a lot. Performing in front of a live audience must be very difficult. I would like to much experience in that area soon. I think it would help me grow as an actor.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.
That's the end of Part Four.

Tapescript | Test 4

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this

test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a brother and sister talking about their new home.

Brother: There's a nice green area in front of the house, isn't there?

Sister: Yes but it's not like it's *our* garden, though, is it? It's a public space.

Brother: I don't think that's going to be a problem, Jane. Look around you and listen. It's incredibly quiet here, don't you think?

Sister: Yes, you're right. If only we were a little closer to school, though.

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a teenager talking about her shopping trip.

Girl: I was going to buy a new dress for a relation's wedding but then I met my cousin, Nicky, in the mall. Nicky's sports mad so we soon ended up in a sports store instead. I didn't mind as I needed to get a new pair of gym shoes for PE anyway and I found just what I was looking for there – although they cost a little more than I'd planned to spend. But later, when we were window shopping, I saw this incredibly stylish designer top for half price in Top Store. I wish I'd had some money left because I definitely would have bought it.

Narrator: Question 3

You hear a brother and sister talking about their friend's behaviour.

Brother: I'm worried about Jack. He doesn't look happy. Do you think someone at school is being mean or cruel to him?

Sister: I noticed his behaviour today too. He was funny with me in English class. I thought it was because of that argument we had last week. Maybe he's still angry with me.

Brother: I doubt it. He was strange with everyone today. It's really hard to understand. The exams are over and he got really good grades. He should be stress-free now, so I can't think of anything that might be wrong apart from what I first mentioned.

Sister: Maybe you're right. You should talk to him in private. If it's that, he needs someone to help him.

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a mother talking to her teenage son about one of his friends.

Mother: I understand that Thomas was very rude and hurt your feelings. He shouldn't have behaved like that.

Son: No, he shouldn't. I don't think I want to hang out with him anymore.

Mother: Hmm ... Yes, I can understand how you feel. I think I would feel the same way under normal circumstances but put yourself in his shoes for a moment. Sometimes people behave badly when they are under a lot of stress.

Son: You mean with the problems his family have at the moment?

Mother: How would you feel if that were you?

Son: Hmm ... Maybe you're right, Mum. It has been a tough few weeks for him. I guess he's only human.

Narrator: Question 5

You hear someone talking about a play he just watched.

Man: The music was incredibly loud, which I found very frustrating, particularly when the actors started shouting over it so that we could hear them clearly. I wish I hadn't been able to hear them, though, because they were terrible. I looked around me at the end of the performance and realised that only the first row of seats was full. There was hardly anyone at all in the rest of the theatre. Clearly, I should have read the reviews like everyone else and stayed away!

Narrator: Question 6

You hear two friends talking about their weekend.

Boy: Jain, your eyes are red - are you OK?

Girl: No, not really. I had a huge amount of homework to do at the weekend and I had to stay up most of Saturday night finishing it.

Boy: Didn't you get some sleep on Sunday?

Girl: Yes, of course. I went to bed very early but I still haven't recovered. I feel like I could sleep for another 24 hours!

Narrator: Question 7

You hear a reviewer talking on the radio about a new restaurant.

Man: I must say that I had a very pleasant experience last night when I dined at the new restaurant on Main Street - the Italian one called Fortis' Fare. The staff were very polite and pleasant as you'd expect but what really impressed me was the ambience. I felt incredibly at ease there. There was lovely, gentle music playing over the speakers in the background, the seats were really comfortable, the décor was very relaxing and I just felt a real sense of calm come over me. The food wasn't half bad either, of course! I'll be visiting Fortis' Fare again, I can tell you.

Narrator: Question 8

You hear a brother and sister talking about their cousin.

Boy: It was nice seeing Paul again yesterday, wasn't it?

Girl: Yes, it really was. He's such a good guy. I'm glad

we're related!

Boy: Yeah, he's great. Apart from his jokes! He must be the worst joke-teller I've ever met.

Girl: I know. He's awful at telling them, isn't he? But, you know, that doesn't matter. I like Paul because he doesn't take himself very seriously. He might not be very good at telling jokes but he understands them and he loves to laugh. That's what's so great about him; he always sees the fun side of things. Seriously, that's a great characteristic to have, don't you think?

Boy: Definitely.

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a language expert called Mark giving a talk on language learning. For questions 9-18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Mark: I am often asked by English speakers, 'What's the point of learning another language?' Well, to this I would simply reply that around three quarters of the world's population don't speak any English whatsoever. Therefore, if you want to interact with these people, you had better start learning their language. There are also many practical 'selfish' reasons if you like for why language learning is important. For example, according to research, people who speak more than one language increase their earning power in the workplace. And, speaking of power, scientists also believe that learning a language can increase your brainpower and, more importantly, help slow down the decline of your brain that usually comes with age. In other words, you'll have a younger, healthier brain for longer.

If you are learning your first foreign language, it's generally easier to start with one that is similar to your native tongue. So what languages are related to English then? Well, English is a Germanic language and the same goes for Dutch and German. It is also part of the wider Indo-European family of languages, which includes the Romance languages, such as French, Italian and Spanish. Therefore, you could consider one of these languages as your starting point.

In all, there are estimated to be about 7,000 languages in the world but about 90% of these are spoken by fewer than 100,000 people. Indeed, UNESCO suggests there are around 2,500 languages at risk of extinction. Around 2,200 of the world's languages can be found in Asia, whereas Europe has just 260 or thereabouts. But even though they are often very different in vocabulary and origin, most languages are remarkably similar in grammatical structure. There are, of course, some exceptions, such as the so-called 'click languages' of parts of Africa but even these bear some similarity to the other language groups.

One theory on how language came to exist is that it

may have evolved as a replacement for grooming. Grooming is a behaviour that is still evident in monkeys and apes today. It involves cleaning another group member in order to become popular or to win favours or better treatment. In other words, it is a way of forming social bonds. Scientists believe language may have evolved in humans as a more effective way of making such bonds. A range of other theories also exist; however, that hardly matters. I think, the main message I'd like to convey to you today is that learning a foreign language, although difficult, is incredibly beneficial and rewarding.

I hope each of you will discover a real love of languages during your secondary schooling. My advice to you would be to experiment with different methods of learning. Specifically, there are three learning styles. These are: the visual learner, the auditory learner and the kinaesthetic learner. Find out which method of learning works best for you and you will speed up your language acquisition and find the learning process simpler and more enjoyable.

One of my heroes is a man called Ludwig Zamenhof, who lived in modern-day Poland. He went so far as to create his own language because he believed that if he invented a simple language that everyone could learn to use, it would promote world peace. Today, Esperanto is spoken by approximately 2 million people. It is easier to learn than most languages because it uses simple grammar and has a limited amount of vocabulary. Therefore, perhaps you could start with this language if you are really struggling. Research also suggests that, having learned Esperanto, students find it easier to then learn another language afterwards.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You'll hear five extracts in which teenagers talk about talk about their recent school trips. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the opinion each speaker expresses. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: We were supposed to go on this trip previously but it had been cancelled at the last minute. I was really looking forward to it as I love Geography. It's my favourite subject at school by far. Visiting a hydroelectric dam sounded incredibly interesting. Actually, the tour was very dull and I didn't learn very much from it at all, though. The highlight for me was the route their on the coach, as we got to see some great views of the surrounding countryside and the different features of the landscape.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: This was a trip to the Kenwood Safari Park and not for the first time. The school has a partnership with the park and brings tour groups there very often. Indeed, they're running the tour I did again in about a week's time. I won't be going on the next one, though, unfortunately. I've got to practise for a foreign language oral exam, so I'm going to miss it. I'm very disappointed because I learn a lot about biology, my favourite subject, on these trips. Besides, I love animals.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: I was really worried about making this journey before the start of the trip. After all, I usually get travel sickness and we were going to be spending about 15 hours on the bus in total and passing through three different countries. Luckily, I fell asleep for most of the journey, though, which prevented me from having any sickness issues. My friends told me I missed some great scenery out the coach window on the way but I was just glad that I hadn't been unwell, so I didn't really mind.

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: I'm not a huge fan of geography, so I wasn't particularly looking forward to our geography school trip to the hydroelectric dam. I didn't really care whether I learned a lot about the subject on this trip or not. My main love at school is languages not geography. Imagine how pleased I was, then, to discover that the bus driver was Flemish. He spoke Dutch, German and French. I chatted to him the whole way there and back!

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: I've been abroad on school trips three times in the past, so I didn't mind that this year's trip wouldn't involve crossing any borders. Instead, we were going to stay at home and visit the Lake District. And you know what? Even though it's only about 100 kilometres from my where I live, I'd actually never been there before, so I was looking forward to it. I wasn't disappointed either. We had a really great time and it was just as enjoyable as any of the foreign trips I've been on.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Narrator: Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear an interview with a teenager called Ted Fallon, who attends a famous dance academy. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: I'm delighted to be joined today by Ted Fallon of Edgely Dance Academy. Ted, welcome to the show. Ted, what attracted you to dance?

Ted: Well, dance didn't use to be something I was interested in. Like many boys my age, I was keen on rugby. I was actually very good and most of my family expected me to take it up professionally like several of my relatives, who are current rugby pros. However, my

best friend, Karl, has always loved dance. Ever since he saw the musical Billy Elliot about twelve years ago, it's been his dream to be a professional dancer just like the kid in the show. Anyway, a lot of guys at school were teasing him and calling him mean names. I wanted to support Karl and felt the best way was by attending dance classes with him, so I joined up and then I fell in love with dance too.

Interviewer: Interesting. And now, of course, you're both doing ballet at the academy. But I heard your first signature style was ballroom rumba – is that true?

Ted: Yes! Rumba's a very slow, rhythmical, romantic dance style – I like it now. But there was no real logic behind choosing that style. The teacher asked me what dance I was interested in learning and I hadn't a clue what to say, so I opened up my laptop and streamed the video for my favourite song, then just pointed and said: 'That.' I didn't even know what rumba was at the time!

Interviewer: And now, as mentioned, you're a full-time ballet student. Presumably you would like to have a career in dance, is that right?

Ted: Of course but I'm not unrealistic ... I understand that to become a hugely successful star of the dance world is unlikely. It's really difficult to get that kind of fame. But I've no intention of ever abandoning dance, which is my passion. For me, so long as I'm working in the dance industry and doing what I love, that *is* success. I don't have to earn a fortune to be happy. I'm sure that I can earn enough money to be comfortable even if it's only training people down the local studio.

Interviewer: Indeed. Tell me, why are you so keen to do interviews – has it something to do with promoting yourself?

Ted: I do give a lot of interviews but the main reason isn't promotion. I don't even like being interviewed because I'm shy! But, remember the story about Karl? Well, I really feel it's incredibly important to try to change the way young people, especially young males, think about dance. How many other Karls are there out there who are made fun of for doing what they love? So crucially I'm here to say, 'hey, dancing is cool for boys', you know? Of course, these interviews are also for promoting dance to young people in general, I guess.

Interviewer: OK. Thank you. Now, I've heard that dance school is incredibly demanding – true?

Ted: Yes! At the beginning, I used to find it tough to discipline myself for my training routine. But you get used to it eventually. The only thing I sometimes still wish is that I could be a normal young person for a day, you know? Just relax, eat as much junk food as I want or go out to a party and stay up late. But that's the sacrifice I have to make to be successful. In the beginning, I would also get homesick a lot and miss my family and friends but not anymore.

Interviewer: Right. Now, tell me, what are the perks of going to a famous academy?

Ted: Hmm, well, you might expect me to say getting to travel all around the world to participate in dance competitions is really cool but we're so busy competing that we don't get to see the places we visit, so it's not as fun as it sounds! Of course, naturally, a lot of big industry names come to see the talent so we have the opportunity to get noticed by the right people, which I'm really grateful for. But, above all, I appreciate the quality and commitment of our teachers. I have nothing but good things to say about them.

Interviewer: And, lastly, where do you see yourself – ideally – in 20 years?

Ted: Well, I'd like most of all to give something back to dance, so maybe offering lessons myself – here, where I learned. I'd love to tour with a big dance show in the short-term and it would be amazing to make a TV appearance for the experience (and the money!) but, as I mentioned, I'm quite shy, so ... not a celebrity dancer. ... Long-term I see myself back here giving lessons, you know?

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.
That's the end of Part Four.

Tapescript | Test 5

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a reporter talking on the radio.

Reporter: Yes, Anna, thank you. I can hear you loud and clear. Hello, listeners. I'm coming to you live from ... Can you hear the noise inside the stadium? It's just an incredible atmosphere today. I'm watching now on the big screen above the entrance and already the entire ground is full as the fans wait patiently for the arrival of two teams. If you're watching this at home, I hope you can get a sense of the level of excitement here ... Woah! And now the Mexican wave's started. Oh and, are you still there, Anna? Because just in front of me here in the carpark, I can now see, yes, the Liverpool team bus arriving at last. And now, as I speak, the players are jogging past me into the stadium. What a match

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a woman talking about travelling to work every day.

Woman: It's not what I would call a calming experience, that's for sure. I often listen to some music on

my phone to try to relax a bit but that seldom helps to be honest. There is so much noise between people chatting to one another loudly and the traffic on the road outside that you can't ignore it. To make matters worse, it's nearly always crowded, so I frequently miss out on a seat and am left standing. More often than not, I arrive at work already exhausted before the day has even begun.

Narrator: Question 3

You overhear a conversation at a holiday resort.

Waitress: I'm terribly sorry but I can't take this back to the kitchen and have a new dish prepared for you because the chef has already gone home. Please understand that she did stay on especially after closing time to cook your order. I'm very sorry again if it's not to your satisfaction but there's nothing I can do now.

Man: That's simply not good enough, I'm afraid. In that case, I refuse to pay for any of what we've ordered. There!

Waitress: Um ... please, Sir. If the owner were here right now she would say that is unacceptable. I'm sorry but you ordered four bottles of our most expensive non-alcoholic champagne. If I let you walk out without paying the bill, I'll probably lose my job. Surely we can

Narrator: Question 4

You overhear a woman talking on the phone.

Woman: Why should I say sorry, Mark, unless you will also apologise? What do you mean you didn't do anything wrong? Are you going to deny that it was your fault we were late? You are? Well, that's fine, then. Until you admit that you were responsible for our lateness for the show, I will absolutely not apologise That's final. ... Well, really!

Narrator: Question 5

You overhear a conversation between two classmates.

Boy: Megan, you look incredibly healthy. What's your secret?

Girl: Thanks, Larry! Well, one thing I do now which makes a big difference is eat less junk food. It means I can actually eat more overall, so long as it's healthy, which stops me from snacking on things that are bad for me all the time.

Boy: But you must exercise too, right? I mean you're incredibly fit. I saw you running the 100m sprint in PE class this morning and was like: 'Wow!'

Girl: You're right. That's also important. I regularly use the weights machines, rowers and bicycles at *Leroy's Den*. It's a great facility. I used to sometimes walk to school as well, though it's such a short journey that it didn't make much difference.

Narrator: Question 6

You overhear a conversation between two friends in the park.

Boy: It's nice to visit you, Clara. It's beautiful here.

Girl: Yes, I love life in the countryside. We might only have a little cottage but outside, we've all the space in the world. How are you finding your new home, Darron?

Boy: I mean, it's not that we don't have much space: it's probably bigger than our old house and there's even a nice shared garden. But we've no privacy anymore, you know? I can hear the neighbours through the walls and, outside, it's so busy throughout the night that I can't sleep. I don't know if I'll ever get use to all the traffic. I wish we could go back to the suburbs or move here where you live, Clara, even to a small cottage.

Narrator: Question 7

You hear a man talking about reading books.

Man: The book I'm reading at the moment is actually based on a true story, so some of it is fact, though the author has developed the plot using his imagination to make it more interesting and colourful. There really was a Patrice Evans and she did disappear for 20 years before returning and not knowing who she was or where she'd been. But ... she probably didn't travel into the future and she probably didn't meet an alien named Lucy there! I love how their friendship develops in the story, though. Very interesting.

Narrator: Question 8

You overhear two people talking about finding something.

Boy: Thank goodness, Emmy. We've found it, look. Someone's left it here for you. You must feel so much better.

Girl: What if they looked at all my phone numbers and private messages, Keith?

Boy: Are you serious, Emmy? You should just be thankful it was returned. You're very lucky to ever see it again after leaving it behind in the sports hall like that.

Girl: I guess. But what if they've seen all the private stuff I store on there? How embarrassing.

Boy: Emmy, if you're phone is locked, how could they look at what's on it?

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a tour guide called James talking to his tour group about an ancient site in Ireland. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

James: We're now arriving at Newgrange, which is an ancient monument that dates back to the Stone Age. In fact, it was constructed more than 5,000 years ago, some time around 3,200 BC, making it older than other more famous historical places such as Stonehenge

in Britain and the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. Newgrange is a large circular structure containing a stone passageway and a number of different rooms or sections called chambers. It covers an area of about one acre and it is one of more than 30 connected structures in the local area that are thought to have been built during the same period.

The builders are thought to have been from a local farming community. The area around the site has very rich soils which are excellent for raising farm animals and growing crops, so these farmers would probably have been very successful in their day-to-day work. What is more surprising, however, is how successful and sophisticated they were as builders. Evidence of this can be seen in the remarkable discovery that the site also functions as a time-telling device.

On the shortest day of the year, December 21st, at approximately 9am, the natural light of the sun fills one of the chambers or rooms completely with light for approximately seventeen minutes. The light enters the structure through a tiny roof-box or window right above the entrance. This window is at just the right angle to allow light to fill the room for a few days from December 19th to December 23rd. Incredibly, scientists believe it was designed this way on purpose to mark the beginning of the new year.

Understandably, demand for tickets to view this event is very high. Therefore, each year a lottery is held with just a few lucky winners being the only people allowed inside to see the chamber light up on the shortest days of the year. Anyone can enter the lottery and entry is free of charge; however, the chances of being one of the lucky winners are extremely low. Indeed, sadly, even if you are fortunate enough to get your hands on tickets for the event, you must remember that it is entirely weather dependent. Unless there are clear skies and the sun is visible at just the right time of day, the chamber will remain dark.

During the rest of the year, anyone can visit the site, provided that they have booked a place on a guided tour. Private visits are not allowed. Now, our tour of the site is scheduled to begin at 10.30, which is in approximately 25 minutes, so we're in perfect time. The tour lasts approximately one hour and forty-five minutes. After the tour, we will see an exhibition which contains a full model of Newgrange and all the surrounding ancient structures at the visitor centre.

The local area is very rich in historical sites, so we will also have the opportunity to visit the largest castle from Norman times in Ireland in a nearby town called Trim. This castle was constructed over a period of around 30 years, starting in the 12th century. It was built on the site in Trim because of the raised ground, which made it easier to defend.

Another local site of historical interest is what is known

as the Hill of Tara. This was 'the seat' of the High King of Ireland; in other words, the place where he had his official home. We'll be visiting Tara towards the end of the day as it's the last item on our itinerary. The whole area around the hill is incredibly important historically as it was continuously used at first as a religious or political centre from the Neolithic Period right up until Norman times at the start of the 12th century.

Now,

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five short extracts in which teenagers talk about their favourite foods. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says about their favourite food. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: My favourite food is a snack rather than a main dish. You'll often see it served at parties. I love all finger foods but this one's definitely the best! What is it? Well, tortilla chips served with a guacamole dip. Of course, you can buy the chips ready-cooked in packets but there is no comparison to how home-made corn tortillas taste, especially my mum's! And, for the dip, all you need is avocado, some onion, chilly, lime juice, salt and pepper and that's basically it. It's completely vegetable-based as well so anyone can eat it.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: In the part of Asia my family comes from, knives, forks and spoons are not traditionally used for eating at meal times. Instead, you just use your right hand, basically. Maybe that's part of the reason why I like my favourite food here in New York – you can eat it with your hands too! It's a type of pizza but not just any pizza ... Although the concept of pizza is unmistakably Italian, this is not a traditional pizza. Instead, the base is made with naan bread, which is a type of bread from my country. When topped with chicken, it tastes delicious! Who knew putting together two completely different foods could result in something which tastes so good?!

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: I first had this meal in an Irish restaurant. It's called colcannon and it's a traditional Irish dish made from potatoes and cabbage. Other ingredients include onions and chives and it is served with 'rashers', which are a type of meat. I was so impressed with how good it tasted that I decided to learn the recipe myself and have been cooking it ever since. I think I do a pretty good job; however, next year, I'm visiting Ireland for two weeks, so I can finally try out the authentic

local dish and see if mine's as good!

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: My mum was given this traditional recipe by a friend of hers recently and each time she bakes it I fall more and more in love with what's on my plate. It's a type of sweet cake called mazurek, which is a dish from Poland. And it's my absolute favourite because it tastes so good – I have the sweetest tooth of everyone in my family, anyway, so that shouldn't be a surprise! But another reason why I enjoy eating it is that it reminds me of home. Although I moved to Manchester as a little kid, I still miss Poland and it feels nice getting served some Polish food now and then.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: When I was on holiday on the Greek island of Santorini, I had moussaka for the first time. It's a traditional dish of that country and other parts of the Mediterranean and I fell in love with it immediately. Its main ingredients are aubergine and minced meat, covered with a delicious white sauce. Yum! Ever since I returned home, I've been searching for a moussaka which tastes as good as the one I had on Santorini and I've yet to find what I'm looking for. I may just have to go back to Greece again! Oh, well!

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Part 4

Narrator: Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear part of an interview with a young woman called Wilma, who has a popular online vlog (video blog). For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: I'm delighted to be joined today by Wilma Malik, owner of popular vlog *Wilma Says*. Welcome to the show! So, Wilma, tell me, how did you get into video blogging?

Wilma: Um, well, as you know, it all started when I became seriously ill. Thankfully, there was plenty of advice for how to help me deal with my illness already available online. It might seem strange then that I decided to set up my own advice vlog, too but, to be honest, it was just for something to do. The days can feel very long and dull when you're sitting in bed constantly, you know? A huge bonus, of course, was that when the vlog became popular it started making money, which I was then able to donate to charity. I hadn't expected that at all.

Interviewer: Interesting. Now, not everyone on the internet is 'nice', of course. How do you deal with unpleasant comments you receive from so-called trolls?

Wilma: Yes, that's true. I'm well aware that there are a lot of negative comments posted online and my vlog hasn't escaped that. I do receive quite a few unpleas-

ant posts every day and, at one point, I even considered blocking the comments section on my videos but then I realised that would be letting the trolls win. Instead, while it's not always easy, I try to just ignore the negative comments. Besides, if I blocked them, I wouldn't get to read all the fantastic ones that I also receive. I'm incredibly grateful for the positive feedback I get.

Interviewer: Of course. And is that what you're most proud of – how so many people seem to love your vlog?

Wilma: It is amazing to think that I have so many followers of my vlog. I never would have expected that to happen when I started off. The best thing about having so many fans, though, is seeing what my vlog means to them. When people write to me and say that my videos have helped make a positive difference to their lives and given them optimism about recovering from their illness, that is the best feeling of all. It makes what I do completely worthwhile. Yes, raising over a million pounds for charity is also incredible but nothing compares to knowing that you've had a direct impact on improving other people's lives.

Interviewer: I agree. But I've always wondered, now that you are no longer sick and you're not just vlogging about your illness anymore, how do you choose things to discuss on your videos these days?

Wilma: That's a good question. Of course, as you say, when I was sick, the topics took care of themselves. I just used to talk about whatever was happening in my daily life and how I was coping with it. Now, though, I guess, sometimes, I'm inspired to discuss something by what my friends suggest; they're always saying I should talk about this or that, you know? But, more often than not, my main inspiration comes from my fans. Whatever they write to me and tell me they would like to see discussed is normally what I'll talk about.

Interviewer: I see. And do you think becoming such a popular online figure has affected you in any way?

Wilma: Definitely. I was always confident in myself so that hasn't changed but perhaps I was too focused on 'me' before. Interacting with so many people online has helped me to see things from other points of view more, you know? I think I'm a lot more caring and considerate today. I'm not at all sure what career I want to have yet but I know it's going to be something that involves helping people. That's very important to me now.

Interviewer: And do you consider yourself a role model for all your fans and followers?

Wilma: Well, as far as I'm concerned, I'm just an ordinary person like everyone else but if people want to view me as a role model, I don't mind. But I won't pressure myself to act in a certain way or something. I think it's important to show people that we're all basically the same, you know? Nobody does everything right all the time. So, if I am a role model, I hope that's what I demonstrate.

Interviewer: Interesting. And what about your plans for the immediate future – more vlogging?

Wilma: Well, actually, I think there's only so much useful advice any one person can give, so I'm not very keen on releasing many more vlogs myself! In fact, I thought about taking a break from vlogging for a period of time. But then I realised that I have built up this incredible community of people just like me and, well, wouldn't it be a shame to let that go to waste? Instead, my idea now is to open up the community to all its members so that they can post their own vlogs and their own advice. I'll just manage the release of new videos from now on.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.

That's the end of Part Four.

Tapescript | Test 6

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a young musician talking about her childhood.

Singer: My mum was an incredible singer and I'd love to have followed in her footsteps. Sadly, though, I didn't take after her and my voice just wasn't good enough. Unlike Mum, Dad had no real interest in music at all but he would bring me to see Mum's performances sometimes, when I persuaded him to. And I'm really grateful that watching her gave me the chance to be introduced to the music scene from incredibly early in my life, because I developed a love of music as a child that would grow into what is now a successful music career.

Narrator: Question 2

You overhear a boy talking on the phone about an outdoors store.

Boy: Yeah, it's nice, I guess, the new store ... Yeah. There's not a bad selection of products, Tommy but I think the other store on Main Street has about as much stuff. The prices? Extremely good value, Tommy. Probably the main reason I'd recommend paying a visit, especially knowing how much you love a bargain! The staff are reasonably helpful, too but I'm not keen on the manner in which they keep asking if they can help you with anything – *all* the time you're in the shop.

Narrator: Question 3

You hear part of an interview with a park ranger.

Park ranger: No, I don't regret my decision to become a ranger. Definitely not. Although the pay isn't amaz-

ing, there aren't really any opportunities for promotion and I don't have a very good pension plan but money isn't the only thing that matters in life, after all, is it? I mean, think about the benefits I get from doing a job I love. How many people can truly say their job is their one true passion? Yet mine really is – nature. Not to mention the fact that my work has lots of health benefits; being out in the fresh air and keeping active all the time has helped me to stay fit and illness-free all these years. How many workers can say that after half a century in the job?

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a news report about a rugby club.

Reporter: I'm here at the Barnsdale Rugby Grounds where the new manager has just been announced. Everyone had expected the position to go to coach Janus Smith, who flew in from his native South Africa yesterday for talks with the club. However, in a surprise move and one that has angered a number of former players, a coach with no experience in management has been chosen instead... – that coach is Peter Selby, who many fans listening will be familiar with, as he is of course, from the area. Peter only retired from his playing career for rival club Donlay Force a few weeks ago. This is either a very brave or very idiotic decision. Back to you in the studio, Michael.

Narrator: Question 5

You hear a teacher talking about an environmental project.

Teacher: Now, class, please remember that your project is scheduled to begin next week. I'm sure none of you need any encouragement to get started with your work either. As you should be aware, this counts for nearly 30% of your final mark. If I have any announcements to make on changes to the scheduled project due dates, I'll post them up on the noticeboard in good time, so keep an eye out. For now, class, that's all.

Narrator: Question 6

You hear two friends talking about a magazine for teenagers.

Boy: Have you read this yet?

Girl: Yeah, such a waste of money.

Boy: Didn't you like the articles?

Girl: Oh, yes, of course. They were surprisingly good, actually. I think they definitely have some interesting writers on their publishing team. But have a look at this, Jake. I got it for the same price and there's twice as much content.

Boy: You're right, Charlotte. It's not good value for money any more, ever since they raised the cost. I won't be buying it again, in spite of the interesting articles.

Girl: Me neither.

Narrator: Question 7

Tapescripts

You hear a girl telling a friend about doing an activity with her father.

Boy: Did you have a good time trekking?

Girl: Yes, the weather didn't disappoint; the forecast got it right and there were clear skies and little wind.

Boy: Did you both reach the top? I mean, did your dad make it OK?

Girl: I needn't have worried about Dad. He climbed up with ease. Actually, I was grateful he was with me because he took some of the heavier things I was carrying. Believe it or not, I was the one who was getting tired. I'm not terribly proud of this but Dad is definitely fitter than I am!

Narrator: Question 8

You hear two friends talking about a school play.

Boy: Are you OK, Hannah?

Girl: Yes, I'm just a little bit nervous.

Boy: What about? It's not like we haven't done enough practice, is it?

Girl: I know. We've been through this so many times.

Boy: Then what's the problem? Are you worried about performing in front of all the other students from our lessons for the first time or something?

Girl: It won't be my first time performing in front of our classmates, so that shouldn't be such a big problem. I have this strange fear that I'm not going to be able to remember all my lines, though. I can't get it out of my head. I don't care what the audience thinks but I'll be so disappointed in myself if I mess up.

Boy: Don't worry. You'll be fine.

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a talk about handwriting given by a graphologist (handwriting expert) called Melanie. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Melanie: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm delighted to be here in front of you today and my thanks to your teacher, Ms. Franks, for the invitation.

So, graphology, as you probably know, is the study of handwriting and you'd be amazed just how much we think we can learn from a person's handwriting, particularly about their personality.

For example, handwriting size is one characteristic that tells us a lot. People who are very outgoing tend to write in large letters. The same is true for people who love attention; whereas, for those who are shy, the opposite is the case. Indeed, people who are very studious or careful are also said to write in small letters. If your handwriting is of an average size, that usually suggests you have a good balance in your life.

But size is just one of many aspects of handwriting that we examine. There is also spacing to consider, for example. If you leave large gaps between your words, you are probably someone who enjoys their freedom and who doesn't like to be in crowded situations. On the other hand, if your words are very close together, that means you probably don't like to spend much time on your own; you like to be around people a lot.

Slant is another feature of handwriting we examine closely. Do your letters point to the left or to the right, or do they point straight up and have no slant at all? If they point to the right, you are probably quite open-minded and you welcome new experiences. The right-slant person enjoys meeting new people, too. Left-slanters tend to be a lot more private, though. They keep to themselves and like to have a regular routine. On the other hand, if your handwriting slants in neither direction, it probably means you are very logical.

Another factor we examine is pressure. How much pressure do you put on your pen when you write? If you put heavy pressure on it, your handwriting will be darker and thicker. This is a sign that you are not afraid of committing to relationships and also that you are quite a serious person. On the other hand, you may not respond very well to criticism. If you use light pressure, it suggests you are sensitive; in other words, you are aware of and have a lot of concern for how other people are feeling. People who write with light pressure are often fast writers, too. If you write quickly, this suggests you don't have a lot of patience.

As well as personality, we believe handwriting can also tell us something about your health. For example, if you write with heavy pressure, this suggests you have high energy levels; whereas, light pressure might suggest tiredness. If you sometimes use heavy pressure and other times use light pressure in the same piece of writing, this might be a sign that you have high blood pressure.

Our signatures are often different from our normal handwriting, so signatures have their own rules. If your signature is hard to read, this can be a sign that you are a private person who doesn't like to share too much information about themselves. Easy-to-read signatures, on the other hand, are a sign that you are confident.

Now, another thing we look at is termed 'rounding'. If you write with rounded letters, this is regarded as an indication that you are creative and artistic. Those who write with more pointed letters, on the other hand, are thought to be intelligent. And do you join your letters? If you use joined writing, this is said to be a sign that you are a logical thinker.

Next

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five short extracts in which teenagers talk about organising a party. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) what recommendation each speaker makes. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: If I've learned anything from organising my best friend's 16th birthday party, it's that you shouldn't bother sending out invitation cards in the mail. It costs a lot of money, some of them will probably get lost and it's easier to send them out digitally instead. Likewise, don't worry about whether or not the people on your invite list get on well together. Invite everyone. It's just not possible to make sure they're all friends. You should spend your time more productively, instead, by trying to find a really nice place for the party. If it's got a good atmosphere and plenty of space, all your guests will feel comfortable and have a great time.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: My best friend's parents asked me to organise his 16th birthday party because they felt I'd know more about what he'd enjoy than they would. I was happy to say yes but I think people worry too much about planning the perfect party anyway to be honest. What's the big deal? You send out your invitations, everyone turns up on the right night and they just want to have a good time. You don't need some 'amazing' venue, or the coolest live band in the world to perform. Trust me, just hire a professional DJ and once there's good music playing, everyone will have a good time. That's the key.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: My parents said I could organise my own birthday party. At first, I thought I'd try to make everything just perfect, you know? I was going to hire a really trendy venue and have the catering done by a professional chef and all that. But then I realised how much that would cost and I decided it would be such a waste of money. Instead, I kept everything organisation-wise really really simple. I think that's the secret – it shouldn't be complicated as that just causes too much stress. In the end, we had the party at home, cooked up some simple party foods ourselves and played my favourite CDs. Perfect!

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: I organised a surprise party for my best friend for her 15th birthday. I wanted it to be really special as it was also a going-away party. Her family were moving and I knew she was a little sad about that. I wanted to give her something special to remember all her friends by, so I booked professionals to look after the food and, at first, I was going to hire a DJ for the

music as well but then I decided to pay a little extra and get a live band. Well, it was the best decision I've ever made and I'd strongly recommend it for anyone because the atmosphere was electric. Sara, my best friend, said it was a night she'll never forget.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: Although the music and venue are important, what really matters for a party are the guests. That's why, when I was organising a party for a friend, I paid a lot of attention to planning the guest list. This was not a simple task as I wanted to make sure that everyone would get along well together so that the atmosphere on the night would be very positive. Well, my attention to detail really paid off in the end because everybody had a fantastic time and there were no arguments!

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Narrator: Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear part of an interview with a young chef called Trisha, who just got her own cooking show. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: Joining me today is Trisha Knowles. Trisha, congratulations on your new cooking show! Tell me, did you always want to be a chef?

Trisha: Um, well, food has definitely been a part of my life from a young age. For example, I've always loved eating Grandma's delicious desserts – she's an incredible cook! And I've always been around food in the sense that my mum's job, of course, involves managing a very famous restaurant. However, I never actually wanted to learn to cook until my brother started! We're incredibly competitive siblings (eh, in the nicest possible way!), so the moment he wanted to become a chef, I was suddenly interested, too!

Interviewer: I see. Now, what can we expect from your new show in terms of the food you're going to be cooking?

Trisha: Yes, um, what I want is to encourage other young people to start cooking, too, you know? So the secret is to create dishes that are not complicated with straightforward recipes. That's the basic concept behind my show. I also believe in supporting the local community, so all the ingredients I use are sourced from near where I live. But there isn't one particular style of cooking. The show features all sorts of food, I guess; both modern and traditional from all over the world.

Interviewer: Are you in any way anxious now that the show is about to be shown on television for the first time tonight?

Trisha: I try not to worry about what people think, so, if my show is popular, then great. However, if it's not a success, I won't mind. After all, what have I got to be

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ashamed of? I've tried my best. That said, I hope it is successful and I hope people realise the importance of cooking because I'm really concerned that the art is being lost. Parents are too busy these days to teach their children how to cook, you know? That's a great shame. That's why I do simple recipes that are easy to cook. I don't want to win lots of respect for doing complicated dishes. I want to encourage people to start cooking again.

Interviewer: Interesting. Now, you've already finished filming the first series of the show, so what's next for you?

Trisha: Eventually, of course, I'd like to run a restaurant or two of my own. Maybe open up a chain called *Trisha's*! However, before doing that I'd rather get some more practical cooking experience. Once I finish my degree, for example, I plan to attend classes full-time at a cookery school. In the meantime, I've already signed up for a second series of the TV show and we begin filming that very soon.

Interviewer: Exciting times for you! Did I hear correctly that you spent some time recently with the most famous cook in Britain, Chef Le Rousseau, by the way?

Trisha: Yes, that's right. You know, on TV he comes across as a really difficult person, doesn't he? I mean, he treats his staff terribly badly; shouting at them all the time, etc. It's only when you meet him that you realise that is just a performance for the cameras, though. In reality, they are incredibly happy and well looked after. In fact, he was nothing like what I expected at all!

Interviewer: Did you learn a lot from him while you were there?

Trisha: Um, yes, it was a fantastic experience. I got to see what it was like to work at his restaurant for a day, which was really great. And I cheekily asked if I could be in one of the episodes of his TV show and he agreed to that, which is amazing. I can't wait. But, you know, I thought I would be the one doing all the learning and then he requested that I show him my family recipe for apple pie. That's kind of funny! Of course, I had to say no as it's a family secret but he understood!

Interviewer: Now, you mentioned your education a little earlier; tell me a little more about your plans in that regard.

Trisha: Well, as you know, I've still one more year of university left, so that's my main focus at the moment. Then, as I mentioned, I'm going to attend cookery school on a full-time basis. However, I would like to use my business degree eventually, too. And I've always been interested in business management so maybe I can do some further study part-time in the mornings or evenings, after I've become a 'proper' chef. Or, if I don't have time for that, then distance learning is a possibility. It's definitely something to think about in

the future but, for the moment, I'm just focused on finishing uni and then improving my knowledge of cooking and my cookery skills. Let's

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.

That's the end of Part Four.

Tapescript | Test 7

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a teacher talking about learning to paint.

Teacher: Now, let me tell you a little bit about the course so you can decide whether or not it's the right one for you. First and foremost, I want say that I don't believe there's anyone who can't learn how to paint. OK, perhaps we can't all be Monets but that doesn't mean we can't have fun doing a relaxing hobby and producing work we're proud of. If you join this beginners' class, you will quickly realise that what I said is true. What's more, I don't expect you to purchase your own paints, brushes and easels. Make use of my art studio's top-of-the-range equipment, then buy later if you decide you're really interested.

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a boy talking to a friend about stargazing.

Girl: What do you love about it so much? I mean, you go out stargazing on almost every clear night.

Boy: A number of things. You should come with me some time. Then, you'd understand. Occasionally, I get to see the northern lights, which are truly remarkable. But that doesn't happen very often this far south in Aberdeen. So what really attracts me to the night sky are shooting stars. I can't describe how good it feels to catch a glimpse of one of these. They're magical. Each shooting star is only visible for a moment and, who knows? Maybe no-one else but me sees it. That feels pretty special.

Girl: I guess. Maybe I'll join you next time.

Narrator: Question 3

You hear a girl talking about a long run she had to raise money for charity.

Girl: I was really proud of myself for raising over £10,000 for my chosen charity in the *Seven Days: Seven Marathons* challenge last month. That said, I'm never doing it again. Although I'm usually quite shy, I actually enjoyed talking to the newspapers about my achievement afterwards because I was promoting the charity and it felt good. I didn't even mind the horrible

weather we had on two of the days when it snowed and I was frozen from head to toe either. However, I couldn't stand it when my feet got sore and by the end of the seventh day they were hurting a lot. That's unusual for me as I seldom get foot pain.

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a teacher talking to his class.

Teacher: Now, Students, listen, please. I've got an important announcement. As you know, your last exam of the year is not far away now – only about a month, so I've organised something I think will be very beneficial for you; a lesson in effective methods of studying from an expert in this area. It's on next Tuesday. Please don't forget, now, because I think it could be very helpful in your efforts to do well in the upcoming exam.

Narrator: Question 5

You hear two friends talking about a competition.

Boy: Are you going to try to enter?

Girl: What do you mean 'try'? I know that only boys have put their names down so far but it doesn't say anywhere that girls can't. Of course, I'm going to enter. I want to know about what I'll get when I win, though. Is it a trophy or something? Do you have any idea?

Boy: When you win! Jean, you'll be competing against the best boys in our school.

Girl: You don't think I'm worried about that, do you?!

Narrator: Question 6

You hear a teacher talking about studying a poem.

Teacher: Now, Students, listen up, please. I would like you to spend some more time studying this poem for homework. You may read it aloud a few times if you think that helps. I've seen some of you doing that before. However, what I really would like you to do is try to express each line using your own choice of words to replace the poet's. That will help you to really look closer at what she's trying to say. I'd rather you didn't refer to the notes at the back of the book about the poem's meaning before or as you do this, though. After all, remember, with poetry, there is no wrong answer; whatever you believe the poet is trying to say is correct.

Narrator: Question 7

You hear two friends talking about a famous sportsperson.

Girl: Some people say Enrico didn't achieve much but I disagree with that.

Boy: He won no individual awards, though, Margaret and was never top scorer, which is unusual for a striker.

Girl: But just look at how many assists he had. He made other players look good, if you ask me, Jack. He was a *real* team-player.

Boy: You may have a point there, actually. He was very unselfish. But the trouble is he played on too long. He should have quit playing sooner, then people would have remembered him as the good player he used to be, not the poor player he ended up as.

Narrator: Question 8

You hear part of a documentary programme about a type of animal.

Presenter: Notice how there are always one or two animals from the group standing up straight with their eyes searching the surrounding area. This is because they are constantly under threat from potential predators. Although lions and cheetahs are some of their most feared enemies, even smaller animals like coyotes and wild dogs can be a danger, especially here in the long grass where they can stay well-hidden and launch a surprise attack. The group would be safer in the short grass of the rocky hill nearby but they are forced to come down here where there is more food to eat.

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a talk by a biologist called Magda about hyenas. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Magda: There are three different species of hyena in Africa, two of which are found in the eastern half of the continent. These are the spotted hyena and the striped hyena. In southern Africa, you will find the third and much smaller species, the brown hyena. We will focus on the spotted hyena today.

Spotted hyenas are unusual in that females are dominant over males. It is very uncommon in the animal kingdom for females to boss the opposite sex in this way and lead their groups. Female hyenas also tend to grow to a similar size as males and do not appear to have any disadvantage in terms of strength. One theory as to why female hyenas have this power and strength has to do with the fact that male hyenas will hunt and eat members of their own species. Perhaps, then, it is necessary for the females to be so strong so as to be able to defend their babies from attack by male members of the group.

Groups are called clans and clans are made up of related individuals. The clan's home is called a den and this is where the young are brought up. The den is usually located on high ground somewhere near the middle of the clan's territory. There are entrances to the den at the surface and these are connected to a series of underground tunnels, where the clan live.

Although hyenas are skilful hunters, they are also opportunists and they will eat whatever food is the easiest to get hold of. For example, they frequently feed on kills made by other animals, if they can overpower and

chase them away. On the other hand, they can hunt large animals like wildebeest successfully, too. What's more, their powerful jaws mean they can crush and eat almost anything, including bone, which most other predators would leave behind. Their diet is not limited to meat, either and hyenas will also eat vegetation.

Hyenas and lions are great enemies. They will kill each other at every opportunity. Although lions are individually stronger than hyenas, a hyena clan is a great threat to any lone lion or small group. Similarly, a large family of lions is very dangerous from the hyenas' point of view. Hunting dogs will also attack hyenas. These are wild dogs which roam the African plains in large packs. They are very skilled hunters and always work together to make their kill.

Female hyenas usually give birth to between two and four cubs at a time. At about 5 months old, the cubs begin to eat meat but they are still fed milk until they are at least a year old and sometimes for up to eighteen months. Then, when they are old enough, they will go on hunts with the rest of the clan. Before that, they are left behind at the den with an adult female, who is responsible for babysitting them while the other members are out searching for food.

Scientists have discovered that hyenas' tail movements are used as a way to communicate. For example, when a hyena carries its tail straight, this signals an attack. The hunt is on. When a hyena is very excited, it holds its tale up very high over its back. On the other hand, if the tail is down, this is a sign that the animal is feeling relaxed and under no threat. When a hyena holds its tail between its legs, this is a sign of fear.

Hyenas are famous for the strange noises they make, which many people think sound a lot like human laughter. In actual fact, these are calls and they are a very effective method of communication. Hyena calls can be heard by their clan from a distance of up to three miles away. Now

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five short extracts in which teenagers talk about their favourite hobbies. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: My sister, Asha, has been horse riding since she was a young child but I'd never really been into it back then. I used to think it was a bit cruel to ride an animal but I changed my mind when I saw the special relationship she had with her horse, Jasper. So I eventually gave horse riding a try myself in my early

teens and loved it. Asha takes part in a lot of riding competitions but personally, I ride for enjoyment and nothing else. I love racing along on my horse Kendra's back through the woods and hills! It's such a beautiful way to enjoy nature.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: Both my mum and dad had been very successful amateur golfers when they were growing up, so everyone thought I'd take up the sport too but golf didn't really interest me because it's an individual sport. I'm motivated by being part of something bigger and working with my teammates for success, you know? I guess that's why I chose to take up rugby instead. It doesn't matter how good you are as an individual, because if you don't work together, you won't get the result you want.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: I've been playing tennis since I learned to walk! Mum and Dad say they can't remember a time when I didn't have a tennis racquet in my hand. My sister's a few years older than me, so I guess, luckily, she introduced me to the sport from a very young age. I've loved it ever since. I'd no idea that it would give me the opportunity to build a career, either, so that's just a huge bonus. My coach tells me that if I keep working hard, I've a really good chance of becoming a professional on the pro tour some day. Imagine!

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: Some people take up a martial art because they want to learn to defend themselves or get fitter. For me, though, the decision was more of a lifestyle choice. I wasn't very disciplined or organised in any aspect of my life. For example, I was always running late for things, my room was never tidy and I seldom finished anything I started. Well, I wanted to change my ways and karate really has helped me an incredible amount in that respect. I'm a different person now. It's an added bonus that it's improved my fitness as well, of course.

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: I've been doing climbing since I turned 16. It's not the kind of hobby you can do from a young age, because you need to be very responsible and mature, you know? Your life is dependent on you being very careful, because if you make one mistake that could be the end. I think that's what attracts me to it, though. I get a massive thrill from the experience and from living in the moment and overcoming my fears. It gives me an appreciation for life like nothing else. It doesn't matter whether I'm climbing on the indoor climbing walls or in the beautiful outdoors. I just love to climb, wherever. My mum says I must be part spider!

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear part of an interview with a boy called Alan, who wants to be a professional tennis player. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: I'm delighted to be joined today by up-and-coming tennis player, Alan Maxwell. Welcome to the show! Alan, first, can I ask how you got interested in tennis?

Alan: Yes, um, it all started when my mum took me to see a Masters tournament where all the best players in the world were competing. That's when I first saw Donatello Demavic, who was world number seven at the time. Anyway, he was quite young and, like all the players in the top ten, incredibly talented. He got to the final but he lost the last six games when he should have won the match. He just couldn't control his nerves. But when asked about the embarrassing loss he said: 'So what? I worked hard and tried my best. What should I be ashamed about? I will learn from this experience.' I really respected his attitude towards defeat. He didn't fear not succeeding. Instead, he welcomed it as an experience to learn from. He instantly became my role model and from there my interest in the sport sort of grew.

Interviewer: Do you think you and Donatello have a lot in common as players?

Alan: Well, we definitely have the same attitude as I've tried to follow his example but our playing styles are not very similar. For example, he has an incredibly quick serve. Maybe one day mine will develop but it's not *that* good at the moment! He's also very skilled at the back of the court, especially. I'm not amazingly strong at the back of the court or at the net. I just have a fairly good all-court game, you know? And that means that I can play well on almost any surface, whereas Donatello is better on some surfaces than others.

Interviewer: I've read that you say you have a lot to thank your dad for. Why is that?

Alan: Well, I mean, I should be grateful to both my parents, of course. After all, my mum introduced me to tennis in the first place. However, I know my dad had really wanted me to follow him into the family business and become a lawyer, so I'm thankful that he didn't force me to do that and instead allowed me to follow my own dream. I know I'm really fortunate compared to a lot of players. For example, my roommate at the tennis academy's dad has to work a number of different jobs to pay for coaching, whereas I come from a wealthy family so don't have the same problems. But there are other pressures and I'm glad Dad gave me one less thing to worry about. That's all.

Interviewer: You mentioned the academy but how do you keep up your normal studies, or do you?

Alan: Oh, yes! That's very important. We're not allowed to ignore our academic subjects. I know a number of young tennis players prefer to hire private tutors to teach them but I'm lucky that I don't have to do that because our tennis academy actually looks after all aspects of our education. It's a bit like a normal school and a sports academy combined into one, if you know what I mean.

Interviewer: I see. And how about the tennis side of things? What are your goals for the year ahead?

Alan: Well, I'm very ambitious. Twelve months ago, I aimed to become the top player for my age in the world and I've achieved that now, so what's next? I could try to win one of the four major junior events but, on the other hand, I believe I'm good enough to make it into the top hundred on the adult tour. Of course, that means turning pro, which is a risk but I want to be brave and take the chance.

Interviewer: Good for you, Alan. Now, I hope you won't mind this question but what happens if you fail?

Alan: Well, like my idol, I don't fear failure. I'm not going to panic, though and change direction completely and do law and join my father's business or anything like that. Besides, what is failure? Do you mean what happens if I don't become a successful professional tennis player at the top level? Well, then I accept that I'm not good enough but that's not failure. I can still succeed in tennis. For example, then, I will probably start coaching here at the academy to help the next generation. I know a lot of ex-pros go on to qualify in sports science and do something more general but tennis is in my heart, so success for me just means always doing what I love.

Interviewer: And how do you feel about your younger sister? A lot of people think she should turn pro soon as well.

Alan: Yes, isn't she great? We're very close to one another, so, luckily, jealousy is an issue which doesn't exist between us. I do think it's fantastic that she's improving so fast but she's a talented girl so I'd be worried if she wasn't! However, I am concerned about the suggestion she should turn pro now because I don't think she's old enough yet. The time's not right. Give it

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.

That's the end of Part Four.

Tapescript | Test 8

Narrator: I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

You'll hear each piece twice.

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

You'll hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

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Question 1

You hear a brother and sister talking about their new neighbour.

Brother: She's hardly the friendliest person in the world, is she?

Sister: That's true and I get the feeling she's hiding something, do you know what I mean?

Brother: Yes, definitely. She seems to say what you want her to rather than what she really thinks. I'll say this much, though, she knows a lot of stuff, doesn't she?

Sister: Yes, it's incredible. I had a conversation with her for 30 minutes on what we studied in science class today. She understood it better than me!

Narrator: Question 2

You hear a teenager talking about her school tour.

Girl: We always go to the same place every year, which is a youth activity centre located beside a lake. Then, this year, we were supposed to go to a different place instead. It sounded quite interesting, actually. Not by the sea as I'd have wished but about halfway up a huge mountain at an adventure sports centre. Unfortunately, some of the parents complained about the risks, so, in the end, it was just another school tour to the lake. ...

Narrator: Question 3

You hear a brother and sister talking about their new school.

Brother: I'm not happy, Tina.

Sister: Really, I love our new school. What's your problem? Is it the sports facilities? It's always about the sports with you!

Brother: No, there's absolutely nothing wrong with the sports facilities. They're very modern. And so is the science lab equipment, which doesn't need updating either. What needs updating is my schedule, Tina, not the equipment. Look at this.

Sister: Uh. That does look very full. They're working you hard!

Narrator: Question 4

You hear a mother talking to her teenage son about a party.

Mother: What time do I have to bring you to the party at, Graham?

Son: 7.30, Mum. Why do I have to keep reminding you!

Mother: Oh! Soooooorry! Now, Graham, are you sure you don't want me to collect you?

Son: Yes, Mum. I told you, Ben's dad is giving us a lift home. Don't worry!

Mother: OK, Graham. Just don't be late home now, please. Remember, I want you back by midnight, no excuses. You do want to go to grandma's next weekend, don't you, Graham?

Son: Yes, Mum.

Mother: OK then. Good. What did you get Ben by the way?

Son: This belt. Do you like it?

Mother: Well, if I were Ben, I think I'd love it, yes!

Narrator: Question 5

You hear someone talking about a programme he just watched.

Man: The only thing I enjoyed about that was the ads during the breaks. I found myself wishing there were many more ads to watch instead of that awful programme. I wouldn't recommend it to a two-year-old, never mind a friend my age. The plot was far too simple and the acting too weak. I wish I hadn't seen the film now. It got my hopes up that this might be as good or better. If only! Unfortunately, it was a million times worse.

Narrator: Question 6

You hear two friends talking about their weekend.


Boy: What's wrong, Jess? Did the dog show go badly or something?

Girl: You might say that because we never even got to compete. Rex was looking really good and he hadn't performed a single trick badly the last time we'd practised, so we were all set to go. Then, unfortunately, our other pet got really sick and we had to rush him to the vets. At least he's OK now, which is a relief. It's just really annoying that we had to miss the show, you know?

Boy: Of course. I'm sorry.

Narrator: Question 7

You hear a reviewer talking on the radio about a new jacket.

Man: I tested the Northgate Extreme Fleece jacket last weekend in the local hills during some very extreme weather. On my way up the mountain, it kept me incredibly warm and comfortable; however, the same couldn't be said for when I was at the top. The wind was blowing very strongly and, disappointingly, I really started to feel the cold. I was very impressed with the quality of the product, though. I got it caught a number of times and it never ripped or got damaged in any way. The pockets weren't very useful, however. Sadly, my bag covered them, so they were in completely the wrong places ... On the other hand, the pockets of my bag were incredibly useful, which, erm, is good to know, I guess! 

Narrator: Question 8

You hear a brother and sister talking about a broken piece of equipment.

Boy: How did this remote control get broken, Jenny?

Girl: Rob, calm down. The TV came with an extra one we can use until it gets fixed.

Boy: That's not the point, Jenny. How'd this happen?

Girl: Look, I could blame the dog again but the truth is I accidentally stepped on it. I'm sorry. I've already tried to fix it but I wasn't able to so I think it's going to be a job for the repairman.

Boy: OK, OK. Look, don't worry. Accidents happen, I guess.

Narrator: That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

You'll hear a scientist called Kevin giving a talk about elephants. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

Kevin: We've all heard the saying, 'You've a memory like an elephant.' This is generally meant as a compliment for the person it is directed towards but do elephants really have good memories or is this just a myth?

Well, according to research carried out at a national park in Kenya, a good memory is key to elephant survival. In fact, the matriarch, which is the name for the most important female in an elephant group, in particular, apparently stores a huge amount of knowledge in her memory. This knowledge is especially important when times are tough. For example, when there are no rains and the supply of food is running out.

An example of the importance of the matriarch's knowledge and experience can be seen in the case of a serious drought experienced in Tanzania in the 1990s. During this drought, the elephant groups with the oldest matriarchs left the area and went to find other water sources. Unfortunately, the groups with the youngest matriarchs stayed where they were and suffered the most as a result.

So how did the older matriarchs know to leave the area and where to find an alternative water source? Well, it turns out that there had been a similar drought around 30 years earlier and their groups had survived by migrating. The older matriarchs remembered this experience. This is why it is particularly damaging for an elephant group when the matriarch dies, because they lose a huge amount of valuable knowledge of past experiences.

But it is not only events and routes that they can remember. Scientists have found that each elephant can recognise up to 30 separate individuals of their species at any one time. This suggests that elephants know every other member of their group. The term for this is the elephants' 'working memory' and they are thought to have the most advanced working memory of any animal, with the exception of humans.

And not only have they good working memories but they can also recognise other elephants they haven't seen for a very long time. Indeed, a specific incident

which happened in Tennessee in the United States suggests that their long-term memory in this regard could be very strong indeed. There, an elephant called Jenny became incredibly excited one day when a new elephant was introduced to her territory.

Jenny lived at a rescue centre called The Animal Sanctuary. The new elephant was a young elephant called Shirley. The two animals greeted each other like they were old friends and, at first, their human carers couldn't understand why. However, they did some research and discovered that Shirley and Jenny had been in the same circus for a few months some 23 years earlier. Incredibly, although they had only spent a little time together, after all these years, they still remembered one another.

Another example of this extraordinary long-term ability to recognise other creatures is an inter-species one, between an elephant and a man. Zoologist Douglas-Hamilton became so close to an elephant in a national park in Tanzania that the two would walk side-by-side with one another. That was in the late 1960s. However, Douglas-Hamilton then left the park to complete his studies and did not return until four years later. But when he arrived back, it was as though nothing had changed. The elephant behaved in exactly the same way towards him as it had done before he'd left.

Another way in which elephants are special is in their ability to recognise their own reflection in a mirror. It is thought that only they, humans, dolphins and apes can do this. This ability of theirs was confirmed in a 2006 study using large mirrors, where the elephants showed clear signs of self-recognition. A previous study had failed to show the same results but it is now believed that that was because of the size of the mirrors used. Isn't

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Two again.

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

You'll hear five extracts in which teenagers talk about their favourite time of year. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the opinion each speaker expresses. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Speaker 1

Speaker 1: Where I come from in Chile, everything is the opposite of the UK weather-wise, so, for example, in July it's winter and in December it's summertime. My favourite time of year is August because it's the best period to go snowboarding in the mountains, which I love. The slopes are guaranteed to be covered with smooth, soft powder snow. The only problem is, because it's winter, I've got school. It's not like in the UK where you've got most of July and August off. So that

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means, unfortunately, that I can only enjoy the beautiful mountains at weekends.

Narrator: Speaker 2

Speaker 2: I love the fall season here in Boston, or what I once called 'autumn' when I lived in the UK. I mean, don't get me wrong, the new life of spring is wonderful; I really like the colours of the flowers, the smell of pollen in the air and the improving weather but I'm inspired by fall for some reason. There is something incredibly beautiful about the different shades of brown and yellow on the tree leaves. My favourite hobby is painting and I just find fall the most perfect time to capture nature in my art, too.

Narrator: Speaker 3

Speaker 3: The rest of my family are all sun lovers, so, of course, summertime is very popular in my house and particularly July and August when we've got school holidays here in Spain. However, I've got pale skin and red hair, so I get sunburnt very easily and I don't feel that comfortable in extreme heat. For those reasons, I prefer the weather a little earlier on in the year – in the middle of spring, in about April, say. It's not too hot but there's usually a fair bit of sunshine. More importantly, it's less crowded with tourists, so I can enjoy the beach and relax in peace!

Narrator: Speaker 4

Speaker 4: Living in California, we've got incredible weather almost all year round. That's why it's so popular here with tourists. And, I guess, if you aren't used to sunny weather and sandy beaches, I can understand why you'd love all that but for me it just feels ordinary. My favourite time of year is July but only because I get to go away on holidays with my family and escape the boring Californian weather. We always visit where our family's from in the Scottish Highlands. It's not as warm there and it rains a bit but, you know what? I actually don't mind the rain. It makes a nice change from having the same old boring weather all the time at home!

Narrator: Speaker 5

Speaker 5: My least favourite time of year is definitely autumn. I can't understand what people love about seeing the leaves change colour on the trees. So what? They're colourful but that's because they're dying ... I think it's depressing, actually, because it's the time when the weather starts to get worse and the days start to get shorter, too. I prefer it in March. The days are getting longer, it's starting to get milder and all the plants and trees are waking up again after the long winter. It fills me with hope and positivity.

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Three again.

That is the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear part of an interview with a young author

called Brian, who has just written his first novel. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: I'm delighted to be joined today by Brian Jarrald, a young author whose first novel has just been published. Brian, *Bright lights and sundry* is a terrific story, tell me: what inspired it?

Brian: Thank you. Well, to be honest, coming up with the idea for the story was a bit of a nightmare but once I had that, the hard work was done. The inspiration for the plot came from something which happened to me personally in the end. I found it easiest to write about the familiar, you know? I'd been warned by other authors about the risks of writing about your own experiences but, to be honest, I looked for inspiration everywhere else, including things you'd hear about on the news and so on and I just couldn't find any.

Interviewer: Interesting. So it's based on real-life events then?

Brian (man (young sounding)): Well, partly, in the sense that I knew the beginning and the ending based on what had happened to me; however, I had to make the rest of the story more colourful and interesting, you know? I've heard of some authors who work backwards from finish to start and others who plan the whole plot in advance but I didn't have a very organised approach like that to be honest. I wrote down the first thing that came into my head and took the story in whatever direction it wanted to go. Luckily, it worked out OK!

Interviewer: Indeed; it sounds like you were very inspired! And speaking of inspiration, what time of the day did you find that you did your best work?

Brian: Well, remember that I'm still at university – my final exams are coming up shortly – so I obviously haven't tried writing in the middle of the night in silence yet but I hear it's the time a lot of writers prefer. I would usually do most of my writing in the late evening, just as it was turning dark instead. I found I worked well then. Morning times were just too busy, between getting ready for uni and having breakfast – it's such a rush – and I tried to get all my coursework and study done in the afternoons. I couldn't relax until that was out of the way.

Interviewer: I see. And have you been surprised by the book's success?

Brian: Yes, very much. I expected it to appeal to the younger generation but, to my surprise, older people liked it almost as much. I'm astonished that it's popular with so many different age groups to be honest. And my publisher has told me it's going to be published in another 26 countries now, so I just hope that people abroad will react as well as my readers have done here, you know?

Interviewer: I'm sure you've nothing to worry about. But where do you go from here, Brian? I mean, what's

the next step for you now?

Brian: Um, well, I do want to write another novel but I think I need a long break first because that was a lot of effort! Perhaps in a couple of years! I did, however, get some other surprising news from my publisher recently, which was that my book is going to be made into a film. I'm incredibly excited because it's going to be directed by Matt Or, whom I love! But that got me thinking and maybe people will say I'm crazy but I'd be quite keen to audition for a part in the movie, you know? I've always wanted to see if I could act. So I think I'd like to focus on that for a while now.

Interviewer: How interesting! Now, moving back to your novel, your favourite character is Milly, you say – why exactly is that?

Brian: Well, because I think Milly is just a normal person and it's easy to relate to her. She's hardly the most intelligent character in the story and neither does she always do the right thing. In fact, she makes far too many mistakes! However, you can't say she doesn't try her best and that's why I like her. She's got a lot of faults like most people and, like most of us, she also cares too much about what everyone thinks of her. But, she has a good heart and at least she's honest.

Interviewer: Do you regret, then, writing what happens to Milly at the end of the story?

Brian: Not at all. If I had given the story a perfect fairytale happy ending, I don't think readers would have connected with it in the same way. Besides, it's based on real events, remember? In actual fact, I kind of wish I hadn't allowed my editors to influence what happened at all. If I had had my wish, it would have been even more realistic! My advice

Narrator: Now you'll hear Part Four again.
That's the end of Part Four.