

Test 1

Transcript

Listening Part 1

Training

 Exercise 1

Man: I'm not sure I like the look of this place. It's a bit dingy.

Woman: Mm, I don't know. It's a bit quaint perhaps. Anyway, I'm so shattered, I'd settle for anything. And you've been behind the wheel all day, so I dread to think how you're feeling.

Man: Mm. I am pretty exhausted. And at least it's probably not too late to grab a bite here before turning in. I'm starving.

Woman: Well, I'm not sure I fancy anything at the moment myself. Anyway, it certainly doesn't look too expensive. So, shall I see if they've got any vacancies?

Man: Sure. And check about where to leave the car too, if they have anywhere. I'll be sorting out the luggage while you find out.

Exam practice

 03

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

Extract 1

You hear two students discussing a lecture. Now look at questions 1 and 2.

Woman: That was a really interesting lecture, don't you think, Jack?

Man: Not bad at all. I'd heard that the lecturer was brilliant from some students he taught last year, so I was expecting quite a lot.

Woman: Really? I hadn't heard anything about him before. Anyway, I never imagined anyone managing to make a topic that's basically quite tedious into something so fascinating – just by looking at it from a fresh angle.

Man: Mm, I just wished I'd read a bit more about that period in history beforehand. I think I'd have got a bit more out of it if I had.

Woman: I was OK on that score. But I certainly want to go and find out more about it now, even though it's not an essential part of our course.

Man: Me too. Pity he didn't include a bibliography on any of the handouts he gave us.

Woman: Oh well, it won't be too hard to find something relevant, I'm sure.

Extract 2

You hear two business people discussing a meeting they attended. Now look at questions 3 and 4.

Man: Well, I'm glad that meeting's over now. I thought they were never going to bring things to an end!

Woman: I know. I kept thinking they were on the verge of wrapping things up and then someone raised some other issue.

Man: Yes. Still, we achieved what we set out to. I wasn't sure it'd be worth it at first, but I think it was, don't you?

Woman: Certainly. We've got a pretty good picture now of what'd be involved if we do decide to do business with them. And I think you gave them a sense of what we could offer them.

Man: Well, I could have done that better, I think, but never mind. So, do you feel ready to give a full report to our management committee tomorrow?

Woman: Yes, but I'm not sure whether I'd advise them to pursue the partnership or not.

Man: Well, that's up to them. We've done our bit by seeing how the land lies.

Extract 3

You hear a scientist being interviewed about her career.

Now look at questions 5 and 6.

Interviewer: You've had a long and successful career as a biochemist. Would you say that you've achieved everything that you would've wished?

Woman: I don't imagine anyone would ever say that. But I've been very lucky in that I've been able to do far more than I ever dreamt when I started out. It's amazing to have ended up heading the leading research lab in my field.

Interviewer: And that's on top of having four children.

Woman: That's right. My family has always been as important to me as my career. But I've been able to enjoy both. Thanks to a great support network, of course.

Interviewer: What quality do you look for in young scientists who want to work in your lab?

Woman: Well, they should have a natural inquisitiveness about the world. They notice what's going on around them and they want to find out more. I'm looking for people who pay great attention to detail, of course. You have to value precision as a scientist. But I guess the key thing for me is someone who understands that you also learn from experiments that don't work. Of course, it's disheartening to spend six months on something that fails. But a true scientist appreciates that that is also part of working towards the truth.

That is the end of Part 1.

Listening Part 2

Training

 04 Exercises 3 and 4

Man: The first time I performed in public was when I was only eight. My primary school put on a show for our parents, and all the kids had to either play an instrument or sing. My older sister opened the event by playing the violin. She did a piece called *Summer Time*, a pretty melody that I still love. Then my best friend, Sam, sang *Raindrops*, a very appropriate little song, as it was pouring that day! I accompanied him on the piano. I don't remember much about the rest of the concert – I guess I was too overwhelmed by my own performance. My class teacher said I was excellent, and my parents called it wonderful. My piano teacher was a bit less enthusiastic, but she did say it was satisfactory. That was, for her, actually quite high praise!

Exam practice



You will hear a musician called Anita Kumar talking to a group of students about her life. For questions 7 to 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2. You will need to play the recording twice.

Anita: I'm here today to tell you about my life as a musician in an orchestra, as I understand some of you may be considering this as a career. If you play the flute, like me, then I'd certainly recommend it as a great way to become a professional musician. I used to wish I played the violin as my sister does, as that'd offer more opportunities for work as a soloist, but now I don't think I'd exchange orchestra work for a solo career – even if I had the opportunity and the talent.

Some of you are studying for a degree in music at the university here. I was very tempted by that option, but in the end my parents persuaded me to do maths instead. They thought it was more likely to lead to a steady job.

After graduating, I was considering becoming a teacher but decided to take a job in a bank first while I made up my mind. Being a cashier during the day left me with plenty of time and energy in the evenings, and I began to play in my local orchestra. I loved it, and when someone suggested I try for one of the bigger national orchestras, I jumped at the chance.

It's extremely enjoyable and I love the path I've chosen, but it's certainly not an easy life. I spend a lot of my time living out of a suitcase. We spent last month playing a series of concerts in Australia, for example. We got back last week and are off again next Monday. To Canada. Then later in the year, we're off to France.

The orchestra I play for is one of the best known in the country. And that's not just because we've got a pretty good marketing manager. The thing is we have a brilliant conductor. He's still quite young and he has an amazing future ahead of him, I'm sure. We all feel very fortunate to have the chance to be working with him.

Although I love travel, I wouldn't say that's the best part of my job. It's often fun, but it can be exhausting. But what I do love is the companionship. It's great to spend one's life with a group of people who share the same passion for music.

Although we spend most of our time giving concerts in this country and abroad, we did have one rather unusual experience last year when we featured in a movie. You may have seen it – it was called Storm – and it was about a touring orchestra that got stuck on a Caribbean island during a hurricane. The same director says he's going to use us in his adaptation of a novel called *Piano*, which he's planning to start shooting next year.

I hope this has given you some idea of what life in an orchestra is like. I'd say it can best be described as being fulfilling. I feel incredibly lucky to be paid for doing something I love so much. At times, of course, it's exhausting and difficult, but it's never boring and I have no hesitation in recommending it as a career. So, I'd be happy to answer any questions ...

That is the end of Part 2.

Listening Part 3

Training



Exercises 2 and 3

Interviewer: I understand you also occasionally volunteer at a wildlife reserve, working with deer. How did that come about, and how has it inspired your writing?

Rose: Well, my children have been fascinated by deer ever since they were tiny, though I must admit that wasn't an enthusiasm I initially shared. However, Alison Greaves, an old classmate of mine, opened a reserve for them and invited me along to have a look – before I knew where I was, I was working there two days a week and really enjoying being outside. Alison was desperate for extra help at the start. But working with the deer has been an amazing blessing and has enriched my life in many ways. A couple of creative projects inspired by them have taken shape but haven't yet found a publishing home.

Listening Part 3

Exam practice



You will hear part of a radio interview with a travel writer called Marina Vardy. For questions 15 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3. You will need to play the recording twice.

Interviewer: With me in the studio today I have travel writer Marina Vardy. Marina, how did you get started travelling?

Marina: People often think that those who travel are running away from something. They're right. Aged 24, I decided to run away from a dull job, and a life that had grown stagnant. I set out to find something more, though I had no idea what 'something more' looked like. Thanks to a chance encounter, I met a woman in a café who had a humble sailboat and a dream of exploring the world. Against my better judgement, I decided on the spur of the moment to accept her spontaneous suggestion to join her, despite the fact that I've always had a morbid fear of deep water.

Interviewer: And you didn't regret it?

Marina: At times I did, especially at the beginning, but, rather to my own amazement, I got used to putting up with all sorts of physically difficult situations. That voyage changed the course of my life. It turned me into a travel writer and an adventurer, but above all it made me an optimist. I couldn't have asked for more.

Interviewer: Mm. What made you get started in writing?

Marina: Oh, that happened a good while before I set off travelling and I was inspired to write by what I saw. At about 12, I wrote a little verse that included the line: 'People say I take after my dad. He went bald and grey in his twenties. Great!' My mother stuck it on the fridge, people laughed, and so began my passion for entertaining people with words. I've never been one for keeping my thoughts private, I'm afraid.

Interviewer: As a travel writer, what's your biggest challenge?

Marina: My greatest passion in life is a midday sleep in a hammock, but people don't want to read about that! So in order to get a good story, I end up doing things that most people avoid due to their ridiculously high risk. But, to be honest, the worst thing's the fact that I constantly battle self-doubt over whether or

not my work is any good. You really don't know till you get it done and others read it and pass their verdict. When you're penning your life story, it can seem like you're being very self-indulgent. 'She's supposedly writing a masterpiece, but she hasn't bothered to brush her hair in weeks!' my family say in hushed whispers behind my back. Or they do in my imagination, at least.

Interviewer: What advice would you give to someone who is considering going into travel writing?

Marina: Always assume that your travel experiences are only going to be interesting to your grandma. Attention spans are slim, and there has to be more than a description of what you saw. Nowadays, with all the other calls on people's attention, you have to work harder than ever to keep your readers engaged. How can you give universal appeal to your story? How can you make it a page turner? Can you make your readers laugh? Cry? Think of your travels like the backdrop to a greater story that grips the reader, not the story itself. After all, you're trying to grab the attention of an internet-obsessed generation, which means you've got a big job on your hands.

Interviewer: Mm. What's the biggest reward of life as a travel writer?

Marina: Writing teaches you to experience life as an observer. No matter what situation you're in, there's always that tiny author sitting in the back of your head, narrating the events around you. Bad encounters make good stories, and they're cathartic to write about. Did some horrible person treat you badly? Not to worry – put him in your next story. And I'm nice about kind people too, of course. Channelling your experiences into art is deeply enriching, I find.

Interviewer: Thank you very much, Marina.

That is the end of Part 3.

Listening Part 4

Exam practice



Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their jobs. Look at Task 1. For questions 21 to 25, choose from the list (A–H) what made each speaker choose their career. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26 to 30, choose from the list (A–H) the difficulty each speaker has had to overcome. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4. You will need to play the recording twice.

Speaker 1

When I was at school, I had a talent for chemistry, and my teachers advised me to become a research scientist. But in the summer holidays after I finished school, some friends and I went travelling round Europe by train. In Greece, we got talking to a group of archaeologists and they suggested we join them on a dig. I was hooked from the first moment. Luckily, I was then able to get a place on a university course and I've never looked back. It hasn't all been plain sailing, but I've been fortunate enough to get funding for the projects I've wanted to work on, which can often be a major issue for archaeologists. I suppose the main problem is constantly having to train new helpers – most of the people who come and work on digs are only doing it for a few months at a time.

Speaker 2

I was very fortunate indeed to get this job. It's a first-rate accountancy firm, and lots of highly-qualified people both from this country and from abroad compete to work here, though few get taken on. My dad's an accountant, but that's not what got me into this field – in fact, if anything, he advised me against it. He remembered how hard he'd found it as a young man spending years studying in the evenings after working all day. But that wasn't too much of a problem for me. I've just always had a flair for working with figures and I find it very satisfying to immerse myself in a client's accounts. Some of my friends find that a bit weird, I think. But I think numbers can be much more straightforward to work with than people – and there's plenty of good software to help you with most of the more tedious operations these days.

Speaker 3

I work as an airline pilot. It's not quite as glamorous as people often think it sounds, as you don't really get to see much of the places you travel to. Fortunately, I was aware of that before I decided to go for this as a career. I fly out of an airport that's over 40 miles from the town where I used to live with my family. I commuted for about ten years, but then we decided it was all too much, especially when I was either leaving early or getting back late, so we uprooted, and things are much easier for me now. It was my old geography master who suggested I might enjoy flying, actually. He'd have loved to have been a pilot himself, but said he couldn't afford the training. My granddad actually financed mine, which was amazingly kind of him.

Speaker 4

It's quite hard working in the fashion business. But it's fun, of course, too. I love being creative and helping other women look their best. But you wouldn't believe how tense it can be in those last few days before a major show. You just have to get everything ready on time, and that can often mean a few all-nighters. I enjoy working with the models – even the top ones are nothing like as temperamental as the press often makes out. My aunt used to be one, and I guess it was her stories that got me into the business in the first place. People have often told me I'm very talented, but I don't think I am – it's just a matter of being prepared to put in the hard graft. And that's never been an issue for me. I guess I'm a bit of a workaholic really.

Speaker 5

Other young boys usually go through a stage of wanting to be astronauts or circus clowns, but I've only ever wanted to be a civil engineer ever since I was a small kid. I think I was enthused when I came across a biography of the man who built some of the first ever iron bridges – that was it, as far as I was concerned. I certainly don't have any regrets. It's a rewarding job and I even quite enjoy the buzz of working to deadlines. Fortunately, these days most of the design is done using computer programs – I'm sure I'd have found it very difficult doing precise drawings by hand as they used to have to. My boss can be a bit bad-tempered at times. I don't like it, but I've learnt not to let it bother me too much. If it got too bad, I'd try to find a job elsewhere, as indeed several other members of staff have ended up doing.

That is the end of Part 4.

Speaking Part 1

Training

Exercise 2

Question 1, Speaker A

Interlocutor: What do you enjoy most about studying English?

Speaker A: I like the way that it makes it possible for me to communicate with people all over the world.

Question 1, Speaker B

Interlocutor: What do you enjoy most about studying English?

Speaker B: I like the way that it makes it possible for me to communicate with people all over the world.

Question 2, Speaker A

Interlocutor: What's the most exciting thing that's ever happened to you?

Speaker A: Mm, that's a difficult question. But I think it might have been something that happened on my eleventh birthday. I was with my parents who were working on an archaeological dig on a northern island of Scotland when a schoolboy who'd just arrived to help on the site discovered treasure. It was a hoard of silver bowls and brooches. They're thought to have been there for nearly 1,200 years. That was certainly an extraordinarily exciting day.

Question 2, Speaker B

Interlocutor: What's the most exciting thing that's ever happened to you?

Speaker B: Um. Perhaps something that happened on my eleventh birthday. I was with my parents on an archaeological dig on a northern island of Scotland. A schoolboy arrived to help on the site for the first time. He discovered treasure. Er, it was a hoard of silver bowls and brooches. Um, they were probably there for nearly 1,200 years. Mm, that was certainly an extraordinarily exciting day.

Question 3, Speaker A

Interlocutor: What's your opinion of computer games?

Speaker A: I like computer games. I think most of them are very good, though some are not so good, of course. I play them a lot with my friends. My parents don't like computer games, but I think they're very fun.

Question 3, Speaker B

Interlocutor: What's your opinion of computer games?

Speaker B: Well, that depends. I like some computer games very much, particularly games based on sports like football or motor-racing or snowboarding. I'm not so keen on adventure games. I spend a lot of time playing computer games with my friends. My parents say I'm wasting my time, but I think it's a perfectly reasonable way to relax.

Question 4, Speaker A

Interlocutor: What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?

Speaker A: Er ... um ... I like ... er ... pop music. Um, I listen to it, um ... er, every day. Er ... um ... I listen to it, um ... on my iPod®. Er ... on my way to college.

Question 4, Speaker B

Interlocutor: What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?

Speaker B: Er, well, let me think. I like pop music. Yes, that's what I listen to most. I always have my iPod® with me and I listen to it on my way to and from college.

Question 5, Speaker A

Interlocutor: Who was your best friend when you were at school?

Speaker A: Sorry, do you mean when I was at primary school or at secondary school?

Interlocutor: As you like. Primary school, perhaps.

Speaker A: OK. Then ... it was a girl who lived next door to me. Her name was, er, Tessa ...

Question 5, Speaker B

Interlocutor: Who was your best friend when you were at school?

Speaker B: I think friends are very important when you are at school.

Exercise 4

- 1 How did you spend your last holiday?
- 2 What do you do to relax?
- 3 What are your plans for your career?
- 4 What have you achieved that you feel particularly proud of?
- 5 What new law would you like to be introduced?
- 6 Do you think the place where you are currently living is a good place for young people to grow up in?

Speaking Part 2

Training

Exercise 1

Interlocutor: How do you think the people in this picture are feeling?

Man: Well, the people here are at an airport, and they look as if they're waiting for their flight departure to be called. They may have been waiting for quite a while, because the woman on the left has fallen asleep on her husband's shoulder. He's reading a newspaper and is looking quite serious, so perhaps he's feeling a little anxious. The couple on the right seem to be work colleagues, and they could be discussing an issue relating to their work. But they seem to be feeling quite relaxed in each other's company. The woman in the middle is focusing on some papers. She looks as if she's totally concentrated on what she's reading. On the whole, no one seems to be feeling particularly stressed – they're probably all very used to waiting at airports.

Speaking Part 3

Training

Exercise 1

Man: So would you ever buy an electric car?

Woman: Well, let me think, that's quite a difficult one. On the one hand, they're obviously better for the environment in that they don't use petrol or diesel. But on the other hand, they'd need to be a bit more convenient to use before I'd seriously consider buying one. Um, how can I explain what I mean? I think it's not yet straightforward enough to recharge electric cars. It'll need to be quicker and easier to do that, I think, before large numbers of people start using them. How about you? What do you think?

Man: Well, I must admit I haven't really thought about it much before. But I certainly think that they sound as if they're a good idea. A friend of mine has actually just got one. What's it called? Um, wait a moment. It's on the tip of my tongue. Oh, anyway, he's only been using it for a couple of days, but he seems to quite like it. He did tell me, though, that you have to be extra careful driving it. It's so quiet that, er, you know, pedestrians don't hear you coming and, if they're not paying attention, they can step out into the street in front of you.

Test 2 Transcript

Listening Part 1

Exam practice

13

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

Extract 1

You hear two business people discussing a workshop they have just attended. Now look at questions 1 and 2.

Man: I quite enjoyed that workshop, didn't you? I'd expected it to be a waste of time.

Woman: Me too! And that would've been ironic for a session focusing on time management! It's not exactly something we haven't discussed endlessly before.

Man: Well, that doesn't mean we know all there is to be known. I thought some very useful points came up.

Woman: Yes, I liked the presenter's comment that you should get someone else to take all the relatively unimportant decisions so you can give all your attention to the big ones.

Man: You mean like getting your PA to choose your lunch for you. It's a good idea, but I'd heard it before. I read about a US president who only bought grey suits so he didn't waste time deciding what to wear in the mornings. Actually, I thought it was the other people there who came up with ideas that I hadn't thought of before.

Woman: You've got a point. I liked that man's argument that daydreaming is actually a constructive activity rather than a waste of time. I'm going to get hold of the article he recommended about that.

Man: And then make more time for daydreaming?

Woman: I'm afraid I do quite enough of that already. I've often been advised to work on my concentration skills!

Extract 2

You hear two students talking about a project they are working on. Now look at questions 3 and 4.

Woman: Now we've had the tutor's comments back on the first draft of our psychology project, I suppose we'd better start thinking about where to take things from here.

Man: I've got time now if you have?

Woman: That's fine with me. So, it's good we've had some positive comments on what we've done so far. It's just a pity he now says we've got to include more concrete examples.

Man: Hm?

Woman: The ways in which advertisers make use of insights gained from the psychology of perception.

Man: Well, I can see how it'll improve our work.

Woman: Absolutely. But it's just a bit annoying he didn't mention it two weeks ago. We could have been looking out for examples as we were doing our background reading.

Man: Oh well, it can't be helped. If you like, I'll copy some illustrations from that book he recommended. My flatmate's just borrowed it from the university library. I think that's all we'll need to add really.

Woman: That'd be great. I'll make sure our figures are accurate. I mean the ones the tutor questioned.

Man: OK. I'm sure they're right, though. I wrote them down very carefully when we were doing our various little experiments.

Woman: I'm sure you did, but it won't hurt to check.

Extract 3

You hear two colleagues discussing an issue at work. Now look at questions 5 and 6.

Man: Gemma, do you think I could have a quick word?

Woman: No problem. Did you want to discuss the sales and profits targets that I've drafted for next year?

Man: That's right. Do you really think it's feasible that we'll be able to meet them?

Woman: Well, if we can create as much interest as we hope for in North America, then we should get there. And it's all looking quite promising, despite some fluctuations earlier in the year. You don't want me to revise the targets, do you?

Man: Probably not. But I've got a conference call with our New York office at three this afternoon and it'd be good if you could be there, so we can talk them through together. Is that all right with you?

Woman: Well, I'd arranged to meet someone from HR then, but I can tell them I'll be a bit late.

Man: Thanks. I'm really keen that we don't set ourselves unrealistic aims – though a bit of a challenge is always a good thing, of course.

Woman: Sure. And don't forget that we're spending less on the manufacturing process now. I was astonished to learn just how much less wastage there is now with our new machines. That'll help the bottom line.

Man: Absolutely.

That is the end of Part 1.

Listening Part 2

Training

14 Exercise 1

- 1 quite beautiful
- 2 the environment
- 3 the whole truth
- 4 because of the weather
- 5 through the forest
- 6 he would always believe her
- 7 the parcel which I received
- 8 an interesting programme
- 9 a really quiet holiday
- 10 convenient and healthy food

15 Exercise 3

Man: My name's George Fairham and I live in Canada now. However, I wasn't born there. I spent the first year of my life in Australia. My parents moved from there to the USA in the mid-50s. They never stayed more than a couple of years in the same place. When I was a child, I thought that was normal, of course, but now I realise that the childhood that my sisters and I had was remarkable. We saw a great deal of the world, and that's the best form of education anyone can have, in my opinion. It might be why I went on to major in geography at university. Or why my sisters both studied international affairs. After graduating, I wanted to find work in New York as a journalist. No newspaper there would take me on at that point, but I stayed in the city until they agreed. Until that happened, I earned my living as a waiter. That was an interesting experience ...

Exam practice

16

You will hear a woman called Sally Batting talking about her experiences in the Antarctic. For questions 7 to 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2. You will need to play the recording twice.

Sally: Hello, my name is Sally Batting and I'm here today to talk to you about cycling in the Antarctic. You might well wonder what on earth made me decide to do something so crazy. Most people usually imagine that I went there because of my uncle who made a name for himself many years ago as an Arctic explorer, but in fact, if anything, he put me off with his stories of frostbite and other uncomfortable experiences. It was only when I was about 12 and saw a film of a TV presenter who I particularly liked crossing the Antarctic that I began to want to go there myself one day. Little did I imagine then that I'd actually have been there twice before I was 25.

I've always loved cycling, and my dream was to be the first person to make it to the South Pole on a bike. I did eventually get there on two wheels, though I didn't end up being the first person to do so. Anyway, the first time I made it to Antarctica, I didn't get as far as the Pole. I covered about 150 kilometres on snow shoes. That was an amazing experience. I was hoping to go further by sled, but the weather conditions were against us, and we had to return to our camp on the coast.

Despite those problems with the weather, I fell in love with the Antarctic on that first trip. You'd imagine that it would be the extreme cold that strikes you when you first arrive there, but in fact you're so well wrapped up in all the appropriate clothing that you hardly notice that. I certainly didn't find it a problem. What impressed me most was actually the brightness, resulting from snow all around, combined with 24-hour daylight – I was there in the Antarctic summer, of course.

So, as I said, I didn't make it to the Pole on that first trip, but I went home determined to get back there as soon as I could. I'd been intending to become a doctor, but decided to postpone my studies and earn some money to finance my next trip. I've always been quite good with engines and I found a job as a mechanic. I did lots of overtime and after two years, I'd made enough to head back to Antarctica with all the gear I needed to make a bid for the Pole.

The route to the Pole from the coast is in three sections which are usually referred to as 'legs'. The first is basically a steep climb inland and upwards from the coast to the Patriot Hills. The second is flatter and generally less hard going. I must admit I found that the most enjoyable stretch. Then there's the third leg and that's undoubtedly the most demanding. This is the long hard climb to the Pole, which lies about 2,800 metres above sea level.

It was all rather harder than I'd anticipated. I managed to cope with the physical exertion, as I'd been doing a lot of very demanding training before I set out. It was still exhausting, though. And the isolation was desperately hard to deal with. And even worse was the wind. That was so strong at times that I simply had to pitch camp and wait till it eased off.

Of course, I felt very lonely out there at times, but I was able to stay in touch with family and friends. Modern methods of communication have certainly transformed life for explorers and everyone else adventuring far from civilisation. I kept a blog and so my family knew exactly how I was getting on, and they were able to add messages of encouragement to it, which did a great deal to keep me going.

People often ask what I missed most on the trip and that's a hard one to answer. I really wished I could be lying in my own comfy bed at times, but was usually too tired to think about it too much. I did long for a hot bath, though – that was the first thing I wanted to have when I got home. I didn't really miss any kind of food or anything, though I must admit I've never enjoyed a cup of coffee more than the delicious cappuccino I had on the flight home.

That is the end of Part 2.

Listening Part 3

Exam practice

17

You will hear an interview with an IT consultant called Paul about how he started his own business. For questions 15 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3. You will need to play the recording twice.

Interviewer: So, Paul, you run your own IT consultancy business now. How did your career start?

Paul: Well, after graduating in computer science, I got a job in the technical support team of the university where I'd studied. I really enjoyed both the company of my colleagues and the technically challenging and interesting tasks I had to deal with, but after a few years, I began to see the same issues coming up again and again. Several members of the team left, as it was all getting much less stimulating.

Interviewer: So what made you actually decide to set up your own consultancy?

Paul: Well, it seemed to me that there was going to be a trend among many organisations towards taking on short-term external consultants for IT rather than employing a permanent in-house team. And I thought that would be an interesting way for me to go. I'm friends with a couple of guys who have a small start-up and they'd been operating for a few years. I wasn't sure I could do it, but they helped me get started. They gave me much more sensible advice than I've ever seen in any book or article for would-be entrepreneurs.

Interviewer: How do you get new clients?

Paul: Well, work is certainly erratic. For months I might only have recurring clients, and then suddenly could get four new ones in the same week. There's no one reliable source of work, so I diversify. I get a fair amount of work from recruitment agents, but some of the jobs they provide are not terribly challenging. And I get some work from people I was at uni with. I suppose about half of my work is repeat business from people I've helped before, and I like that. You start out from a position of knowing and trusting each other. Also, I go to conferences to meet people and to promote myself and my business. I've been told that there's at least a two- to three-year lag between presenting at conferences and getting work from them, so I'm not yet sure how much business is going to come to me that way.

Interviewer: What is the hardest part of running your business?

Paul: At first, I found it extremely difficult to know what to charge clients. I ended up drastically undercharging on a number of occasions before I realised I needed to get some financial advice from an expert. That helped me enormously. It's often said that the first week in business is the hardest. In my case, as I'm always moving on to provide support in a different company, nearly every week is in a sense the first week. I often have just that week to make a difference to that team, and that's a challenge but, fortunately, I like challenges!

Interviewer: Would you say you have a business mentor?

Paul: Sure. My business mentor is an old friend of mine. He recently finished a Master's in Business Administration and we talk every week about how I might develop my company. I wouldn't say I have a clear idea about how other people use a business mentor – and it's quite possible they do things very differently – but I have found our conversations very useful. It's great to have someone experienced to sound ideas off. I have great faith in his instincts.

Interviewer: What are your plans for this year?

Paul: Well, we've just moved to a great new office in the centre of town, so we'll enjoy being based there. I'm considering taking on a couple of new staff to keep things ticking over there while I deal with clients. I've got some very different new projects lined up over the next 12 months, so am looking forward to getting my teeth into those. I'm looking forward to having the chance to use some technical skills that I haven't had to call on for a while, in fact, so that'll be good.

Interviewer: Well, I wish you all the very best with that.

That is the end of Part 3.

Listening Part 4

Exam practice



Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about where they live. Look at Task 1. For questions 21 to 25, choose from the list A to H where each speaker currently lives. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26 to 30, choose from the list A to H what each speaker finds difficult about the place where they live. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4. You will need to play the recording twice.

Speaker 1

I used to rent a great penthouse flat on the twelfth floor of a tower block with amazing views over the city, but now I've managed to buy my own home. I couldn't afford anything too central, but I've got this nice place on the edge of town. It's not very big so I'm going to have to make myself declutter a bit. That's not going to be easy for me, as I'm a terrible hoarder, I'm afraid. It's reasonably easy to get into work every morning and it's fantastic to be able to park outside my own front door. Some of the rooms need quite a lot of work doing to them, so I'm going to have to spend all my coming weekends painting and decorating them. But I'll enjoy that, I know.

Speaker 2

I've recently moved to this area. I came here because it meant I'd have an easier journey to work. The daily commute by train took me over an hour from my old flat. It's not cheap to live here, unfortunately, but I've got loads of space, and the landlord's kept the place in not bad repair. The flat's over a chemist, so I can play my music as loud as I like in the evenings without disturbing anyone below me. From my windows, I can see the hills on the other side of the rather ugly urban sprawl, and I relish the feeling that the countryside where I grew up is still more or less within reach. I hope I'll be able to live on a farm again one day.

Speaker 3

I'm really lucky to live in a part of town that's not far from my work. I can cycle there in five minutes. I just love going to sleep with the sound of water lapping on the bows – very romantic somehow. The only problem is that it can be quite chilly sometimes in winter. Oh, and what's even more annoying is that I often get woken up by people singing and laughing as they walk along the towpath late at night. I can't stay here for ever – it belongs to my aunt who's got a job abroad for a year. There's not enough room for us both, so I'll have to move out when she gets back. But it's been fantastic to have the chance to live here. Especially as normally it'd be too expensive for me to afford.

Speaker 4

I just love trains, and my dream is to live in an old railway station, you know, one of those that's no longer in use and has been transformed into a living space. I've got my eye on one of those in a village near the city where I work. It's become a lovely – but expensive – little cottage. At the moment, I'm saving money by living at my grandmother's. I pay her a bit of rent, of course, but nothing like as much as I'd have to pay anyone else, especially if I wanted a room in such a nice area as this. I have a bedsit on the second floor. It's quite small, but there's enough room for everything I need. The house is old and damp, and the windows are draughty, so I hope they'll be fixed soon. But I can park in the drive and that's a big plus for me.

Speaker 5

I certainly can't complain about the views from my window. When it's a clear day, I can see snow-covered mountains in the distance. People think I'm mad living out here when I work in the city centre. That's a bit annoying, as they're reluctant to come and visit me, even though the station's only ten minutes away. I can get to work in 45 minutes, which is really not too bad at all. And I just love living here. In the evenings and at weekends, I help with the cows and find that enormously relaxing. This part of the country is generally thought of as being rather a dull place to live, but it suits me much better than living in some swanky flat in a modern block. If I can ever afford it, I'd like to buy a little old cottage in the neighbouring village.

That is the end of Part 4.

Speaking Part 2

Training

19 Exercise 2

Speaker: The first picture I'd like to discuss shows two people getting married. This is obviously a very important ceremony for both of them. It would have involved a lot of preparations on the part of the bride and the groom and their families as well. They'd have had to do all sorts of things like making decisions about venues, choosing what to wear, getting their hair done and so on. They might well have had to organise a honeymoon too ...

20 Exercise 5

Interlocutor: Which of these ceremonies do you think would be most significant for the people?

Speaker: I think the wedding ceremony would be the most significant one for the people involved. Of course, graduating and winning sports prizes are also important and exciting, but they don't have such a huge impact on the rest of your life as marriage does.

Speaking Parts 3 and 4

Training

21 Exercise 2

A: Shall I start? I think they all contribute to society but in very different ways. For example, medicine is probably the most important because it makes it possible for people to live longer and healthier lives and so contribute more to society. Do you agree?

B: Well, up to a point. I agree that medicine is very important, but so are other fields like sport.

A: Well, yes, that goes without saying, but surely it's the case that you can't fully enjoy sport unless you're in good health.

B: OK, fair enough. So what do you think about the arts? I can't help wondering whether they really contribute all that much to society.

A: But surely they make a huge contribution. They enrich people's lives enormously, for a start.

22 Exercise 5

- Do you think people's salaries should depend on the contribution they make to society?
- What kinds of job do you think might actually have a negative impact on society?
- What factors would you take into account when considering how big a contribution a particular job makes to society?

Listening



This is Advanced Trainer Test 3, Listening Part 1.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I will introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece, you will hear this sound:[tone]

You will hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

PART 1

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

Extract 1

You hear two friends discussing the woman's new job.

Now look at questions 1 and 2.

Man: How's your new job going, Annie? It's with a software company, isn't it?

Woman: Yes. Well, I have to say I'm not enjoying it as much as I'd hoped. I thought I'd have plenty of freedom to develop new games, but it's all very structured: the manager allocates work to everyone, and that's all we have the chance to do.

Man: Mm, that's a shame.

Woman: Still, it'll give me useful experience to put on my CV for when I apply for a more senior position, so I'm glad I took this job rather than the other one I was offered – it's a means to an end, really.

Man: What are the hours like?

Woman: Oh, we have flexible hours, which I like. You have to work 37 hours a week, but you can start and finish late if you want to, though I don't. Most of my colleagues work four long days and finish at lunchtime on Fridays, so after that I often have the office to myself. It's a good opportunity to concentrate without the usual interruptions.

Man: I wish I could have Friday afternoon off! It'd be great to have a longer weekend.

Woman: I don't mind. I don't go away at the weekend as often as you do.

Man: That's true.

Extract 2

You hear two friends discussing a play they have both seen.

Now look at questions 3 and 4.

Man: What did you think of the production, Amanda? I really enjoyed it.

PART 2

Woman: Me too. I thought it was very interesting. I know the director emphasised the comic aspects of the play – well, it was turned into a farce really, wasn't it? And although that didn't really work for me, it made me realise that I'd been misinterpreting the play ever since I first saw it. I'd always thought it was very serious, because of the awful things that happen to the hero, but that's not the only way of looking at it.

Man: I see what you mean. Actually, I loved the music, or rather the soundtrack.

Woman: Mm. All those strange sounds, you mean, like the heartbeat and the white noise?

Man: Yes. It was really atmospheric.

Woman: I found a lot of it quite distracting – I couldn't always concentrate on what was happening on stage because I was wondering how they'd created the sounds. The lighting was quite different, though, particularly the way they used spotlights to show the hero's isolation from everyone else on stage.

Man: Mm. That worked really well, didn't it? But as for the scenery ...!

Woman: I bet I could design better scenery, even though I've never done it before!

Man: I'm sure you could.

Extract 3

You hear a man telling a friend about a phone call he has just had. Now look at questions 5 and 6.

Man: I've just had a call from Isabel. Would you believe she's let me down again?

Woman: No!

Man: All I wanted was a lift to the conference on Wednesday. I mean, she'll practically be going past my door, so it wouldn't have been any trouble to her.

Woman: So why won't she?

Man: Oh, there's a good reason – there always is with her. Something to do with driving her children to school. Well, she must have known about that when she agreed to pick me up in the first place. Goodness knows what time she'll turn up at the conference.

Woman: How will you get there?

Man: To be honest, I'm tempted not to go at all. I know there are no buses from here early enough – that's why I needed a lift. And I don't know anyone else who's going who could pick me up.

Woman: How much of it would you miss if you went by bus?

Man: The whole of the first session, I think. Maybe more.

Woman: Well, surely that's better than not going at all? After all, you've been looking forward to it, and you said it would be useful.

Man: Mm, I suppose you're right. OK, I'll do that.

That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

You will hear a woman called Susan Foster talking about holidays organised by the company that she works for. For questions 7 to 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2. You will need to play the recording twice.

Woman: Good evening. My name's Susan Foster, and I hope to interest you in the tours that we offer at Bennett's Holidays.

First, some background. The company was founded in the early twentieth century by a businessman, John Bennett. He lived in Manchester, in the north of England, which isn't too far from the Lake District. The Lakes were a popular destination, and as very few people owned cars in those days, Bennett bought a coach to provide transport. He offered excursions at an all-in price that included meals, leaving in the early morning and returning to Manchester late that same day. This continued until the 1950s, though by then the company also offered seven-day holidays.

During the next few decades, overseas package holidays were introduced – initially only to European destinations, but since 2005, the largest proportion of our trips are to South America. Although we still offer a few holidays in Europe, our strategy of advertising tours in Africa has really paid off – it's now our second biggest category. And we're currently looking into possibilities in Central America, too.

Argentina is one of our most popular destinations, and it's an enormously varied country. Several of our tours start in the capital, Buenos Aires, a city that's noted for its elegant boulevards, but there's a great deal more to see. I expected it to be quite interesting, but now I've been there, I'd call it one of the most thrilling cities I've ever been to, offering everything from tango in the streets to fascinating museums.

On our Buenos Aires holidays, you can see the city and its surroundings from the air, by taking a helicopter ride in the morning, or a balloon trip as the sun goes down.

You can also book a two-centre holiday, combining Buenos Aires with Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay. Montevideo has a rich cultural heritage, and it's very cosmopolitan. While many people are knocked out by the sandy beaches – and they're certainly very attractive – its architecture can compare with any in the world, in my opinion.

Another holiday that starts in Buenos Aires includes flying south to spend three days among the glaciers that slowly flow between granite peaks. This is a simply spectacular area, and I guarantee the memories will stay with you for ever.

Several of our holidays bring you face-to-face with nature. For instance, you can combine a stay in Buenos Aires with three days on the Valdes Peninsula to see the wildlife off the coast – elephant seals, sea lions, dolphins and, depending on the season, killer whales, humpback whales and penguins.

Another fascinating add-on to a stay in Buenos Aires is to fly to Salta, in north-west Argentina. From there, you can travel more than 400 kilometres on a train, which leaves around seven in the morning, climbs up the mountains as far as a viaduct that's over 4,000 metres above sea level, and arrives back in Salta at midnight. The views of the landscape are just breathtaking.

Now I'd like to talk a little bit further ...

That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.



PART 3

You will hear a conversation on a local radio station between a presenter and Angela Staveley, the director of an arts festival in the town of Marston. For questions 15 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3. You will need to play the recording twice.

Man: Marston town council is planning a major arts festival for later this year, and today we're going to have a look behind the scenes and learn something about how such a big event is organised. In the studio with me is Angela Staveley, the festival director. Welcome, Angela.

Woman: Thank you.

Man: Now, lots of towns hold festivals of one sort or another, sometimes to raise funds for local charities, but I believe this is the first one in Marston. This year marks 300 years since the town is thought to have been founded. Is that the reason for the festival?

Woman: Actually, that connection was only made after the council had reached a decision. But there's a certain amount of prestige attached to holding an arts festival – at least, if it's successful.

Man: Yes, a lot of towns and cities are known for theirs.

Woman: And attract loads of visitors. Marston is aiming to be in the same league.

Man: And when a festival works really well, it brings people together in a way that doesn't happen every day.

Woman: Exactly. If we achieve that, it would be a bonus – the icing on the cake.

Man: You were appointed festival director. You've been involved in festivals before, haven't you?

Woman: Yes, though in a more junior role. Not that I'm an arts expert, by any means, but through that work, I got to know several of the artists and performers who are going to appear here in Marston.

Man: I understand your last full-time job was with a transport company, where you were in charge of several big projects.

Woman: That's right. They gave me a good reference, and that helped me to get the job with the council.

Man: I'm sure it hasn't all been plain sailing. What's the biggest challenge you've faced?

Woman: Organising a festival like this means getting all sorts of people involved, to do everything from publicity to cleaning the venues, and some of it's highly specialised, like sound and lighting. Paying everyone for their work would be prohibitively expensive, so the festival largely depends on volunteers. I've been amazed by how many we have – far more than we need, to be honest, so I've spent a long time making sure there's something for everyone to do. Not a problem I'd had before!

Man: Can I ask how having such a responsible job affects you personally? It must be time-consuming and probably very stressful at times.

Woman: All the time, to be honest. And occasionally I find myself on the point of wanting to resign when something really frustrating happens.

Man: But you haven't given up so far.

Woman: Not yet! It helps that by temperament I've always been able to look for solutions rather than blaming other people when things go wrong. One thing I've noticed, though, is that this job is

part of a pattern in my life, where I'm frantically busy while the particular activity is underway, then collapse in a heap when it's finished. I need to do something about that – though probably not just yet!

Man: Now, what about the programme of events? You were largely responsible for that, I presume.

Woman: Not entirely. I came up with the big picture, the underlying principle that I wanted the festival to reflect.

Man: Which was?

Woman: Well, if you think about many arts festivals, their objective is to have a wide range of activities, so there's something for everyone. Now that's very good, of course ...

Man: But not terribly original.

Woman: Exactly. I wanted something a little different, to give people a reason for attending an event even if they weren't particularly interested in that particular art form. So, many of the events, such as an exhibition of photos of residents, highlight a particular facet of Marston. Another example is a performance of old songs about working in a factory, to reflect our industrial past.

Man: I like it!

Woman: Thanks. I'm hoping it'll inspire local clubs to follow up some of the events when the festival has finished.

Man: Will you direct more arts festivals?

Woman: Quite possibly. As an amateur painter and singer myself, it's certainly the field I'm most interested in, though not as a performer. But I'd make sure I'm involved from the outset. In this case, the town council had drawn up outline plans before I was appointed, and that hasn't always proved helpful. Luckily, my assistant was put in place before I was, so he's been able to fill me in on what happened before I came along.

Man: Angela, many thanks.

Woman: Thank you.

That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.



PART 4

Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about speaking to the store manager in a shop. Look at Task 1. For questions 21 to 25, choose from the list (A–H) the reason each speaker gives for speaking to the store manager. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26 to 30, choose from the list (A–H) how each speaker felt after speaking to the store manager. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4. You will need to play the recording twice.

Speaker 1

What happened was that the store ordered a particular laptop for me, and they just asked me for a small deposit. Meanwhile, I had a look online and found the same laptop for a fraction of the price, though the delivery charge was on top of that. So I went back and asked the manager for a discount. Well, when we went into details, it turned out the two computers were different models, which I hadn't realised. He said it was easy to confuse them, but I felt such a fool! Anyway, he offered me a free carrying case, which he didn't need to in the circumstances, so I accepted gratefully. And I'm sure I'll shop there again.

Speaker 2

I never like asking to see a shop manager. The last one I saw seemed almost hostile at first. She said what I wanted was against company policy, but she could understand how I felt, so she'd make an exception. She really sent out mixed messages. What had happened was that I'd bought this really expensive pair of shoes for my niece. I'd spent ages choosing them, with a lot of help from the shop assistant. But as soon as my niece opened the package, it was obvious she wasn't keen. So I said I'd get my money back, and give her something else instead. That's why I wanted to see the manager. But I almost wish I hadn't bothered.

Speaker 3

You'd hope that people working in retail at least know *something* about what they're selling. But I wanted to buy a dishwasher, and the assistant serving me seemed completely ignorant about the various models. I mean, he didn't even seem to understand about the different energy ratings! So I asked to see the manager, in the hope that she'd be more knowledgeable than the assistant. Well, she was quite helpful, but what I couldn't forgive was that she kept breaking off in the middle of our conversation to talk to various assistants who walked past us – nothing to do with what we were discussing. I thought it was so rude. That's not the way to encourage customers to be loyal.

Speaker 4

I went to buy a bike for my brother, and wanted it delivered. Well, you'd think I was asking for the moon! I was prepared to pay extra, but the assistant wanted to charge me a fortune. I refused, and said I wouldn't buy the bike, and then she was quite impertinent. I insisted on seeing the manager, to report her behaviour – though I assumed the manager would side with his staff. I was on the point of saying I'd never shop there again, despite having been a good customer over the years, but to give him his due, he understood why I felt as I did, which I was thankful for. I still didn't buy the bike, though.

Speaker 5

I once had occasion to speak to a shop manager who was fiercely loyal to her staff and suspicious of mere customers. I explained what had happened, but it was impossible to convince her – it was the assistant's word against mine, and the assistant won hands down. I thought that in retail 'the customer is always right', but obviously not. You see, I'd bought a large mirror on special offer, but when I got home I found it was scratched. I went back to get one in perfect condition, because it was meant to be a wedding present. But the assistant said there'd been a sign saying that was why the price was reduced. There certainly wasn't.

That is the end of Part 4.

There will now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I will remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

You have one more minute left.

That is the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Listening

This is Advanced Trainer Test 4, Listening Part 1.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I will introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece, you will hear this sound:[tone]

You will hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

PART 1

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

Extract 1

You hear two friends discussing an art exhibition.

Now look at questions 1 and 2.

Man: How was that art exhibition you said you were going to, Hazel?

Woman: It wasn't bad, I suppose, but I have to admit I didn't enjoy it all that much.

Man: Why was that?

Woman: Well, I heard on the radio that it was going to have paintings produced in the last hundred years by a range of artists. And I somehow imagined there'd be hundreds of works, but there can't have been more than 80 or so. The trouble was, only a small part of the gallery was used for the exhibition, so the paintings were crowded together, with some so high up the wall that you couldn't see them properly. And the one painting they had by an artist I really love was one of those.

Man: What a shame! Actually, I've stopped going to art exhibitions altogether. There's something about the crowd that goes to every exhibition that really puts me off. They're probably perfectly nice really, but I've overheard so many conversations that seem terribly pretentious. I know I'm not an art expert, but at least I can talk about paintings in a way that can be understood. And after all, you can appreciate a painting without going on about it, can't you?

Woman: I know exactly what you mean!

Extract 2

You hear two friends, Tony and Marion, discussing a problem at Tony's workplace.

Now look at questions 3 and 4.

Woman: How's your new job, Tony?

Man: The job itself is fine, but there's a woman in the department who treats me as though I shouldn't be there at all. She's really unpleasant to me.

Woman: Is that because you're new, so you're the underdog until the next person is appointed?

Man: Judging by some of the things she says to me, she seems to resent the fact that I'm not struggling financially, while she is. And she's really sarcastic about the fact that I can afford to do things like going away for the weekend.

Woman: Is she much older than you?

Man: Yes, though I don't think that's the reason. What do you think I should do, Marion?

Woman: What about having a quiet conversation with her, to explain how she makes you feel?

Man: Hmm. That's probably a good idea in theory, but I don't think I'm brave enough. In fact, I'm even thinking of leaving and looking for another job.

Woman: You should only do that as a last resort, Tony. Your line manager is responsible for what goes on in the department. That's the person who should sort it out.

Man: She seems very stressed, so I didn't want to bother her.

Woman: I really think you should.

Man: Mm. I suppose you're right. OK, I will.

Extract 3

You hear a writer called Ross telling a friend called Erica about a problem he has with his publisher.

Now look at questions 5 and 6.

Man: Erica, you know that school textbook I'm writing?

Woman: Yes.

Man: Well, the publishers have just changed their minds about what they want. It'll take weeks to rewrite what I've already done, and the deadline is just after the holiday I'm planning.

Woman: Surely they'll extend the deadline?

Man: Apparently not.

Woman: Will they at least pay you for the extra work?

Man: I'll be getting ten per cent of the price of each book sold, so it doesn't apply. And admittedly the changes are quite sensible, so it'll probably boost sales in the long run. But still, I don't like the way they've unilaterally changed the brief without even asking me for my opinion.

Woman: Mm. Something very similar happened to my cousin. She was very unhappy about it, and put a lot of time and energy into trying to get the publisher to rethink the changes. In the end, she refused to go on with the book, and criticises the publisher whenever she has a chance. But it's silly, really, because she got so worked up she made herself ill. If she'd accepted the changes with good grace, she'd have written a good book and probably made some money from it.

That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

PART 2

You will hear Jack Charlesworth, the manager of a UK supermarket, talking to a group of business students about his work. For questions 7 to 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2. You will need to play the recording twice.

Man: Good morning. My name's Jack Charlesworth, and I'm the manager of a large supermarket in London. As you're studying business, I'm here to tell you about my work.

You might think the most important thing for a supermarket in a big chain like ours is the profit we contribute to the company's bottom line, or the range of products we offer customers. But to me, it's what I would term their shopping experience. I want customers to feel that they're treated as individuals. We have thousands of customers a week, so obviously we can't recognise all our regulars, but we do our best to treat everyone – whether they're old customers or new – in a friendly way. If someone's stressed when they come in, it may only take a smile from an employee to make them relax a little, and that's something we take very seriously.

In many stores, one of the sales assistants offers to help you as soon as you go in the door. That always makes me feel uncomfortable, so we do it differently. We have several members of staff, including managers, mingling with customers and acting as shopwalkers – a rather old-fashioned term, but we still use it. They don't bother people who know what they're doing, but if anyone seems to be in need of assistance, one of our team will offer to help them.

That personal contact goes right through the store. For example, I make a point of chatting to all the staff – nearly 400 of them. We have a weekly managers' meeting, which staff representatives attend, and a suggestion scheme, to make it easy for anyone to put forward ideas for improvements. We've implemented a lot of those, over the years. And we want employees who are interested in promotion to have the chance to discuss that, so from time to time we hold what we've named a 'talent day'. Anyone can come and talk to me then, and usually we plan a training programme to help them work towards a new job.

It can be hard, working in a supermarket. We open at seven six days a week – later on Sundays. The stock is delivered overnight and needs to be put on the shelves before the doors open, so some people start work at six to do that. The cleaning company we use come in then, as well.

We order daily from the company's distribution centre, for delivery that night. Most supermarkets use an automated computer system – sales are automatically recorded, and when numbers go below a certain level, the system places an order. However, we have a manual one. The managers of each department decide what to order, because they know what they've sold and what they're likely to sell the next day. They take into account factors like the weather, which has the biggest effect on retail sales after the general state of the economy, and so of course has to be considered every day.

Now let me move on ...

That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

PART 3

You will hear a geology professor asking two students, Cathy and Jason, about a field trip they have just returned from. For questions 15 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3. You will need to play the recording twice.

Professor: Now, before you write your reports on the field trip you've just done, I'd like to hear what you thought – what was good, anything you found disappointing ... Jason.

Jason: Well, I've got fairly mixed feelings about it. I was relieved there weren't more people – with it only being four days, there was time to get to know everyone, and that wouldn't have been possible if there'd been many more. Would you agree, Cathy?

Cathy: Yes, definitely.

Jason: I wish we'd stayed in a youth hostel, though. Camping's all very well when it's warm, but last week's weather certainly wasn't ideal.

Cathy: No, I was shivering even when I was in my sleeping bag. What was good, however, was that the tutors could spend a fair amount of time with each of us, to advise us on our projects.

Jason: Mm, I could've done with some more help. I only managed to have one in-depth discussion with my tutor.

Cathy: Oh, I talked to mine whenever I got stuck.

Jason: Lucky you!

Professor: OK. What would you say you got out of the trip?

Cathy: The main thing was that I'm pretty impetuous by nature, and I tend to act before I think. My tutor encouraged me to take the time to think things through before doing anything, and I forced myself to do that during the trip.

Jason: I did the same thing – it was something I realised I needed to work on. I don't think my judgement's generally wrong, but I'm sure I could often make better decisions, with a bit more thought. Actually, the feedback I get from tutors is generally pretty positive, particularly on things like planning assignments.

Cathy: I found the trip helped me to be more focused. I hope I can keep that up, now we're back at uni.

Jason: That isn't usually a problem for me.

Professor: Mm. How far did you each get with your projects?

Cathy: Well, I'm struggling a bit. I think the topic's OK ...

Jason: You're researching some fossils, aren't you? That's pretty standard stuff.

Cathy: Yes, but my tutor said I'm trying to cover too much: I need to go into depth about one aspect.

Jason: But at this level, we don't need to come up with anything really original, do we?

Cathy: No, I suppose not. But until I've sorted out exactly what to do, I won't really be able to do my best.

Professor: And what about you, Jason?

Jason: I'm getting on OK, thanks.

Professor: Right. Now, how do you think the field trip fits in with the course as a whole?

Jason: Well, I could happily have gone on for another few days, but coming at this stage in the term makes it quite hard to keep up-to-date with assignments. I've got two due in next week, and I won't be able to finish them in time.

Cathy: Mm, I'm with you. I've just had to ignore everything else until I've got this project out of the way – and even packing and getting ready for the trip seemed to take forever.

Jason: Mm.

Cathy: Mind you, I think what I've learnt on the trip will be useful for much more than just this project. All the books and lectures were beginning to seem quite dry and academic, and the trip's made me realise they're actually about something interesting.

Professor: OK. Would you say the trip has affected how you feel about the course? Jason?

Jason: Well, I was really keen on geology when we started the course last year, but I wasn't sure whether I wanted to go on with it after uni.

Professor: Why not?

Jason: It's all the statistical analysis. I didn't think I'd like it, and, in a way, the trip's confirmed that I can't see myself doing it for the rest of my life. It's not that it's all that hard, but I find it quite tedious.

Cathy: So do I!

Professor: And what about you, Cathy? Have you got plans for when you graduate?

Cathy: I'm not sure. I'd like to do something to make the general public see the need to use less energy, but that may not be the best use of what I'm learning on the course.

Jason: There's a lot of interesting research going on in the whole area of renewable energy, isn't there?

Cathy: Yes, things like harnessing the power of tidal rivers to generate electricity, and of course, wind power. They can help us reduce our dependence on fossil fuels like oil and coal, and they're far less damaging to the environment, too. I feel I could make a contribution there, so I'll probably go into something like that.

Professor: And finally, what did you think ...

That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

PART 4

Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their leisure activities. Look at Task 1. For questions 21 to 25, choose from the list (A–H) the original reason each speaker gives for choosing their leisure activity. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26 to 30, choose from the list (A–H) how each speaker feels about their leisure activity now. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4. You will need to play the recording twice.

Speaker 1

When I was a child, my parents used to go ballroom dancing. I wanted to go too, but they said having two dancers in the family was quite enough, so I gave up that idea, but I was quite annoyed. So when I thought of making model aeroplanes, and my father said I was too impatient, I was determined to prove him wrong, so that's what I started doing. I think I made the right choice, and I still make models when I have the time. It surprises me how few people seem to do it, because you learn about aviation and history, and you have to be very careful and accurate. It's very satisfying when you finish a model.

Listening



This is Advanced Trainer Test 5, Listening Part 1.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I will introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound: [tone]

You will hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

PART 1

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

Extract 1

You hear two members of an amateur choir discussing a forthcoming concert.

Now look at questions 1 and 2.

Man: How do you think rehearsals are going for the choir's next concert?

Woman: Well, we're doing some really demanding pieces ...

Man: We certainly are!

Woman: ... and I have to wonder whether they might not be too challenging for our normal audience – ticket sales haven't picked up yet, and it isn't all that long till the performance. But as far as the choir's concerned, we're doing some thorough, detailed work in the rehearsals, and really getting to grips with the music, so we should master it all. It's a shame some people have had to miss rehearsals, though the extra one next weekend should make up for it.

Man: Right.

Woman: How are you getting on with designing the poster?

Man: Not too well, I'm afraid. I've been so busy I just haven't been able to make time for it. I started thinking about it this morning, and to be honest, I can't come up with an attention-grabbing image. Time's running short, so I was wondering if you could take care of it for me. Then I could concentrate on finishing off the programme instead – it doesn't need to go to the printer's for another couple of weeks, but the poster's getting urgent. What do you think?

Speaker 2

I've been keen on gymnastics since I was a teenager. It started when a new teacher at school set up a weekly gymnastics club, to encourage us to get fit, I suppose. It really caught on, and for a while practically everyone went, which to be honest was the only reason I did. Then people began to get bored, and moved on to something else. But I found I was quite enjoying it, so I carried on. Then, when I got my first job, I joined a gymnastics club in my home town. It was fun for a few years, but I may give it up now – it's quite demoralising seeing younger people doing things effortlessly that I struggle to do!

Speaker 3

One of my schoolfriends was taken ice skating by her parents. She wasn't particularly enthusiastic about it, but I was dying to go – I'd seen it on TV and thought it was brilliant, and had even decided to make a living as an ice skater! So they started taking me with them, and I was completely hooked. I made good progress, and soon set my sights on winning a national competition. I knew it would be hard work, but I won the second time I entered. I was absolutely thrilled! It made me quite well known in the ice-skating world, but that's not so good, because people have such high expectations of me.

Speaker 4

I've been playing bridge since I was at school. There, I was one of the better players, but the more I play, the more I realise there's a world of difference between that level and playing with experts. I'm so envious of their ability. I took up bridge because when I was a child, my parents used to watch TV for hours – the more mindless, the better. But I wanted something that would engage my brain. Then, when I was 11, I changed schools, and the new one ran a weekly bridge club. It was exactly what I needed. I loved trying to work out the best strategy for winning, and I made friends with several of the other children.

Speaker 5

My family moved abroad when I was 12. I wasn't very happy at my new school, so my parents suggested I took up a hobby where I could meet other children with a similar interest. I chose tennis, mainly because there was a club near our home that accepted children. It really paid off, because I became really close to some of the children I met there, and we still see a lot of each other 20 years later. I didn't think I'd be much good at tennis, but I really took to it. I've now won a couple of regional tournaments, which is way above what I expected. In fact, it's hard to believe I've got to that level.

That is the end of Part 4.

There will now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I will remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

You have one more minute left.

That is the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Extract 2

You hear two people talking about making new friends.

Now look at questions 3 and 4.

Man: Hi, Claire. I haven't seen you for a long time.

Woman: Ah, that's because my company sent me to a branch in the north for six months.

Man: Oh! How was your social life while you were there? People are much friendlier in that part of the country than us southerners, aren't they? At least, whenever I've been there – if I've been waiting for a bus, say – someone will probably strike up a conversation, though that's as far as it went. Admittedly I've never been there for long enough to want to make friends for life, and that's a different thing altogether.

Woman: I tried to meet people. You know I used to go to a weekly tango class?

Man: Mm?

Woman: I found a class while I was there – bound to be a good way of meeting people with similar interests, I thought. At first, most people acknowledged my presence in the class, but whenever I suggested to anyone that we had a cup of tea afterwards, they muttered some excuse about not having time. It was very disappointing. But after a while they seemed to thaw, and it turned out all right in the end. In fact, I was quite sorry to leave.

Extract 3

You hear two friends discussing a television programme about genetics.

Now look at questions 5 and 6.

Woman: Did you see that TV programme yesterday about genetics?

Man: Yes, I did.

Woman: I found it fascinating. What did you make of it? As it's your field, you must already have known all about it.

Man: I wouldn't say that. In fact, I was impressed: some of the interviews with scientists were about research I wasn't aware of, and I'd thought I was keeping up with developments! Virtually everyone watching should have learnt something from it. And it was good how it managed to make some very complicated subject matter clear, so even people without any prior knowledge could understand.

Woman: Absolutely. I thought the way they demonstrated scientific principles using balloons, coloured water and so on was brilliant. It certainly helped me to understand.

Man: My only reservation was the presenter. He spoke so slowly I felt like shaking him!

Woman: Really? I was relieved! He gave me time to take in what he was saying, and think about it. Any faster, and I'd have been lost. I was glad the programme was just an hour long, though – I couldn't have concentrated for much longer.

Man: Well, I didn't have any problem concentrating, but an hour is quite long enough. And of course there's another part next week.

That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.



PART 2

You will hear a student called Caroline talking about her research project into rivers that have been made to flow underground. For questions 7 to 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2. You will need to play the recording twice.

Woman: Good morning. My name's Caroline MacArthur and I'd like to tell you a little about my research project into rivers that have been turned into underground streams. Of course, some rivers flow underground naturally, but I'm interested in the ones that have been put into pipes deliberately.

In Britain, a number of rivers were buried underground in large pipes during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. Rivers had always been used for sewage, but in this period, industry created pollution that affected lots of rivers, either deliberately or by accident. The aim was that it should be carried away by turning the river into a drain. One benefit, although this wasn't known at the time, was that covering rivers limited the spread of water-borne diseases. This led to significant improvements in the quality of people's lives.

Because underground rivers have no sunlight, plants can't photosynthesise, and so existing habitats were effectively destroyed, and there was no chance of new ones developing. In other words, the river ended up with no plants and no fish.

Another reason for the lack of wildlife was that when rivers were put into pipes, sections of pipe that were supposed to meet precisely didn't necessarily, and the difference in level could be great enough to prevent fish from passing along the stream.

Nowadays, we know covering rivers over isn't a particularly effective way of dealing with flooding. In fact, it can make the risk worse: one reason being that pipes may suffer a blockage, causing the water to back up. Similarly, if the pipe is under pressure from large amounts of flood water, it may collapse. In either case, serious damage is a potential outcome.

Let me give you an example. A few years ago, a block of flats had to be evacuated. What nobody knew was that a river flowed underneath it in a pipe. So, when a serious storm caused the pipe to collapse, the river spread out and washed away the foundations of the building, putting it at serious risk of falling down. It cost millions of pounds to demolish the building and construct a new one. Rather short-sightedly, perhaps, the river remained underneath the building, in a new pipe.

It's remarkable how few underground rivers are known, and identifying the unknown ones can be very difficult. I'm consulting old maps, of course, and I'm also looking at documents that mention rivers which aren't visible these days. Apart from that, I'm using software that shows the contours of the land, and maps where water would run if it flowed naturally through the landscape. Comparing the results of this with old maps predicts fairly accurately where there are valleys – often ones that aren't at all visible on the ground. And these often contain an underground river.

That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

PART 3

You will hear an interview for a student magazine with Penny and Giles, who have both just returned to Britain after travelling around the world. For questions 15 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3. You will need to play the recording twice.

Interviewer: Penny, Giles, thank you both for coming. As I explained in my email, I'm planning to write an article for the university magazine about former students who've travelled round the world. Giles, lots of British people spend a year abroad, don't they, as Penny did.

Giles: Yes, that was my original plan, too, when I graduated, but it turned into five years. I first went to Belgium, intending to stay for a week then move on, but it soon dawned on me that all I'd get out of it would be a tourist's view. I'd know virtually nothing about the people, or what it's like to live in the country. So I got a temporary job as a waiter and decided to spend a few months in every country I visited. It would also give me the chance to develop my writing skills. You see, my ambition is to become a journalist, so I set a goal of producing three articles a week about the places I visited, and keeping them to see how my writing was improving.

Interviewer: Penny, did you have many surprises during your trip?

Penny: Oh yes! I've always been interested in the rest of the world, and thought I was reasonably well-informed. But the trip proved to me that actually I'm pretty ignorant. Food, for instance – I was amazed at the sheer variety in different places. I ate lots of delicious dishes.

Giles: I did too, though I've never been very adventurous when it comes to food. But I learnt so much more on the trip than I'd anticipated – about all sorts of things. I even managed to pick up a smattering of several languages. I really made an effort, because of course lots of people don't speak English.

Penny: Yes. I wouldn't have coped without all those people who listened patiently while I struggled to speak their language!

Interviewer: Did you meet many tourists on your travels?

Penny: I visited several tourist areas and was really struck by the impact that tourism has. All the new hotels, roads and other infrastructure. I suppose that benefits the local economy, as it creates jobs. And tourism even gives an impetus to traditional crafts to some extent, because visitors buy locally produced items as mementos. I don't have a problem with tourism if people are interested in the local culture and want to learn about the place, but so often they're only interested in sunbathing or playing golf, say, without any curiosity about the place or the residents. That's really sad.

Interviewer: Giles, are there incidents you could tell me about, that I could put in the article?

Giles: Well, I spent three months in Thailand, again working in a café, and met a group of young Australians who were also travelling, and we had a good time together. The day before they left for Indonesia, one of them said, 'Why not come with us?' Well, it was really tempting, because I love doing things without having to plan ahead. But that was the one occasion when I felt I had to say no, because I didn't want to let the café owner down at such short notice. It was a shame, but it was the right decision.

Interviewer: And do you now intend to try and break into journalism? You mentioned that was your plan.

Giles: That's right. But I've still got itchy feet, so I may go abroad to work on an English-language newspaper or magazine. Writing about travel seems the obvious thing to do, but I'm finding it repetitive. Actually, I developed an interest in politics during my trip, and I'd like to develop that further, so I'm applying to do a Master's degree, which I hope will be useful if I want to go into political journalism afterwards.

Interviewer: Penny, how did you feel when you finished your trip?

Penny: Travel has been my dream since I was a child, so it was great to spend a year abroad. But I knew that turning a dream into reality is risky. Foreign countries that seem exotic from a distance can be quite mundane when you're there, or you may feel you've achieved your dream too early in life, and there's nothing left to look forward to. Luckily, it wasn't like that for me. But I certainly experienced culture shock when I came home – going abroad had given me a totally new perspective. So I'm enjoying seeing old friends and doing the things I used to do – but I'm looking forward to going abroad again.

Interviewer: Giles, what did you find ...

That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

PART 4

Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their jobs. Look at Task 1. For questions 21 to 25, choose from the list (A–H) the mistake that each speaker made in their job. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26 to 30, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker particularly likes about their job. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4. You will need to play the recording twice.

Speaker 1

There are some people at work who seem to delight in making you feel small, and some, if they want you to do something, who wouldn't ask politely if their lives depended on it. That really makes me mad, and I can't listen to them. That was my downfall once, when a manager gave me a job to do, and I scarcely heard what she said. And of course, I got it wrong. On the other hand, there are advantages to working here. At least I get out of the office to repair equipment that other companies have bought from us. There are some firms where I get on well with their people, and we have a good laugh.

Speaker 2

The best thing about the company I work for is that they know they depend on the staff, so they do things like using the in-house newsletter to praise people who've done particularly well in the past month. We manufacture office equipment and sell it to other businesses. I'm in sales, and I strongly believe it's important to keep customers happy. So once, when the purchasing manager of a major client asked me for an impossibly big discount, instead of refusing, as I should have done, I chickened out and agreed. I thought I'd make him happy, and leave it to my line manager to deal with the fallout. I have to admit she was furious with me, and I can't blame her.

Speaker 3

We're chronically understaffed at work, and there are constant deadlines, so we're always under pressure, and the scope for making mistakes is enormous. My job is keeping records up-to-date, and practically the worst thing you can do is get it wrong. Well, that's only happened once, but boy, did my boss make me feel small. So now I work late several times a week, to keep on top of things. All the office staff at my level are in the same boat, of course, so we all pull together. We often get together outside work, too, mainly to celebrate birthdays. It's just as well our boss doesn't hear what we say about him, though!

Speaker 4

There are five of us in the office – we're practically in each other's pockets, and we all feel responsible for everything that happens. So when I realised a colleague was spending hours doing personal stuff on the internet, which we've been specifically banned from doing, I couldn't bring myself to do anything about it. When our boss discovered what was happening, and that I hadn't said anything, he was pretty annoyed, understandably. One nice thing is the office closes at lunchtime on Fridays. Customers are sometimes frustrated that we won't arrange meetings for that afternoon, but it's great to have the time off. People occasionally work into the afternoon, to catch up, but we aren't paid any extra for that.

Speaker 5

As a freelance business consultant, I work on my own. I'd quite like to have colleagues, but it's no big deal. I measure my success by whether my clients value my advice and turn to me next time they need help. And luckily most do. I'm always on the lookout for potential clients, and pride myself on making whoever I'm talking to feel they're the most important person in the world. It's good for business! Recently someone called me who I'd met a month previously, and just introduced himself as 'Jack' – not even his surname. He assumed I'd know at once who he was, but I didn't. He seemed very disappointed, and I may have lost him as a client.

That is the end of Part 4.

There will now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I will remind you when there's one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

You have one more minute left.

That is the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Test 6

Transcript

Listening



This is Advanced Trainer Test 6, Listening Part 1.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I will introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece you will hear this sound: [tone]

You will hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You will have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

PART 1

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

Extract 1

You hear two friends discussing a new job that the man is about to start.

Now look at questions 1 and 2.

Woman: I hear you've got a new job, Donald. Congratulations!

Man: Thanks, Liz.

Woman: But I gather it'll mean moving.

Man: Yes, back to Scotland, which is where I grew up. Fairly near the same town. I'll be able to go mountaineering as often as I like – it's only a short drive to my favourite area. That's the main reason I applied.

Woman: And is it a better job than you've got now?

Man: Well, it's higher up the ladder, and the pay's better, but I'm not totally convinced I'm ready for the extra responsibility.

Woman: I'm sure you'll manage! So I suppose you'll be selling your house.

Man: Yes, in fact, I've had it on the market for a few weeks now. It's quite a difficult property to sell, despite being in a sought-after area, because in terms of size and price it's suitable for first-time buyers – young married couples, in particular – but it's quite quirky. It's easier to sell a standard, small three-bedroom house, and in mine the rooms are irregular shapes, and the bathroom's downstairs, rather than in the usual place.

Woman: But you've got a garden and a garage, haven't you?

Man: Oh yes, which is just as well, because people seem to expect them, these days.

Extract 2

You hear two friends discussing a novel.

Now look at questions 3 and 4.

Woman: I've just bought this novel, Harry. Do you know it?

Man: Yes. In fact, I've just finished reading it.

Woman: Oh, do tell me what you thought of it.

Man: Well, it's written in a pretty idiosyncratic style. It took me several chapters to see what the author was doing, and why, but then I was hooked. In fact, I enjoyed the book so much that when I came to the end, I wanted to find out more – what happened to the characters in the rest of their lives! Even though it ended at a logical point in the story.

Woman: I've heard the hero is very complex.

Man: Yes. I could see a lot of myself in him, which was one reason I enjoyed it. I wouldn't have thought it's your sort of novel, though.

Woman: Perhaps it isn't, but one of the people at my book club mentioned it and praised it to the skies, and I really like other books by the same novelist, so even though this is supposed to be very different from what she's done before, I must read it. And it's been shortlisted for a fiction prize, so obviously a lot of people think it's good.

Extract 3

You hear a husband and wife discussing new appliances for their home.

Now look at questions 5 and 6.

Man: I think we should ring the shop about the dishwasher. After all, we paid extra for delivery, and it was very inconvenient having to wait all day. They ought to refund the money.

Woman: To be fair, they only said they'd try to come in the morning, but they couldn't promise. What annoys me is that the leaflet they gave me was very inaccurate. They really should revise it so other people don't get misled. I can understand them not having every model in stock, but it meant I could only go by what the leaflet said. I really think I should give them a call about it tomorrow.

Man: Why? Would you have chosen a different model?

Woman: Probably, but I suppose I can live with this one. Now what about the cooker I want? Have you looked it up online?

Man: Yes. It's much bigger than our present one.

Woman: I'm sure we could move a cupboard to create more space. My only reservation is that it looks quite daunting – all those controls!

Man: We'd get used to them. But do you think it's worth spending so much on it? We're away a lot, and often have cold food at home – isn't the old cooker good enough?

Woman: Hmm, you've got a point. OK, let's forget that idea.

That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.



PART 2

You will hear Gavin McFarland, the manager of a football club, talking to some students about his work. For questions 7 to 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2. You will need to play the recording twice.

Man: Hello. I'm Gavin McFarland, and I gather you're interested in hearing about the life of a football manager. Well, I manage a not-very-successful team, and if I don't put you off it as a career, nothing will!

Let me start with the worst thing about the work, and it affects most managers. My job security is extremely limited. I'm the club's eighth manager in ten years, and I'll almost certainly get fired if the team continues to do badly. If I'm lucky, and they begin to show signs of life, I might be told I can stay till the end of the season – with no guarantees beyond that. In fact, on my office door, there's a nameplate that simply says 'Manager': no name permitted, no need to replace it for the next manager.

For that reason, many managers live apart from their families, in rented accommodation – there's no point in going through the upheaval of moving to another town if you'll probably have to move again months later. I'm lucky – my home is a half-hour drive away, so I can live there.

Then if your club isn't very well off, with hardly any staff or equipment – and very few have the resources of some of the best-known clubs – you'll find yourself doing all sorts of things, simply because there's nobody else, and you can't afford to bring someone in. Last summer, my wife painted some of the offices – and let me assure you, she wasn't paid for that – while it fell to me to paint the dressing rooms – the whole lot. Not a bad job, but not what I was expecting when I became a football manager!

Right, I'd better go on to the nitty gritty of the job. At the heart of it is recruitment – particularly of players, of course. I knew I'd be judged on the basis of the first player I brought in – I simply had to get it right, or I'd soon be out on my ear. Night after night I went to watch matches around the country, to look for talent and, hopefully, persuade a player I could see had potential to join us. The first player I signed up has been very good for us. Since then, I've brought in two more guys, and they're doing well. Long may it continue!

Another interesting part of the job is the regular press conferences. We time them so they don't coincide with the ones held by bigger clubs in the region – otherwise we wouldn't manage to attract any reporters at all. As it is, we're lucky to get more than half a dozen. I enjoy the conversation – some of them really want to catch you out, and making sure you don't say anything you shouldn't is quite a challenge!

I'm normally involved in training sessions, along with the coach. Two days ago, we worked the players into the ground, so yesterday we gave them a fun session, concentrating on ball control, and ending up with some practice for the goalkeepers.

OK, now it's time to...

That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.



PART 3

You will hear an interview on local radio with Jane Robinson, the Public Relations Officer of a company developing a former air base. For questions 15 to 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3. You will need to play the recording twice.

Man: Next on the programme, we discuss the proposed Buckworth East development. As we all know, the air force has vacated its base in the village of Buckworth, and the site is about to be developed under the name Buckworth East. The plan is for 250 new houses and premises for small businesses. With me now is Jane Robinson, PR Officer for the development company. OK, Jane, what's so good about this development?

Woman: Quite a lot, actually. The council wants 5,000 new homes to be built in the whole area over the next ten years. That'll mean new housing estates in lots of local villages, which will have a major impact on existing facilities, like schools; not to mention the quality of life of the residents of the villages. The old airforce site is large enough to provide all the new housing that the council wants in Buckworth. Villagers will benefit, too, as the new shops, etcetera, in Buckworth East will provide extra facilities for residents.

Man: Mm, but isn't it true that a lot of people are against this development?

Woman: Yes, but they're overlooking the positive aspects. The new residents will probably have cars, and yes, they'll add to traffic flows, but the creation of jobs on the site will mean many residents will be able to walk to work, so they won't add to rush-hour travel. And there'll be a high ratio of garages to housing units, so parking has been dealt with. Then a third of the new homes will be sold at little more than cost price. Unfortunately, that's still beyond many potential purchasers' means, but that's a national problem rather than one specific to Buckworth.

Man: But local people are unhappy with quite a lot of aspects of the plan, aren't they? I know the initial proposal of 500 new homes has been scaled down, but surely there's a need for suitable premises for a playgroup and nursery: the ones in the village are far too small. It's been pointed out that public transport to the site is very limited, though I understand a bus company has announced it will modify existing services to call at Buckworth East. Something else that's been raised, though I don't feel this is justified, is that insufficient attention is being paid to protecting animals and trees on the site.

Woman: Let's face it, there are always people who'll object, because there's a downside to everything. I'm sure most of them are perfectly reasonable people, with sincerely held views, but if every project was cancelled because somebody objected, nothing would ever be done, and we wouldn't have enough homes or jobs. And they're surely fundamental entitlements for everyone. Of course, we have to consider all objections carefully, but there's a limit to how far they can be met.

Man: OK. How do you envisage relations between the residents of Buckworth East and of the village, Jane?

Woman: It's perhaps unfortunate that the site is physically slightly separated from the village, er, with what will be a public park between them, so there's a built-in division. But it certainly isn't inconceivable that they'll become a single unit in due course, given goodwill on both sides. To a certain extent, it's up to the current villagers. They should actively encourage new residents to get involved by joining existing clubs, like the historical association and the gardening club. We had hoped that the new community centre which we proposed for land between the two areas would have helped to solve potential problems, but the council refused planning permission, so that won't happen. It remains to be seen, when the new residents move in, how soon a sense of community develops, but my guess is that new clubs will spring up on the site, perhaps in competition with existing ones. Don't forget, Buckworth East will have a larger population than the existing village.

Man: The council has just published the results of a survey of Buckworth villagers. Have you had a chance to look at them?

Woman: No, I haven't.

Man: There seems to be little awareness of the benefits the development will bring them, like additional jobs and shops. Some people claim that the council has simply ignored their objections, and perhaps it's the same people who see it as the destruction of village life. The vast majority, though, are fatalistic: they know there's a need for additional housing in the area, and wish none of it was going to be in Buckworth, but recognise that the air base is a more suitable site than covering the countryside with new houses. So it's a necessary evil.

That is the end of Part 3.

Now turn to Part 4.

Part 4 consists of two tasks. You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about living in a foreign country. Look at Task 1. For questions 21 to 25, choose from the list (A–H) the reason why each speaker moved abroad. Now look at Task 2. For questions 26 to 30, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker mentions about their experience of living abroad. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4. You will need to play the recording twice.

Speaker 1

Ever since university, I'd been a software engineer for the same firm, which had a foreign owner. Then the parent company offered staff in its subsidiaries around the world the opportunity to join a new team, based in their head office. I liked the idea, and my wife was keen, too, so I applied, and was given a six-month contract. The company only offered a limited relocation package, so we didn't take much with us. On top of that, the pay wasn't brilliant. It was hard to cope at first, but eventually it dawned on me that I didn't really need half the things I used to spend my money on.

Speaker 2

I've just come back from five years abroad – and not a moment too soon. I'd always boasted I was open to new experiences and pretty flexible, but boy, was I wrong! Almost everything was different from home, and I really missed the security of knowing what to do in most situations, without needing to think about it. I was really enthusiastic at first, though in retrospect I suppose I felt flattered that I'd been headhunted. Without wanting to sound arrogant, I had quite a good reputation in my field – I'm a geologist – so when a university in another country offered me a position, I was interested. My husband was happy about it, too, so we went.

Speaker 3

When I graduated, I couldn't get a job that fitted my career plans, and ended up as a paper pusher. It was humdrum work, with no prospects, and I felt trapped. Then a friend suggested going abroad. I had nothing to lose and thought there might be openings that didn't exist at home. My partner liked the idea, and we headed off, and both got jobs that covered the rent, but not much more. It was wonderful, and I realised my priorities had been wrong. OK, so my job was fairly tedious, but I had time for other things. I'd always dabbled in painting, and now I started taking it seriously. That more than makes up for an unfulfilling job.

Speaker 4

Living abroad taught me a lot. I've never described myself as introspective, but I spent a lot of time on my own while I was there, as I didn't have any family, and I don't make friends easily. And all the demands of living in a different environment highlighted what came easily to me, and of course what didn't. It was rather an eye-opener, to be honest. The reason I'd gone was that the university where I had a research position opened a campus overseas, and I was one of the people they approached about teaching there. Well, I was keen on the idea, the pay was good, so I said yes, and I'm glad I went.

Speaker 5

I'd finished studying, and my job applications were getting nowhere. Then I saw a research position abroad that would look really good on my CV, so I went all out to get it. A couple of eminent academics in my field agreed to be my referees, and I was offered the post on a three-year contract. It wasn't at all the type of environment I was used to. Some things were better than at home, others worse, but on balance the positives outweighed the negatives. But because I was living a very different sort of life from my friends at home, we seemed to have less and less in common. In some cases, we completely drifted apart.

That is the end of Part 4.

There will now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I will remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

You have one more minute left.

That is the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.