

TRACK 1 Test 1 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

A I'm sorry but you can't sit at this table.

B Why not?

A It's been reserved.

Conversation 2

A I'm thinking about going to London tomorrow.

B I wouldn't if I were you. There's a train strike.

A I'll risk it. There must be some trains running.

Conversation 3

A What should we get our grandmother for her birthday?

B How about a scarf and gloves? She hates being cold.

A I think that's what Mum and Dad are getting her!

Conversation 4

A I can't find my teddy bear anywhere.

B When was the last time you saw it?

A When I woke up. I was cuddling it.

Conversation 5

A I couldn't understand a word she said.

B Really? I didn't have a problem.

A She had an unusual accent.

Conversation 6

A What time is she due back?

B Sorry, I haven't got a clue.

A I'll just have to wait then.

Conversation 7

A You look lost. Can I help you?

B I'm trying to get to the seafront.

A It's in the opposite direction, I'm afraid.

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 2 Test 1 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

A Hi Irene. I haven't seen you for ages. Have you been hiding yourself away?

B I must admit I haven't been very sociable for the last couple of months. Busy, busy! What about you?

A Nothing special. I'm still working at the call centre giving people advice on how to use their mobile phones. I bet you are doing something much more exciting.

B It depends on what you mean by that! I've got a job designing the covers for a series of fantasy books.

A Fantasy books? Does that mean you get to draw pictures of weird supernatural characters?

B Exactly. The stories are mainly about fights between good and evil! I have to show that on the covers.

A You must have to use a lot of imagination. It's very different from my job where I just give out facts.

- B** One fact that I know is that you work regular hours.
A True, but I still have to do the same thing every day.

Conversation 2

- A** Good morning. I have an appointment to see the Head teacher. My name is Lisa Jones.
B Good morning Mrs Jones. According to her diary you arranged to meet her at ten thirty.
A I know I'm a bit early, but I was hoping to see her as soon as possible. My daughter's a student here.
B It's only just gone ten so I'm afraid you'll have to wait for a while. Can I get you a cup of tea?
A No, thank you. I'm very anxious to speak to her. It won't take very long. If she's in her office could I go in and have a word?
B I'm afraid she's teaching at the moment. Her lesson ends at ten fifteen and then she usually pops into the staffroom to see the teachers. I'll let you know as soon as she's back in her office.
A I didn't realise that head teachers had to spend time in the classroom as well as doing all their other duties.
B I don't think she has to. It is just something she really enjoys doing.

Conversation 3

- A** You are through to Horizon Television. My name is Kevin. How can I help you?
B Hello, Kevin. I'm Rebecca Sharp. I'm waiting for an engineer to come and install my 4G television, but he hasn't arrived yet.
A I'm very sorry to hear that, madam. Can you give me your account number?
B My account number? Where can I find it?
A It should be on the letter we sent you. It has nine digits starting with 878.
B I can't remember seeing it. Can't you just type in my name to get into my account?
A Unfortunately, our company insists we only use the number to access customers' accounts for security reasons.
B I suppose I'll have to go and look for it and then make another call. It's very inconvenient.
A I apologise but I have to follow the rules.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 3 Test 1 - Listening Part 3

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words.

- A** Welcome to the Travel Show on ABC TV. My name is Ted Armstrong and my guest on this week's exciting programme is Sandra Smith. She is a director of Quality Cruises and her aim is to make going on holiday on a cruise ship attractive for young people. Welcome, Sandra.
B Hello, Ted. Thanks for inviting me.
A Many of our viewers think that going on a cruise ship holiday is only for older people but you want to change that image. How are you going to do it?
B Well, Ted. This summer we're launching our latest cruise liners that especially look after the needs of young people. We have a wide range of activities to keep them happy. These include a sports club where they can learn diving, judo and karate – the sorts of activities they might not have tried before. We also don't expect them to exercise in the gym, so we have installed a rock-climbing wall. There are trained instructors and we provide all the safety equipment.
A That sounds brilliant. What else have you lined up?
B We know young people have a lot of energy and need plenty of things to keep them busy. We have a programme of competitions in art, music and dance. The winners will be decided by a panel of celebrity judges who will be joining us on board. I'm sorry I can't tell you who they are at the moment, but I can guarantee that our young cruisers will be very happy to meet them!
A Fascinating – I wonder who they are. What have you got planned for the evenings?
B I'm glad you asked me that question. For their evening entertainment we have got some DJs who will play music they really want to dance to. We have also got quiz and games nights and on their last evening there's going to be a fashion show where we encourage them to model their own designs.
A What about when they get off the cruise ship?

- B** Another good question, Ted! We've thought very carefully about where young people like to visit and have come up with a list that includes a sports stadium, a music festival and a theme park. However, I think the place they will most want to go is a shopping centre.
- A** That's a change from historic sites, art galleries and museums! Now – what's the age range that would most appreciate all you have to offer?
- B** We're targeting teenagers: thirteen to sixteen. We know from our experience that this particular age group could get bored very quickly on a cruise ship. We're now looking at that in a very exciting way. We've researched what will keep them entertained very carefully and come up with what we believe is important. We want to give them enough to do! That's the key.
- A** Thanks very much for sharing your ideas with us. We're looking forward to finding out how the first cruise goes!

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 4 Test 1 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A** There are only two days to go before your charity event, Jill. Have you got everything under control?
- B** I'm afraid there's still a lot to do in the next couple of days, Jack. I wish we had another week to get everything ready.
- A** What else needs to be done? I'm free all day on Friday so I can help out. I can also contact some friends who would be glad to lend a hand for such a good cause, even though they're busy.
- B** Thanks so much. It's really kind of them especially as I can't give them anything in return. I really need to get the venue sorted out. We're having lots of different activities to raise money. The tables and chairs have to be moved so could you help with that? There's one area where people can come and buy cakes and another where we're going to sell coffee. I also want to decorate the hall with lots of lights and colourful balloons.
- A** That doesn't sound too difficult to do. My friends are used to moving chairs and tables around, so it won't be too much of a problem. Have you got signs and banners to tell people about the charity and what you are trying to do?
- B** Yes. They're being done at the moment. Our logo is a big C. The charity is called WeCare and we are raising money for children by selling coffee and cake. We also have a celebrity coming to open the event, so I don't want anything to go wrong.
- A** That sounds exciting. Who is it?
- B** Unfortunately, I've been sworn to secrecy and have promised not to tell anyone, not even you, Jack. However, just between you and me, this person has over a million followers on social media. She lives not far from here so I'm very confident she'll turn up.
- A** A local celebrity is an excellent choice. I can't wait to see who it is. What else have you got on your list of things to do?
- B** Let me check. Oh, yes. I forgot to say that the owner of one of the food trucks that are outside the station has very kindly agreed to come and cook pizzas on the day. He's going to donate all the profit he makes to the charity. However, we have to provide the plates and knives and forks. Could you possibly go and get them, if I give you the money?
- A** Of course. I know a discount store where I can get them cheaply. Don't worry they will be biodegradable and not made of polluting plastic!
- B** Thank you. One of the aims of the charity is to care for the environment so I don't think we would sell many pizzas if they were served on plastic plates.
- A** I've got to go soon but text me if you want anything else.
- B** I've just remembered one last thing. Could you possibly go to the bank and pick up some money bags? We'll need them to help us work out how much money we've collected on the day. We just put the coins into the bags and take them back to the bank to be weighed.
- A** I'll do it on my way home. There's one problem, though.
- B** What's that?
- A** The bags are made of plastic!

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.

TRACK 5 Test 2 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A Where are you off to?
B I'm looking for somewhere to have lunch.
A Have you tried that new place on the corner?

Conversation 2

- A My computer's frozen again.
B Switch it off and on again.
A I don't think that will make any difference.

Conversation 3

- A What time did you get in last night?
B It was still light, so it can't have been very late.
A You promised you'd be back at eight, at the latest.

Conversation 4

- A Here's the package you ordered.
B Thanks. I'm so pleased it's arrived.
A You need to sign for it.

Conversation 5

- A What on earth are you doing?
B I'm just having a look around.
A Please leave. This area is not open to the public.

Conversation 6

- A Where's the nearest exit from the station?
B You have to go through the barrier there.
A How do I do that?

Conversation 7

- A Have you seen Miranda anywhere?
B I think she went to a staff meeting.
A Thanks. Any idea when it might finish?

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 6 Test 2 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A I hear you went to Paris last week. How did you get there?
B I got the train from London. It was really quick, just over two hours and very comfortable, even in standard class.
A That's a bit of a comedown for you, isn't it? I thought you always travelled by air, in business class! Why did you go that way?
B I must admit that I like travelling in style, but I also can't resist a bargain. I saw a very good deal online and just had to go for it!
A As you saved so much money on the tickets, did you decide to spend and stay in an expensive hotel?

- B** I actually found somewhere that was also good value for money. It wasn't right in the centre but very close to a Metro station, so it was easy to get around.
- A** Did you do all the touristy things like visiting art galleries and going on a boat trip on the River Seine?
- B** Absolutely not! I've done that on previous trips. I was so pleased with the money I'd saved, I ended up going to some wonderful restaurants. In one of them the bill was more than I spent on my train ticket. The food was delicious, so it was worth it.

Conversation 2

- A** Have you met our new neighbour yet?
- B** Yes, I went round yesterday to introduce myself. What about you?
- A** I saw her going into her house and waved but I haven't spoken to her. What's she like?
- B** She seems very nice but a bit shy. I suggested that I got all our friends together at my house so she could meet them, but she said she'd rather wait and meet them individually. She told me that she used to live in a small village where nothing much happened and she had to drive to go shopping or to have a meal. She's looking forward to being able to go out of her front door and find lots of shops and cafés within walking distance.
- A** We're so lucky here to have everything we need on our doorstep. However, if she's still got a car she's going to have difficulty parking it.
- B** Don't worry. She did exactly the same as I did and sold her car. I think she realised that the public transport around here is so good you don't need to have one.
- A** Very sensible. Now, as I haven't had the chance to talk to her, why don't we go round now and invite her out for a coffee?
- B** Good idea. We can find out a bit more about her. I'm sure she'll start to relax when she's sees we want her to become part of our community.

Conversation 3

- A** Good morning, how can I be of assistance?
- B** Morning. I'm not sure, under the circumstances, that it is 'good'. However. I hope it will get better during our conversation.
- A** I'm sorry to hear that. What's the problem?
- B** Well. My wife likes to burn candles in our sitting room in the evening. She particularly enjoys the ambience they create. However, she bought one from this shop last week. It's inside glass, I suppose, to make sure the flame does not go out.
- A** I know which type you mean. There's a cylinder of glass surrounding the candle which sits on a stone base. They're very popular.
- B** They may be popular, but they are also extremely dangerous. Last night, the candle had been burning for only a couple of minutes when the glass shattered into tiny pieces. One of them could easily have gone into my eye. I was shocked.
- A** I'm extremely sorry, sir. Have you brought the candle with you, so I can have a look at it?
- B** Brought it with me? Of course not! You don't expect me to wander into town carrying a bag full of broken glass, do you?
- A** I'm sure you'll understand that without seeing the damage to the product I can't give you a refund.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 7 Test 2 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words.

Thank you for calling *Theatre Guide*. We'll give you all the information about what's on at the wonderful theatres in London and how to book tickets. Here are our recommendations for different types of performance.

First up is a musical. You can't go wrong if you choose the London Palladium just off Regent Street. In case you are not familiar with it, that's spelt P-A-L-L-A-D-I-U-M. It's right next to Oxford Circus underground station. There's an all-star cast in a new production of *Cats* based on the poems written by T.S. Elliot.

Our next suggestion is a modern play. The best place to see recently-written drama is at the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, in the very fashionable district of Chelsea. You may have heard of it because of the famous football club. Their latest offering is *The Woods* by Alan Evans. It's a new way of looking at a fairy tale.

We now move on to plays that are called *Revivals*. This means that they've been staged many times before but continue to be popular. We think the best revival on offer this month is a delightful production of an old favourite: *The Rivals* by R. B. Sheridan. It was first seen where it's on now – the Royal Opera House, also known as Covent Garden – as long ago as January seventeen seventy-five. We believe it's still as enjoyable now as it was then.

Finally, a visit to the theatre in London wouldn't be complete without seeing a play by William Shakespeare. There are many excellent productions of his works, including *Hamlet* at the National Theatre. However, we strongly believe that a work by the Bard is best seen at the Globe Theatre on the South Bank of the River Thames. If you want to get the cheapest tickets, you must stand. It is also the best way to fully appreciate the live atmosphere. However, the play we suggest you see is *The Tempest* and it goes on for over three hours. There's an interval of twenty minutes.

All of the productions we have recommended on *Theatre Guide* start at seven thirty in the evening except for *The Tempest*. As it's such a long play, it begins much earlier, at six p.m. Please note that you will not be let into the theatre itself if you arrive after the start time.

Tickets for all these shows are available at the Box Office in Leicester Square. It opens at ten o'clock in the morning. If you want the best seats, join the queue as early as you can.

If you've found our theatre guide useful, please click the *very satisfied* button on our website.

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 8 Test 2 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A** You look a bit concerned, Paul. Didn't you have a good time at the shops?
- B** I bought some nice things, but it looks like one of the department stores is going to close down. I'm really worried that it will leave a big space in the centre of town for months. They also have a free car park that's easy to get into.
- A** How do you know it's about to close?
- B** All of the windows are covered in signs and posters saying *final sale*. They haven't shut their doors yet, but I'm sure it will happen soon. There were lots of people inside.
- A** It sounds like there are good prices before the shop closes.
- B** You're very optimistic, Mary. I always feel really uncomfortable going into shops before they shut down. I know the prices are often very low, but I don't want to buy stuff just because it is really cheap.
- A** It makes no difference to me if I can get something I want at a very low price.
- B** You've certainly got the right approach! I'm not so business-like! I also feel sorry for the staff when shops shut down. They'll probably all lose their jobs. This is bad time for big shops, so it might be difficult for them to get similar work, even if they don't stay here.
- A** I agree that the shop assistants have a bad time. I think the shop owners should take more responsibility. They must understand that competition from online sellers would have a serious effect on their business and they didn't react quickly enough.
- B** What else could they have done to save their business?
- A** I think there are lots of things they could have done to make going into the shop more attractive.
- B** Such as, Mary?
- A** There are other reasons why shoppers can be persuaded to spend money apart from discounts! I think that shops should put on events, such as fashion shows to sell clothes, cookery demonstrations with celebrity chefs and activities for children. Shopping should be an extremely enjoyable experience rather something which is necessary.
- B** You're full of good ideas! Anything else?
- A** You may not agree with me, but I think free Wi-Fi in a shop is a bad idea because people check if what they want is online instead of in the shop. Also, there are lots of other good places to eat and drink near the shops. You don't need to try to compete with them. I've never had a good meal in a department store!

*You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.
That is the end of Part Four.
You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.*

TRACK 9 Test 3 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A Is this your first visit?
B No, I was here a year ago.
A Really. Have you noticed any changes?

Conversation 2

- A Have you decided what to have?
B The vegan risotto. And you?
A A large steak and chips, for me.

Conversation 3

- A Who do you want to speak to?
B Miss Fyde. I think her first name's Petra.
A I'm afraid there's no one here with that name.

Conversation 4

- A Is that another unnecessary purchase?
B No! It's something I really need.
A Why do you need another coat?

Conversation 5

- A Have you ever assembled a wardrobe?
B No, but it can't be that difficult.
A The instructions are very complicated.

Conversation 6

- A We've been waiting for half an hour.
B They're bound to turn up soon.
A I'm going to give them ten more minutes.

Conversation 7

- A Have you managed to have a word with her?
B I haven't found the right moment yet.
A I'd get on with it as soon as possible.

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 10 Test 3 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A Beautiful weather for this time of year, isn't it? We don't usually get warm sunshine in late autumn.
B I know. It's been lovely the last few days, but I hear change is on the way!
A Don't tell me! It's going to get colder. I've got so used to going out without a coat. It's going to be a real shock when the temperature drops.
B I know. The weather forecasters are saying that there's a chance of snow as well as frost at night. I'd better check the heating system. We haven't needed to use it for the last six months.

- A I'll do the same. We also need to bring in the plants from our gardens that might get damaged by the frost.
 B I hadn't thought of that. I've got a lot of pots, so I'd better make a start.
 A I can pop in and help you tomorrow if you want. I haven't got very far to come, after all!
 B That's very kind of you. Don't forget to wear your coat!

Conversation 2

- A How's it going, William? Have you finished your short story yet?
 B I wish I had, Zadie. I'm still trying to come up with a good ending. I keep rewriting it, but I'm still not satisfied with it.
 A Would you like me to read it? I can give you some suggestions on how it could end.
 B Thanks, but I think that would confuse me even more. I'd rather try and finish it myself and then show it to you.
 A I quite understand. I also find it difficult to take ideas while I'm working on something.
 B My other problem is that I keep getting distracted by all the emails and news flashes that pop up on my computer. I just can't resist clicking on the links as soon as I see them.
 A You should know the answer to that! Switch off your Internet connection when you're writing so that there's nothing on your screen apart from your own work.
 B That is one good piece of advice that I'll listen to.

Conversation 3

- A Good morning. I want to send this package first class, please.
 B Yes, of course. I just have to ask you first of all – what's inside the package?
 A Why do you need to know that?
 B Well, there are certain items which are prohibited and I'm required to check before I can proceed.
 A I'm not happy at all about having to tell you but if I have to – it's a birthday present for my mother.
 B Very nice, sir – but what exactly is the present?
 A It's just a present, don't you understand? It's a very special day for her and I can't be with her, so I want to get her something she'll like.
 B I appreciate that but unfortunately, I still need to know what the present is.
 B Oh, very well. It's an expensive bottle of perfume.
 A I'm sorry to tell you but sending perfume is not allowed.
 B If you won't do it, I'll just have to go somewhere else.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 11 Test 3 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Use short answers of one to five words.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was a secret society started by a group of artists, poets and critics. It was founded in 1848 by three young painters: William Holman Hunt, John Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. They were all under the age of twenty-five. Their name resulted from their intention to change the way art was taught at that time, particularly by the influential Royal Academy of Arts. Teachers introduced the work of the Renaissance artist Raphael and encouraged their pupils to copy his classical images which had nothing to do with the real world.

The PRB, as it later became known, wanted to copy nature and paint landscapes and people as they actually were. They only painted what they saw. They wanted to show the natural world by using intense and vivid colours.

A good example of how the members of the Brotherhood were determined to show the natural environment as closely as they could can be seen in the painting *Ophelia*, by John Everett Millais. The picture comes from a scene in *Hamlet*, a play by William Shakespeare, where *Ophelia* is singing while floating in a river. Millais painted the landscape first. He chose a place in the countryside outside London and spent sometimes eleven hours a day over a five-month period in order to capture the scene showing the flowers and plants on the riverbanks in great detail. He had to endure being bitten by flies during the summer and being freezing cold in the winter.

After the landscape was finished, he painted *Ophelia* herself. He used an artist's model and instructed her to lie fully clothed in a bathtub in his studio. He made her stay in the water for several hours and as a result she caught a severe cold. Her father later demanded that Millais should pay for his daughter to receive medical treatment. The picture, when it was finally finished, was so realistic it looked almost like a photograph.

When the painting was first shown to the public in 1852 it was not a great success and was criticised in newspapers and magazines. It later became hugely popular and helped Millais become extremely well-known. Some people believe that this was a reason why he later stopped following the strict rules of painting he first believed in and started to paint the types of pictures he knew would sell for a lot of money.

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 12 Test 3 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A What's the matter, Nigel you look a bit worried?
- B You can't have read the news, Teresa. The pound has gone down again against the euro. We're going on holiday to Barcelona next week and will now have a lot less money to spend. The exchange rate is very bad for us.
- A Well, there's no point in worrying about something we can't control. There are ways we can save some money.
- B You're right. I don't want this to spoil our holiday. Let's think about some things we usually pay for that we don't really need to.
- A Good idea. First of all – transport. We were planning to take a taxi from the airport to our hotel. We don't need to do that. There's an airport bus that goes right into the centre of the city and is about half the price of getting a cab. We can then get the underground. There's a Metro station close to where we're staying.
- B That's a good start. Most of the places we want to see in the city aren't far from the hotel. We can easily walk everywhere. It'll be good exercise and we can save money on train tickets. We could hire bikes or get bus passes, but we won't need to.
- A That's the travel sorted! What else can be expensive?
- B Going to restaurants, especially in the tourist areas where they charge you too much. We can avoid them.
- A We've got to eat though.
- B Yes, of course we do! I'm not suggesting we go on diet while we're on holiday! We've booked the hotel in advance and breakfast is included. If we eat a bit later and have lots of food, we probably won't want very much for lunch.
- A We could just grab a sandwich and go and find somewhere to eat outside. There are lots of lovely parks in the centre of Barcelona.
- B Excellent idea! But what about dinner?
- A Why don't we buy food in the supermarket and eat it in our room? We can take plates and cutlery with us and have delicious Spanish food without spending a fortune.
- B Any other money-saving tips ideas you can think of?
- A The night life! I know we love clubbing and Barcelona has some brilliant places, but they can be very expensive especially if go after midnight, as we usually do. We don't want to stay in the hotel watching TV every night.
- B You're right. Sometimes if you get there early in the evening, you don't get charged an entry fee. I'll have a look online. Now, I have one final suggestion.
- A Go on. What is it?
- B The airline charges us if we check in our bags but if we only take hand luggage, it's free. Instead of packing some of our clothes, we could wear them on the flight. It might be a bit uncomfortable but it's worth it if we can cut costs.
- A It should work as long as they don't think we're overweight and make us buy another seat!

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.

TRACK 13 Test 4 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A Excuse me. I'm looking for the nearest supermarket.
B It's on this road, but I wouldn't go there.
A Why not? It can't be that far.

Conversation 2

- A What are we having for dinner?
B Why don't we get a takeaway?
A I thought you wanted to cook!

Conversation 3

- A I'm afraid this ticket isn't valid.
B What's wrong with it?
A You can't use it before nine thirty.

Conversation 4

- A You don't seem very happy.
B I can't find my car.
A Are you sure you parked it on this level?

Conversation 5

- A How do I change channels?
B You press the up or down arrows.
A I did, but nothing happened.

Conversation 6

- A Do you think I should invite Marilyn to my party?
B I'd rather you didn't.
A Why ever not?

Conversation 7

- A Have you got these boots in my size?
B I'll check. What colour would you like?
A They can be any colour apart from brown.

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 14 Test 4 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A I can see you've been shopping again. What's inside the cardboard box?
B It's a very nice bookcase. I've got books piled everywhere and I need something to put them on.
A But it's in a flatpack! I thought you hated having to put things together yourself.
B I usually do but I got it in a sale at a really good price and I just couldn't resist it.
A Are you going to make it now?
B I think I'd better. I hope I've got all the right parts. I'll be very annoyed if there's anything missing.
A I can give you a hand if you want. It's usually easier when you don't do it on your own.

B That's very kind of you. Let's have a look and see if we can understand the instructions.

Conversation 2

A I'm quite hungry. Shall we go and find somewhere to have lunch?

B What do you fancy eating?

A In this town we're spoilt for choice, aren't we? It's difficult to decide.

B There are a lot of good vegan restaurants that have opened recently. We could try one of those.

A We could do but I find that some vegan food isn't very tasty.

B I thought you were vegan now.

A Absolutely not.

B Oh right. That's a relief. I'm not that keen on vegan food either!

A What about going to Aldo's? They have a lunch menu with a lots of different options, which I like. The portions are huge as well.

B That sounds like a plan. I'm starving now and probably could eat everything on the menu!

Conversation 3

A Have you checked the weather forecast today?

B I have and I'm sorry to say it's not very good. I know it's sunny at the moment, but they're predicting very heavy rain this afternoon and high winds.

A That's unusual for this time of year, but I suppose it's hardly surprising these days as we're starting to get the effects of global warming. Is it going to get any better?

B It doesn't look like it from the chart on the web site. There's a large area of low pressure coming in from the Atlantic and that's going to stay with us for the rest of this week.

A Oh well, as you always say – there's nothing we can do to change the weather. We'll just have to make the best of it.

B Exactly – we should go now while the sun is still out.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 15 Test 4 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Use short answers of one to five words.

Hello everyone. My name is Linda Lewis and I'm a lecturer in social history at the university. This afternoon I have been invited to talk to you about the origins of Bonfire Night. I'm sure you've seen posters advertising bonfires and firework displays in the last couple of weeks and wondered what they're about. You may have also seen people in the parks piling up wood and then putting something on top of it. Well, as I'm sure you've worked out, it's associated with an historical event that I'll try to explain as briefly as I can. In sixteen hundred and five, 16-0-5 there was a plan by a group of people who were against what the King at that time, King James the first of England, to give him his full title, was trying to do. King James was a protestant, the head of the Church of England, and the group of people who were plotting against him were catholic. They believed that the king and his government were badly treating people who belonged to the catholic religion. They wanted to do everything they could to stop this from happening. The word that we usually use for this is persecution: to punish people only because of their religious beliefs. The group made a plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London. This is where the members of parliament or MPs made and, of course, still make the laws that govern the country. The group asked one of their members, Guido Fawkes or Guy Fawkes, as he later was called, to carry out the plan using barrels of gunpowder. If you are taking notes, Fawkes is spelt F-A-W-K-E-S. He was stopped from making the gunpowder explode by soldiers who supported the King.

Guy Fawkes was arrested on the fifth of November and later found guilty of high treason. This is a crime where someone tries to kill the monarch, a king or queen, that in the seventeenth century carried the death penalty. At that time this meant that an executioner cut off your head with an axe. I know it sounds horrible but that's what happened in those days! To remember the event which became known as the Gunpowder Plot, every year on or around this date people burn an effigy of Guy Fawkes on a bonfire and celebrate with fireworks. I'll read you a poem that summarises what I have been talking about.

Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder treason and plot. I see no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot.

Finally, you may like to know that the biggest firework display near the school is in Hove – H-O-V-E – Park on Saturday which is the third of November and not the fifth. It's well worth going. Thank you very much for listening. I am happy to answer any of your questions now.

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 16 Test 4 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A** We're doing our presentation to the whole school and that includes all the teachers on the dangers of plastic in under a week's time. There are going to be a lot of people in the audience so I'm quite nervous, but also very excited.
- B** It's a shame there isn't room for our families to come and listen. It's such an important subject. We need to get the message across to as many people as we can. I believe so strongly in what we are saying.
- A** I know we've got less than a week, but there's plenty of time to finalise the slides and prepare exactly what we're going to say. I'm not concerned about how long we've got.
- B** You're right. Do you think we should change the title of the talk? Does it fully reflect what we're trying to tell people? Not all plastic is dangerous, after all.
- A** Perhaps we should change it to: the dangers of single-use plastic. That narrows it down a bit. It still lacks a punch. We need something that will really make our audience want to listen.
- B** How about: Do something drastic, use less plastic?
- A** I quite like that. Let's go through the slides again and then make a decision when we've got everything else together.
- B** OK – so we're going to have a slide for each of the nine key reasons that show why we should stop relying on single-use plastic in our daily lives, like coffee cups and water bottles.
- A** If we have an introductory slide at the beginning and a summary at the end, that will give us eleven slides. We also need one to say thank you and give our contact details, so we must add one more.
- B** OK – I've got that. The next important issue is the order we put the reasons in. Should we start with the least dangerous and finish with the most dangerous?
- A** I think it's really difficult to decide which is the most and least dangerous. Why not focus on the ones where people use plastic and then move on to how these actions damage the environment?
- B** That sounds good. We could start with the fact that only a tiny percentage of the plastic we use is recycled.
- A** I agree. I also want to have pictures of marine animals that are in danger from plastic pollution in oceans and seas and then end with a scary image that plastic will still be around in a hundred of years. At the moment we just can't get rid of it.
- B** That will definitely make people sit up and listen more than anything else.

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.

TRACK 17 Test 5 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A** We haven't met before, have we?
- B** I'm pretty sure we haven't!
- A** My name's Dan Smith.

Conversation 2

- A** What are you going to order?
- B** I haven't quite decided yet.
- A** Make your mind up. The waiter's here!

Conversation 3

- A The dishwasher's making a strange noise.
B OK. I'll switch it off and check it out.
A This is the third time it's happened.

Conversation 4

- A What's inside that shopping bag?
B I can't show you. It's a surprise.
A Is it a special present for me?

Conversation 5

- A Good morning. We've got an appointment with Clare Bell.
B Are you sure? She's with another client now.
A Definitely. Here's the text confirming the time.

Conversation 6

- A What was the film like?
B It turned out to be better than I expected.
A Why was that?

Conversation 7

- A What are you doing on your birthday?
B I don't really feel like celebrating this year.
A Why not? You're still really young!

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 18 Test 5 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A Good afternoon. I bought this jacket last week and I want to return it.
B That's fine. Is there a problem with it?
A It's the wrong size and I've now decided I don't like the colour.
B We can exchange it or refund your money, provided you've brought the receipt.
A Receipt? I haven't got it with me. I left it at home.
B We might have emailed it to you.
A I very much doubt it. I get far too many emails and always ask for receipts to be printed out. I just didn't bring it with me.
B You can see from the official notice on the till that we can only give you your money back if you bring the receipt.
A Can't you make an exception? I really need the money right now.
B I'm afraid not, Madam. I'd get into a lot of trouble if I didn't follow the rules. However, you can exchange it for another item of clothing at the same price.
A Right. I can then bring that back with the receipt and get a refund, can't I?
B I suppose so, Madam.
A I'm very glad to hear it!

Conversation 2

- A Good afternoon, Mrs Bennett. You made an appointment to see me. Is there a problem that you would like to discuss?
B There most certainly is, Mr Collins. My daughter Elizabeth was getting good grades last term and appeared to be doing very well. It all seems to have changed after the holiday. I'm now extremely worried about her progress.
A Yes. Looking at the scores she's been given in the last couple of weeks, I can see that her marks have gone down considerably.

- B** I'm very well aware of that. However, what I don't understand is why it is happening. Have you got any ideas?
- A** As you know, Mrs Bennett, Elizabeth can be stubborn at times and likes to have her own way. She's being taught by different teachers this term who may find her attitude more difficult to deal with.
- B** The way she behaves is not a reason to give her bad marks. There's more to it than that.
- A** I agree, but I believe that she has lost some motivation to work hard because there's sometimes a conflict with her new teachers. Why don't we just give her a couple of weeks to settle down and then review the situation?
- B** I'm just as determined as my daughter and I'm not going to accept this. I want to talk to these teachers as soon as possible.

Conversation 3

- A** Thanks so much for coming. Before you start, can I get you anything to drink?
- B** Just some water, thank you. I need to get on as I've got a lot of appointments today. Can you just talk me through what happened and I'll try and sort it out as quickly as I can.
- A** I explained it to your colleague on the phone but the message obviously didn't get through. When I switched on the TV, the screen was completely blank and there was no sound. I checked the connections at the back and they all seemed to be in place.
- B** Did you try the remote control?
- A** I most certainly did. I even changed the batteries just in case that was the reason why I couldn't get the TV to work.
- B** OK. I think there might be a simple explanation. There isn't a problem with the TV. It just needs to be linked to the box provided by the satellite company and at the moment it isn't.
- A** I don't understand how that happened.
- B** Have you used any of those sockets in the corner recently?
- A** Yes. I spilled something on the floor and borrowed my neighbour's carpet cleaner.
- B** You must have switched the box off by mistake when you were using the cleaner!
- A** Oh no. That was careless of me.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 19 Test 5 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Use short answers of one to five words.

Welcome everybody. You are all here because you have bravely decided that you want to take part in our annual public-speaking competition. This year it will be on the first Thursday in December. My job today is to tell you what you need to do to prepare. All the information will be available on our website but after you've heard what I've got to say, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions about anything you're not sure of.

OK – firstly the theme of this year's competition is: *The pleasure of leisure*. Last year, if you remember, we had a much more serious topic on: *The dangers of climate change*. This year we're hoping to encourage you to talk about how you enjoy yourselves and the importance of having a good time.

You may have heard the rules before, but I want to go through them again to make sure everyone who takes part knows exactly what they have to do. The speech can be made individually or with another person. It should last no more than twenty minutes. When you have five minutes left, one of our staff will hold up a sign informing you that your time will soon be up. If you carry on talking after your time is up you'll be politely stopped and may lose points.

You can use any types of visual aids that you want. There is no requirement to have slides if you feel that they do not add anything to what you say. If you decide to use a computer, please do not bring your own laptop but put your presentation onto a memory stick. One of our technicians will then set it up for you.

I'd now like to give you some suggestions on how to get and keep the audience's attention. I advise you very strongly not to try to learn your speech by heart. It will make it sound very unnatural. Even worse than this is to write the speech down and then read it out. The best way to prepare is to summarise what you are going to say into key words and phrases. Write them down in large letters on a piece of paper. Then look at it to make sure you don't say things in the wrong order. Look at your audience during the speech. People often look at the floor when they are nervous and it's then much harder to project your voice. Imagine that you are speaking to someone right

at the back of the room. Remember to take a deep breath before you start and then slow down your speech. A common mistake is to speak too quickly so your words are unclear as a result.

My final piece of advice is what I call the three Ps: Practise Practise Practise. When you know what you're going to say, practise the speech in front of a mirror. In that way you will have a good idea of how the audience sees you.

Finally, I want to thank you again for taking part and wish the very best of luck to all our contestants.

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 20 Test 5 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A** You're Ray, aren't you? I haven't seen you for ages. How are you?
- B** My goodness, Mary. I thought I recognised your face but I wasn't completely sure because it's been such a long time. I'm fine. How wonderful to see you!
- A** And you. What are you doing here down here? I thought you were still working in London.
- B** I left my job with the advertising company nearly three years ago. It just shows how long it is since I saw you. I'm now working in Brighton for an organisation that helps homeless people get back on their feet by finding them places to live and employment.
- A** That sounds very worthwhile. Are you enjoying it?
- B** Yes. I work with some amazing people and it's very rewarding helping people get off the streets. However, as you can imagine, it's not nearly as well paid as being an advertising executive in central London.
- A** Why did you leave the job? Did it become very stressful?
- B** Yes. Before I left, our big boss got more and more demanding. There's a lot of competition between advertising companies. The amount of money we earned really dropped and people like me got the blame. It wasn't fair. I'm a lot happier now. Enough about me. What have you been up to?
- A** Well, I'm still painting, doing abstract art but it's been really hard to make a living by selling paintings so I also work for a card company doing illustrations.
- B** What exactly does that involve?
- A** There are loads of different types of cards: birthday, wedding, Christmas, congratulations – so many! The illustrations on most of them are quite boring and very similar. My cards are unusual and each one has a hidden message that you have to look for carefully. I don't find it hard to come up with ideas for my pictures and they don't take too long to do.
- B** That sounds really interesting – but doesn't it stop you from doing the abstract art you really enjoy?
- A** Definitely not. I probably shouldn't tell you, as you've taken such a big cut in your salary but I get a percentage for every card they sell with one of my designs on it. There's a huge demand and I'm doing very well. It means that I can continue painting but without having to worry about paying the bills.
- B** The last time we met in London our situation were different! I seem to remember I bought you lunch in a restaurant overlooking the river. I won't be able to do that now.
- A** It's my turn now. I can definitely buy you a cup of coffee in a nice café on the seafront!

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.

TRACK 21 Test 6 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A** We must go shopping today.
- B** Whatever for?
- A** There are some amazing discounts.

Conversation 2

- A** What did you think of the film?

- B** I didn't really enjoy it.
A I guessed as much when you fell asleep.

Conversation 3

- A** Have you read Jack's post on the website?
B Not yet. What was he on about?
A He congratulated you on your success.

Conversation 4

- A** I feel really sorry for Dave.
B So do I. He should've been offered the job.
A I know. He was easily the best candidate.

Conversation 5

- A** Have you finished your packing?
B Just about – apart from my toothbrush.
A Is there any room left in your suitcase?

Conversation 6

- A** I've just seen an article you might find interesting.
B Really? What's it about?
A How to enjoy life without a mobile phone.

Conversation 7

- A** Why should we offer you a place on this course?
B I'm hard working and really want to study.
A What do you hope to gain from doing it?

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 22 Test 6 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A** I've just had a word with your mum and she told me that I can decorate your room in any way you want. It's your choice. Just be careful.
B That's great. First of all, I want all of the furniture removed apart from the bed.
A Just the bed in the room – and where do you want it to be?
B Right in the middle of the room so that it's nowhere near the window and not touching any walls.
A OK – but it might be a bit awkward to get from one side of the room to the other. I think you should keep the wardrobe.
B That's where it's going to be. Now the walls are all to be painted black. I really don't like this white and blue paper that my parents put on.
A Black? Are you absolutely sure? It might make the room quite dark and gloomy. It's not what I'd have chosen.
B Exactly! I want to be different. That's the effect I'm trying to achieve.
A OK – and what about any pictures on the walls?
B I've got a poster of my favourite painting that needs to be hung up opposite my bed. I want to be able to see it when I wake up.
A I hope that it'll add some colour to the room.
B I doubt it. The picture's called *The Dark Side of the Moon*!

Conversation 2

- A** Good morning, Tessa. I understand you want to have a quick word with me.
B Thanks, Tom. I don't need to take up too much of your time but just wanted to let you know about the job I applied for.

- A** You applied for the job a while ago, didn't you? I assumed you hadn't got it.
- B** So did I, but I got an email this morning informing me that my application had been accepted and they want me to start at the end of this month.
- A** Well, although I should be pleased about your success, it'll be impossible to let you leave in three weeks. We're coming up to the busiest time of the year and I can't possibly be without a key worker. It really isn't possible.
- B** I understand the difficulty I've put you in but I've always wanted this job. According to my contract I only have to tell them I'm going two weeks before I leave my job.
- A** I know what's in the contract but we've worked together for over three years now and I feel you owe me some loyalty. I don't know what I'm going to do without you.

Conversation 3

- A** Lesley, I can see from your face that you're planning something. What is it?
- B** I didn't think that my expression would be such a giveaway, Frank – but you're right. I have an idea.
- A** Tell me what it is. I don't like secrets.
- B** I was hoping it'd be a surprise but I suppose I'd better tell you.
- A** Don't keep me waiting.
- B** I was just about to buy tickets to go and see King Crimson at the London Palladium next week. There's a flash sale on and I can get them half price, but only if I book today.
- A** I know King Crimson is your favourite band and the tickets are a good price but progressive rock is my least favourite type of music, even worse than the awful country music you play in the car.
- B** That's what I thought you'd say and the reason why I didn't want to tell you until the last minute. Sadly, it hasn't worked and this might be the last chance I get to see them.
- A** Oh, all right. I love going to London and if it means so much to you, I'll come with you but on one condition.
- B** And what might that be?
- A** You get me tickets for the opera where we can enjoy four hours of Wagner's wonderful music. If I've got to listen to screeching guitars and a twenty-minute drum solo, it's the least you can do.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 23 Test 6 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Use short answers of one to five words.

Good afternoon everyone. My name's Clodagh. It's an unusual name of Irish origin spelt C-L-O-D-A-G-H but pronounced *Clohdda*. I'm an official guide for your tour around one of the most iconic buildings in the city – The Tower of London. Please feel free to stop and ask me questions along the way, and I'll do my best to answer them.

I'll start off with a brief introduction and then talk about the different areas we're going to see. Let's start right at the beginning. In the ten seventies – that's of course at the end of the eleventh century, not the tenth – King William had come from France and conquered – that is, took control of – the south of England, including London. He decided to build a castle which would dominate the skyline and show off his royal power. It took twenty years to build using stones that were brought from northern France. In the thirteenth century there was another phase of building. King Edward the First expanded William's fortress by building defensive walls around it and digging a moat. A moat – M-O-A-T – is a deep ditch which is filled with water and can only be crossed by a bridge.

The Tower is guarded by Yeoman Warders – a yeoman just means an ordinary person. They wear a special uniform and most people know them by their nickname: Beefeaters. The reason for this is what you would expect: the King Henry VIII gave them permission to eat as much beef as they wanted. Every day they perform the Ceremony of the Keys where the gates to the Tower are unlocked and locked. We're going to see this at five thirty this evening. Another of the duties the Beefeaters carry out is to look after the ravens. These are black birds that live in the Tower of London. You may wonder why they have to do this. The answer is that there's a legend that if the birds fly away the country will fall.

Although the Tower was used as a prison to keep some well-known people, it's perhaps most famous for being the place where the Crown Jewels are kept. Kings and queens have stored crowns, jewels and ceremonial clothes here for more than six hundred years. Over thirty million people have seen them and they are possibly the most visited objects in Britain, if not the world. You'll be happy to know that this is where we're going to start our tour.

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 24 Test 6 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A I'm not doing anything special this evening. I was supposed to be going to meet an old school friend but she has just texted me to say she's ill and can't make it this evening. Have you got anything planned? We could do something together.
- B This is a surprise, Charlie. How long have we been sitting next to each other in this office – three years? And this is the first time you've suggested we go out together. I'm shocked!
- A That's not entirely true, Louise. We've been to lots of parties together. We had a good time at the last one to celebrate the managing director's retirement.
- B You're right. I was only teasing you. It would be fun to go out. Is there anywhere you were thinking of going?
- A I'd like to do something a bit different. I usually just go to the cinema and then have a meal afterwards. There's so much else going on that I'd like to do.
- B What sort of thing have you got in mind?
- A We could go to the theatre. There's a play on written by a young writer who's also acting in it. It starts at about eight but doesn't finish until after eleven. It's quite long.
- B Have you got any idea what's it about?
- A I know there are only six people in the cast. All the action takes place at a dinner party which starts with everyone being friendly until one of them criticises everyone else in the group.
- B I have to say, it doesn't sound like a lot of fun sitting for three hours watching people have a chat. Why don't we just go to a club and dance the night away?
- A Alright – but most clubs around here don't open until ten o'clock. We should probably go and get something to eat first. I don't think you can get food in a club and I'll be starving if we wait until we leave. I know an excellent Japanese restaurant that serves delicious food.
- B Sorry, but I'm not that keen on raw fish and cold rice. I know it's supposed to be very healthy but my tastes are different. I don't even eat salad.
- A I bet you like deep fried fish served with thick chips and washed down with a cup of strong tea.
- B You're absolutely right, especially if I can burn off all the calories in a hot club.
- A It wouldn't be my first choice but I'm sure we're going to have a brilliant time.
- B We can get to know each other properly – at last.

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.

TRACK 25 Test 7 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A Is anything wrong?
- B I can't decide what to do this weekend.
- A Would you like to see what's on at the cinema?

Conversation 2

- A Can you help me with my homework?
- B Why? Can't you do it on your own?
- A I don't understand any of the questions.

Conversation 3

- A Have you finished reading my magazine?
B Which magazine are you talking about?
A The one with the article about women film directors.

Conversation 4

- A You can't go backstage without a pass.
B But I'm one of the crew for the band.
A Everyone says that when they want to get in.

Conversation 5

- A Have you ever met Matilda?
B Matilda? What does she look like?
A She's tall and always wears dark glasses.

Conversation 6

- A Have you got a pen and paper?
B Sorry I haven't. Why?
A I thought you might want to write down the information.

Conversation 7

- A When does your contract finish?
B At the end of this week.
A You haven't got very long to go, then.

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 26 Test 7 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A What do you think of Arthur's new girlfriend? We haven't been introduced yet but I hear she's very pretty.
B Don't believe everything you hear about Lisa. She's not nearly as friendly as Jenny.
A Jenny? Who's Jenny? Oh, yes. She was she going out with Arthur before he met Lisa, wasn't she?
B That's right. They split up a couple of months ago and he's been with Lisa ever since.
A So how did that happen? Tell me all the gossip.
B Well, it all started when Arthur came to my birthday party on his own. Jenny wasn't feeling very well and decided to stay at home. But guess who was there?
A The lovely Lisa, I presume.
B That's right. The day after the party I had a very tearful phone call from Jenny telling me that Arthur didn't want to go out with her anymore and she couldn't understand why.
A Did you tell her about Lisa?
B I had to as I really didn't want her to find out from anyone else. It was awful and since then I've hardly spoken to Lisa.
A Poor Jenny. I hope she's OK. You haven't got her phone number by any chance?
B I'll text it. You never miss an opportunity, do you?

Conversation 2

- A Looking at all your bags, you've done a lot of shopping.
B I certainly have. Today is Black Friday so most of the shops are offering big discounts and I managed to grab quite a few bargains.
A I've never really understood Black Friday. I thought it was just an advertising trick to get people into the shops but when they got there the prices were almost the same.

- B** It used to be like that. It started in the United States because they have a Thanksgiving holiday on the third Thursday in November and the day after was also a public holiday when people had plenty of time to go shopping.
- A** But apart from the States and Canada, nowhere else has a Thanksgiving holiday.
- B** I know – it's a bit weird but when I went shopping today, I got a forty percent discount in all the department stores.
- A** So, you think Black Friday is a real deal, do you? What did you buy?
- B** I'll show you. I got a very nice cashmere scarf. The original price was just over a hundred and I paid fifty – so it was nearly half price.
- A** What? You paid fifty pounds for that cashmere scarf and you thought it was a bargain. I hate to tell you this, but I saw an identical one online two weeks ago for only forty pounds!
- B** So, I've spent all day going around the shops thinking I was saving money. All the adverts said that I had to buy today because next week the prices will go up again.
- A** I think Black Friday is really just like any other Friday. Let's have a look at the other things you've bought and I promise I won't tell you how much you could have paid for them online.

Conversation 3

- A** Good afternoon. You are through to the reception desk at the Grand Hotel. My name's Bertie. How can I help you today?
- B** Good afternoon, Bertie. This is Mrs Pilchard in room thirty-seven. I booked a double room with a sea view for four nights. I'm in my room now. I'm happy with the size and I suppose it's not too expensive. However, I'm looking out of the window and there isn't a view of the sea.
- A** You can't see the sea, Madam? I'm somewhat surprised, as room thirty-seven is at the front of the hotel overlooking the sea.
- B** Yes, I can see the sea but there's a busy main road between the hotel and the sea. That's not what I would call a sea view. All I can see is a line of cars and double-decker buses. That's not a view.
- A** I'm very sorry, Madam. Unfortunately, I'm not able to move the road for you and the last time I looked through the window in room thirty-seven I could easily see the sea. There were small sailing boats bobbing up and down on the water. It was beautiful.
- B** You may not be able to move the road but you can move me. I would get a better view and much less noise from a room on a higher floor. I, of course, expect to pay the same as my current room rate.
- A** I'm afraid that those are our premium rooms where the amount per night is considerably more than what you're paying now.
- B** This is unacceptable. I booked a room with what I call a sea view and that's what I expect to get. I want to speak to the manager immediately.
- A** I am the manager, Mrs Pilchard. If you would like to upgrade your room, come to reception immediately. I've got a lot of other guests to serve and I certainly don't want to keep them waiting.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 27 Test 7 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Use short answers of one to five words.

Good morning everyone and welcome to our summer school at the South Bank Academy. I'm going to be your teacher for the morning class. It's a real pleasure to see you all. My name's Anita Robinson. I don't really like Anita and would prefer you to use Annie: A-N-N-I-E. Now, I like all my students to feel relaxed in my classes but I have some rules that I expect you to follow.

The lessons start at nine thirty from Monday to Thursday. On Friday, we start at ten o'clock because all the teachers have to go to a staff meeting. I advise you to use this half hour to check that you've finished all your assignments for the week. I'll come back to those a bit later. I expect everyone to arrive on time for the classes. Anyone who comes fifteen minutes after the start of the lesson will not be allowed to attend the class and will have to go to the library. I just want to be fair to students who have made the effort to get here on time. Late arrivals disrupt the smooth running of the class.

The morning class finishes at half past twelve every day including Friday. There's a fifteen minute break at around eleven when you can go and get coffee in the student lounge on the second floor. Please do not bring any food or drinks into the classroom.

During the lesson, I expect you to speak English to me and to the other students when you're doing pair work and group work. It's important to take every opportunity to practise the language.

The next rule, that may not be to your liking, is the use of mobile phones. Unlike some of the other teachers, I'm afraid that I insist that you switch off your phones in the classroom. The only exception to this rule is when a student needs to be contacted by a family member in an emergency. My classes are very communicative and I want to create an atmosphere where we can talk freely to each other without resorting to our devices. I promise you that you'll quickly get used to it.

Finally, back to the homework assignments. I'll set you three tasks to do each week which will help to develop your skills in reading, writing and research. These must be handed in at the start of the lesson on Friday. I'll mark them over the weekend and return them to you on Monday morning. If you give in your homework after the deadline, I'll take off ten percent from the mark I would have given you. All your scores are recorded for your end-of-term report.

These rules may appear to be quite strict but I can assure you that they are designed for your benefit and will help you to improve your ability to communicate in English.

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 28 Test 7 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A** Sometimes the news can be a bit depressing but one story really cheered me up.
B What's that, Neil?
A Landing a space vehicle on the surface of Mars. It was an absolutely amazing scientific achievement.
B I don't know very much about it. Are you sure you didn't read about it in one of those science fiction graphic novels you like buying?
A I must admit it sounds closer to science fiction than science fact, Tara, but it really did happen.
B Give me some more information about it and then I'll decide whether or not you're telling the truth.
A OK – this is the story of the event. NASA – that's the North American Space Agency – launched a spacecraft called Insight that took six months to travel the three hundred million miles from Earth to the Red Planet – that's Mars of course.
B That's a very long way. It must have been travelling at a very high speed through space to get there.
A It certainly was. Its speed was around twenty eight thousand kilometres per hour and then in the seven minutes or so before it landed its speed had to drop down to about the same as a person jogging – not even running or sprinting – just jogging.
B That sounds incredible. I wonder how they managed to slow it down to that degree?
A I don't know enough about the science to even begin to understand. All I know is that it landed safely in the northern hemisphere and started sending back pictures almost immediately. It was such a relief. There was another rocket called Beagle that landed but then mysteriously disappeared.
B What was the aim of this Mars mission?
A The scientists are interested in the core of Mars – that's the inside of the planet. They want to know whether it's solid or liquid. One person described it very well as the difference between an uncooked egg and a hard-boiled egg.
B I never thought of Mars being like an egg. Are there other experiments?
A There certainly are. They want to listen for Marsquakes.
B Marsquakes?
A Yes – they're like earthquakes but they happen on Mars. They listen for vibrations which give information about what types of rock Mars is made of.
B It all sounds fascinating but why do we actually need to know about Mars? Surely there are enough problems on Earth without having to worry about what's going on in outer space. There's little likelihood that people are going to live there, especially as I'm sure there isn't any water.

- A** According to a report I read from one of Insight's chief scientists, studying what's under the surface of Mars helps us to understand how the planets in the solar system evolved.
- B** That doesn't really answer my question.
- A** Hang on, Tara. Let me finish. It helps us to understand why we can sit in the sun and get a tan on Earth compared to Venus where you'll burn in seconds or Mars where you'll freeze to death.
- B** I know where I'd rather be. I now accept that this actually took place but it still reminds me of the comics I used to read.
- A** Have a look at the online video showing what happened at NASA headquarters when Insight landed successfully. The people who'd spent years planning it went crazy with excitement and everyone started clapping and hugging each other. That wasn't science fiction – it was definitely science fact.

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.

TRACK 29 Test 8 - Listening Part 1

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A** Hey Jane, are you coming to the party tomorrow?
- B** I don't think I can.
- A** They've hired a DJ, it'll be fun.

Conversation 2

- A** I have finally saved enough money.
- B** Great! What for?
- A** I'd really like a new pair of jeans.

Conversation 3

- A** Is everything alright?
- B** I can't get comfortable on this sofa.
- A** How about with this cushion?

Conversation 4

- A** Have you tried the food?
- B** It's really delicious!
- A** I made everything myself.

Conversation 5

- A** I'm thinking of asking for a promotion.
- B** Really? But... you don't sound too sure...
- A** Well, I'm a bit scared, to tell you the truth.

Conversation 6

- A** There's a party at Nick's tomorrow...
- B** You have tons of homework for Monday!
- A** What if I promise I'll be back at eleven?

Conversation 7

- A** This dress looks great on you!
- B** Don't you think it's too flashy for a birthday party?
- A** Don't be silly! You can pull it off!

That is the end of Part One.

TRACK 30 Test 8 - Listening Part 2

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Conversation 1

- A** Notice how all those friends who never text you back are the ones always on their phones when you see them?
- B** I know! Right? Have you seen Helena whenever we go out all together? She never texts us and then when we finally meet, she always ignores everyone and is on her phone all the time!
- A** How rude is that! I always make a point of responding within five or ten minutes, unless it's a group chat – I ignore those.
- B** Yes, but if you do, you may miss important information about a meeting or something.
- A** I guess so... I also feel a bit left out sometimes – you know when the others have arranged an activity and I don't even know what they're talking about.
- B** That's my point! I always follow the group chats, just to make sure I know what's going on.

Conversation 2

- A** Haha! Do you know, I was thinking, in superhero comics, like Superman and Batman, heroes bleed all the time, but no one has run a blood test to find their true identities! Have you ever thought of that?
- B** Well, Jamie, you always come up with the weirdest things to say! No, I haven't actually! Do you think it's true? I mean, I haven't seen many superhero films, to be able to confirm that.
- A** Hmm... but think about all the comics you've read – has anyone ever run a test?
- B** Yes but come on! Who would enjoy the films and the comics then? The mystery is part of the attraction, isn't it?
- A** I know but don't you think writers should find a more believable way to build suspense? I mean, if nobody believes the story, then the film certainly loses some of its audience, right?
- B** Yes, I guess that's a valid point.

Conversation 3

- A** Have you come up with any ideas for the next class environmental project? Everything I've thought of has already been done a thousand times!
- B** And the kids will be bored silly if we ask them to do another one on recycling or how the rainforests are a source of oxygen for the planet!
- A** And quite rightly so! They've done it a million times. But, I do believe that we should make them more aware of how much rubbish is produced by each household.
- B** Mm... how about we ask them to produce some kind of art from the rubbish they throw away? This might help them see how much waste they produce, and it'd be original.
- A** That's not a bad idea, actually! Quite a few of them would probably find it creative enough, and the rest would have fun trying to make something out of nothing!
- B** That's settled then! I'll go online to look up ways we can set it up, and perhaps you should talk to the headmistress and fill her in.

That is the end of Part Two.

TRACK 31 Test 8 - Listening Part 3

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words.

Clean the Beach Day

Ahem... If I can have your attention, please?... Thank you. Now, can you all hear me? Great! So, let me begin by saying how proud we all are of the school team's win in the volleyball final last Saturday! On Friday we still weren't sure if you could pull it off, but you were brilliant! So, congratulations to everyone!

And now to business! As you know, the ‘Clean the Beach Day’ is taking place next Sunday. I know you’re all looking forward to it and I’m glad to see so many eager faces around! As this event takes place twice a year, I’m sure most of you are, by now, familiar with what needs to be done, the rules and the schedule, but let me recap it all once more.

Erm... right. So, first of all, clothing: since it’s still quite cold, in March, you’ll definitely need to be wearing a pair of good waterproof boots. Make sure you don’t come in your trainers as those will get wet very easily. Also, please take with you a second pair of shoes if you need to change later. Waterproof trousers and a good jacket are also advisable as it may be chilly on the beach.

Now, I’m sure you remember that as the school will provide you with those at the beach before we start cleaning, you don’t need to bring protective gloves and big plastic bags. During the event, there’ll be water and orange juice available if you’re thirsty, but if you think you might feel hungry while we’re actually collecting the rubbish, then you’d better have a snack with you for while you’re picking rubbish, as there won’t be any food at that time. After we finish, however, a light lunch will be offered, and we’ll have a pleasant picnic on the beach!

Another point to remember: Don’t forget that the coaches leave the school premises at exactly eight forty-five in the morning and will be back at half past three – that is three thirty, so please let your parents know that they should drop you off no later than half past eight in the morning and pick you up at around quarter to four in the afternoon. Make sure they don’t forget that!

A last word of caution! If you are feeling unwell in any way, if you think you may have a cold or the flu, it’s best if you miss the event. I know how much most of you are looking forward to helping and participating, but there’ll be a lot more opportunities throughout the school year, so, don’t worry – you can help in other ways. Don’t forget that we’ll need people to write an article about the event in the local community site and magazine, so perhaps you can be of assistance even from home!

Ok, so if you have any questions regarding the event, please email me at head master at north school dot com. Hope to see you all at the beach!

That is the end of Part Three.

TRACK 32 Test 8 - Listening Part 4

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

- A** Hey Daria, I’ve been looking for you everywhere! I wanted to ask you something – you’ve got a pet rabbit, right?
- B** I do, Jason, why are you asking?
- A** Well, I’ve been thinking of getting a pet and I’m trying to find out more about rabbits. They’re really cute!
- B** They are, aren’t they! I just love mine! His name’s Fluffy by the way! He’s perfect! And so funny!
- A** Is it difficult to look after a pet rabbit? What kind of food do you feed it?
- B** Oh, looking after it is easy, and the food is cheap and easy to find – all the pet shops sell rabbit food. What’s difficult is getting your parents to agree to let you have a pet! That’s what I found the hardest.
- A** Really, Daria?! Didn’t your mum want him in the beginning?
- B** Well, she loves him now, but it took me more than six months to convince her and dad to let me get a pet! Have you asked your parents about having a pet, Jason? Because that’s the first step in my opinion! And you can’t get a pet without their permission – there’s no way you can keep it a secret for long!
- A** Mmm... I hadn’t thought of that, you know. I’ve always assumed that my parents would want a pet at home – especially my dad who keeps telling stories about how his cat was his best friend while he was growing up.
- B** Yes, but what about your mum? Did she have a pet too when she was growing up? If she did, it’d be easier to convince them.
- A** I’m not sure, I can’t remember her mentioning any pets, but I’ll ask her.
- B** Then, the next most important thing you need to consider is what’s going to happen to it when you’re away. Who’s gonna look after it? If you can find someone to take care of it when you aren’t at home, then

your parents may agree more easily – generally one of the arguments they have against pets is that they have to look after them when we are away.

A Mmm ... that's a good point you're making there, Daria! I hadn't thought about that! And I go to summer camp every summer, so this is going to be a problem! Do you think you could look after my rabbit if I get one?

B Haha, Jason! Very funny! You forget that I go to a camp as well? I've made arrangements for my rabbit and my cousin looks after Fluffy in the summer. She really loves him too. But, you have to find someone you trust with your pet, otherwise, you'll spend the entire holiday worrying if it's ok or if it's suffering.

A What'd you mean? Has anything ever happened to Fluffy?

B No, but I'm careful who I trust! Animals have personalities too, and if you want your pet to be happy, then you learn to do some things they enjoy! In other words, you don't train them, they train you! Rabbits may seem like easy pets to have, because you don't have to take them for a walk and stuff, but they do need to be taken out of their cages every day, and you have to play with them. And, you aren't gonna like this – their cages need cleaning regularly.

A I'm not sure I'd enjoy that! But I guess I'll have to if I want a pet, or my mum won't agree!

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have one hour and twenty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.