

Practice Test 1

Listening scripts

SECTION 1 Questions 1–10

Questions 1–5

DAD: Hello? 992846.

HANNAH: Dad? Is that you?

DAD: Hannah?

HANNAH: Dad. I'm phoning ...

DAD: The line isn't very clear.

HANNAH: Yes, I know, I'm on a mobile and the signal isn't very good. I'll see if I can move ... is that any better?

DAD: Yes. That's much better. Just don't move.

HANNAH: I'll try not to.

DAD: Have you found a place to live yet?

HANNAH: Yes! I think I have at last.

DAD: Wonderful!

HANNAH: I'm relieved, because I'm fed up looking. I didn't think it was going to take me three weeks.

DAD: It hasn't been easy for you. I suppose it's the beginning of the academic year and you have all the new students looking for places as well.

HANNAH: Yes, that's one reason. But this place is also full of new technology companies and there are lots of young people looking for somewhere to live. And you know what that means?

DAD: Higher rents as well.

HANNAH: Yes. Much higher.

DAD: Well, tell me, how much is it?

HANNAH: It isn't cheap for this area. It's 400 pounds a month.

DAD: That's much more than you had expected.

HANNAH: Yes, it is, but I can't face looking any more. I want a place where I can put my things, instead of living out of a suitcase. I don't want to stay in this hotel any longer.

DAD: I guess not. So, what's the new place like?

HANNAH: Oh, it's really, really nice.

DAD: Oh, good.

HANNAH: It's in a very quiet street. It's a second-floor flat with one double bedroom, a large living room, kitchen and toilet and bathroom.

DAD: Sounds very nice.

HANNAH: Oh, it is. And guess what?

DAD: Yes?

HANNAH: It's got a small roof terrace looking on to the garden at the back.

DAD: Great.

HANNAH: And it's big enough to have my plants and a small table and chairs.

DAD: Brilliant.

Questions 6–10

DAD: Now, what's the address?

HANNAH: It's 22b Whitehart Road.

DAD: 22e.

HANNAH: No, 22b. B for ... banana.

DAD: Right. And it's Whitehart Road.

HANNAH: Yes.

DAD: And the postcode?

HANNAH: You now, I don't think ... I've ... got it.

DAD: Okay.

HANNAH: No ... here it is. It's EX15 9RJ.

DAD: This line is bad. Is that EX50?

HANNAH: No it's EX15.

DAD: Okay. I don't think I know the road.

HANNAH: It's a side road. But you do know the area because it's off Garrett Lane.

DAD: Oh right. Which end?

HANNAH: The other end from the stadium.

DAD: So it won't be too noisy then.

HANNAH: You can still hear it from here when there's a match on.

DAD: Mmm. When are we going to see you?

HANNAH: Well, I was going to come down on Friday evening after work. And then we could bring my things by van on Saturday afternoon. I want to move all of my stuff out to give you and Mum more space.

DAD: We'll need to hire a van then.

HANNAH: It's OK. I'll pay for it.

DAD: No. No. Don't worry. It'll be a gift from your mum and me.

HANNAH: Oh, Dad. It's okay I ...

DAD: No, I won't hear of it. We'll pay.

HANNAH: Oh, all right. Thanks, Dad.

DAD: And if you're taking everything we might need to hire a container lorry.

HANNAH: Oh, Dad!!

DAD: I'm only joking.

HANNAH: I know.

DAD: I'll hire the van for the Saturday then. I can pick it up first thing in the morning.

HANNAH: Right.

DAD: And then return it in the evening.

HAHHAH: Are you sure you don't want to stay overnight?

DAD: No, I'd best get back the same day. You know what your mum's like. She'll only worry. If I remember rightly, it's about three hours by road?

HANNAH: Yes, roughly.

DAD: Well, if we leave by lunchtime, we'll be there mid-afternoon.

HANNAH: Okay.

DAD: Then a couple of hours to unpack.

HANNAH: Then ...

DAD: We could go to a nice restaurant round the corner.

HANNAH: Definitely. My treat!

DAD: You're on. But I'll have to be away by about seven-thirtyish.

HANNAH: Okay.

DAD: Right then. Ahm ... Mum wants to have a word. I'll see you Friday.

HANNAH: Bye, Dad.

DAD: I'll hand you over to her ... bye.

SECTION 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11–13

And now for our main headlines on Southern Local News for today. First of all, the report relating to the proposed motorway and other developments around the village of Tartlesbury was published this morning. And, as has been expected, it has created quite a lot of interest. The new motorway will pass along the north side of the village, crossing the River Teeme less than half a kilometre from the well-known beauty spot Streeve Ford to the north-east of the village. The motorway will cut the village off from the Ford, where many children play.

But that is not the end of it. There are also plans to build a thousand houses on farmland west of the village. And on top of that there are proposals to build an industrial estate for new technology companies on the site of the old steel works on the edge of the village. A new centre with a swimming pool and a very wide range of sports facilities, and a large supermarket with other shops are also planned next to the housing estate.

Questions 14–17

Mr Jones, a local farmer we spoke to early today, is strongly against the plans. But the local council is pushing for them to be adopted in full. They say that new housing is needed in the area and that it is an opportunity to take advantage of government grants

for setting up new technology developments. The Mayor, Mr Funn, says: 'We must make every effort to do our part for the economy of the country and for the local people. This is a golden opportunity to put Tartlesbury on the map.'

Reactions to Mr Funn's comments have been quick to come. Surprisingly, when we contacted the spokesman of the local conservation group, he was very much for the planned developments. But not all the local groups support the scheme. And, unlike the Mayor, the local MP Mrs Wright is very much against the planned developments.

Mr Khan, a local shopkeeper, had this to say: 'People are absolutely horrified at what is being proposed here. This is just a chance for some people to make money quickly. But I can assure you that if they think that local people are going to be a walkover, they have another thing coming. Of course, we welcome the jobs that the new technology park will bring, but we feel that the large increase in housing and the proposed motorway will destroy the character of the area.'

I think this is a debate that is going to run on for quite some time and we here on Local News will keep you informed.

Questions 18–20

And now for something quite different. This year's exam results have just come out and there are a lot of happy faces out there. It would seem that the number of young people going on to university from the local College in Upton, which is not far from Tartlesbury, has increased by 25% this year. All those who have applied to go to university or into teacher-training colleges have found places. This is the first time that there has been a 100% success rate at the College. We spoke earlier to the Principal of the College, who said she was very proud of all those who had achieved their aims and she wished them every success in the future.

There will be another news bulletin at 11 p.m. and for now it's back to more music from around the world.

SECTION 3 Questions 21–30

Questions 21–25

DR WOODHAM: So, Pamela, here's your essay. And Carl, you've already got yours back. Anything you want to ask or any comments?

CARL: Can you just go over again for us how the marks for our essays go towards our final grade?

DR: Well, mmm, over the year you are meant to write five main essays for this course.

CARL: Yes.

DR: And each essay's marked out of 20, which gives you a total of 100 marks.

CARL: Yes?

DR: This course work makes up 50% of your marks for the year, with the other 50% coming from the written exam.

CARL: Right. So the five essays contribute to 50% of our final grade for the year.

DR: Yes.

CARL: You gave me 18 out of 20 for this essay, which gives me a total of 9% towards my final grade for the year.

DR: Mmm, and ...

PAMELA: And with 14 for this one, I've got 7%.

DR: Yes, Pamela. Does that clarify it?

PAMELA: Yes.

CARL: Mmm. Yes.

PAMELA: We did have it explained to us at the beginning of the course.

CARL: When?

PAMELA: In the first tutorial.

DR: Okay. I think we had better move on now. About your last essay, have either of you any questions or comments?

Questions 26–30

CARL: You gave me 18 for this paper. What was the big difference between this piece and the previous one? I actually thought the first one was better!

DR: Well, there was quite a marked difference.

CARL: Really?

DR: Yes. It looked as if you had actually done quite a bit of research. You had quite a lot of relevant examples, especially on the historical side. You even found some information that I was not even aware of! Your sources were also very sound. And on top of that, your answer was very well organised indeed and the writing style was very elegant.

CARL: Oh. Thank you very much!

DR: I must say that it was the best piece of writing for a paper that we've seen for quite some time.

CARL: I have to say, though, it took me a very long time to put it together.

PAMELA: How long?

CARL: At least two weeks.

DR: But it was well worth it.

CARL: Can I just ask you if it is possible to rewrite the first essay of the term? It's really brought my average down.

DR: I'm sorry, but it's impossible.

CARL: Is there no way to do it?

DR: I'm afraid not.

CARL: Okay. Right. I'll just have to try to do better than average on the others.

DR: And Pamela?

PAMELA: Well, to be honest, on the whole I'm happy with my marks.

DR: Again, your research was very good. And you gave quite a long list of source material, which was very good.

PAMELA: I spent quite a lot of time on this essay, more than the others.

DR: Well, again, it shows.

PAMELA: What about the organisation? I was a bit worried about that.

DR: Your organisation, I have to say, was excellent.

PAMELA: Oh!

DR: But as regards your style ...

PAMELA: Yes?

DR: It is slightly too informal here and there. I think you need to tighten this up a little.

PAMELA: Mmm, okay. I only wish I'd put a bit more effort into the first one as well now. But I would like to know how I can get my marks up even higher. What do I have to do, specifically?

DR: Well, your work could do with being more thoroughly checked. You have quite a few spelling mistakes.

PAMELA: Yes, I know. If it's anything, I think it's the computer.

DR: Mhmmm?

PAMELA: Well, I'm not very good at typing, two fingers really, and when I finish something like this I find it difficult, even depressing, to go over it carefully again.

DR: But it's affecting your marks.

PAMELA: Mmmmmm.

DR: Your previous essay was much better than this one. Sometimes, it's difficult to follow what's being said because of the frequency of mistakes. A couple of years ago the university authorities would have been more lenient. But now they are very hot on presentation and have been coming down heavily on things like grammar and spelling.

PAMELA: Mmmmmm.

DR: In fact, I am obliged to deduct marks from every piece of work which is not handed in fairly free of mistakes.

SECTION 4 Questions 31–40

Good morning, my name is Dr Mervin Forest and I specialise in management techniques and training. I've been invited here today to talk to you about the cost to the economy of bad management ... and what I would like to dwell on first is an area that has recently been exercising everyone and that is coercion in the workplace, or to put it more simply, bullying.

It has been estimated that bullying at work costs the British economy up to four billion pounds a year in lost working time and in legal fees. And with the problem apparently on the increase, it is time that managers took on board what is happening. I would like to think that what is perceived as bullying is nothing more than lack of experience, insecurity or lack of awareness on the part of managers, and not a conscious effort to attack someone, but that is perhaps a case of, of ... my being naïve, or over-hopeful. Before we break up into groups to look at the first task on the handout you've got, I'd like to give you a start with some of the main bullying methods that have been identified so far. Basically, what I'm going to do here is to give you examples of one or two points. Can you all read the OHP clearly? Yes? Right. Off we go.

The first item on the list is giving people tasks which managers themselves cannot do and which are, therefore, impossible to achieve. This is, in fact, a very common strategy used by managers to 'manage' their subordinates. It gives certain people a false sense of security as they watch others failing while they try to achieve the goals set. Another simple bullying technique is constantly moving the goalposts, especially when one's employees are in the middle of a task! This is not bad management; it is just plain stupid. All targets and goals set should be easily achieved within a realistic time-scale.

Sending memos to someone else criticising the performance of a task where the individual has no way of replying is another common technique; especially when the manager concerned does not reply or makes it impossible for subordinates to contact him or her by not answering the telephone or not replying to emails. This is not the style of a sound manager, but rather the antics of someone with emotional problems. If you behave like that, don't expect your staff to respect you.

And now the technological bully. It is interesting how all tools designed to help can be turned into dangerous weapons. The 'urgent email' bully is fast becoming a problem in the office. Employees turn on their computers to be faced with a string of badly worded emails, making instant and often unrealistic demands, which reveal the hysteria mode of management. Have you ever felt a sense of dread before looking at your email, even your personal messages? All companies should develop a company strategy whereby there is an email code of practice, with offensive messages being forwarded to a designated person for appropriate action.

I would now like you to break up into groups and brainstorm other bullying techniques which you think you may have experienced and, perhaps, if you are honest, which you have been party to. I can think of at least nine more bullying strategies. I would also like you to consider ways in which you think that each of the techniques on your list can be countered.

Is everyone clear as to what the task is? Yes? Okay. You have got twenty minutes to do this.