

Preparation • Listening

At the beginning of the Listening paper, you will see some instructions and information, including the items in the box below. It's a good idea to be familiar with this information before the exam. When you know what to expect, you will feel more prepared.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Listen to the instructions carefully.

Answer all the questions. Each question carries one mark.

You will hear each piece twice.

You will have six minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Use a pencil.

Part 1

Part 1 of the Listening paper tests your ability to listen for specific information. You will hear seven short recordings. You have to answer a question about each one by choosing the correct picture from three options.

There will be a short pause before the recordings are played. Use that time to look at the questions and the pictures. The recordings are played twice. Try to answer each question the first time you listen. The second time, listen and check your answers.

TIP

When you read the questions, make sure you understand what you are being asked. Look carefully at all the pictures in advance and think about what each represents.

1 Match the pictures (A-C) with the written descriptions (1-3).

1



A



B



C

1 seventeenth

2 fourteenth

3 fifteenth

2



A



B



C

1 shopping in the town centre

2 playing basketball

3 watching a film at the cinema

3



A



B



C

1 having a picnic in the park

2 reading a book in the garden

3 sunbathing on the beach

4



A



B



C

1 booking a holiday over the phone

2 booking a holiday at a travel agency

3 booking a holiday online

5



A



B



C

1 two o'clock

2 four o'clock

3 one o'clock

2 Read the questions carefully. Choose the key word (A, B or C) that will help you to find the correct answer.

1 Which food is Maya's favourite?

- A food
- B Maya
- C favourite

2 What was the last song like?

- A last
- B song
- C like

3 When did Faisal finish his tennis lesson?

- A Faisal
- B finish
- C lesson

4 What does Elena play now?

- A Elena
- B play
- C now

TIP

In the test, all of the answer options might be mentioned, but only one of them answers the question correctly.

TIP

As you do this exercise, think about the answers you gave in exercise 2, and try to find a link in the text. Remember: The text might use a synonym for the key word in the question, that is, a different word that means the same thing as another word.

3  **01** Listen to the four short recordings. Circle the word or phrase in bold in the text that signals the correct answer.

1 Which food is Maya's favourite?

*I **eat a lot of fruit** and vegetables because they're good for me. I have a salad **every day**. Even though pizza is what I **like the most**, I only eat it once a week. Pizza isn't a very healthy food!*

2 What was the last song like?

Boy The concert was amazing, wasn't it? **Most** of the songs were brilliant.

Girl Yeah, and I'm glad they played their hit song first. It's so cheerful.

Boy I was surprised by the **final** one, though. It was kind of strange.

Girl You're right. It wasn't really **typical** of their style.

3 When did Faisal finish his tennis lesson?

*Hi Tom, it's Faisal. My tennis lesson was **just starting** when you rang at 10.30. Sorry I missed you. I'm so tired now; the lesson **didn't end until** 12.00! Hey, can you call me back around 2.15 **if you have time**?*

4 What does Elena play now?

Girl Does your sister, Elena, still play the flute in the school orchestra?

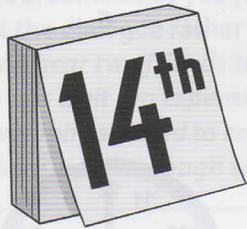
Boy No, not the flute. She **played** the cello **for a while**, but she plays the violin **at the moment**.

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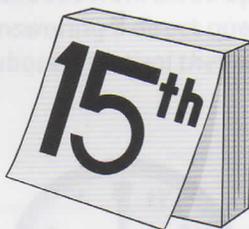
Part 1

02 For each question, choose the correct answer.

1 On which date did the boy's grandparents get married?



A



B

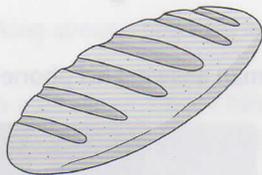


C

2 What is the woman going to buy today?



A



B

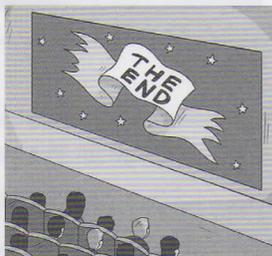


C

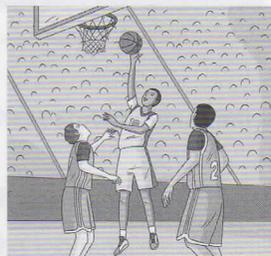
3 What is the man going to do on Saturday?



A



B



C

4 What did the woman do last Sunday?



A



B



C

5 How did the man book his holiday?



A



B



C

6 What time is the exam?



A

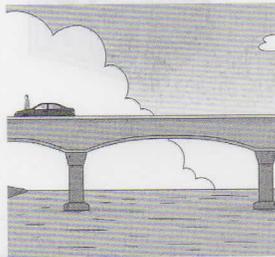


B



C

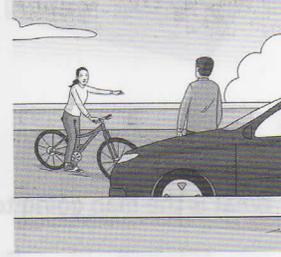
7 What happens as soon as the man answers his phone?



A



B



C

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Part 2

Part 2 of the paper tests your ability to listen for the overall message in the text. In the exam, you will listen to six short dialogues, which are usually informal conversations between friends. You will hear each dialogue twice. Then, from three options, you choose the correct answer to a gist question about each dialogue.

In Part 2, sometimes you have to choose from three options to complete a sentence about the dialogue rather than answering a direct question about it, e.g.:

You will hear two friends talking about a festival they went to. They agree that _____.

- A it was a bit too expensive.
- B everyone seemed to enjoy it.
- C there wasn't enough variety.

- 1 In the exam, before you listen, read the questions carefully and think about what you are being asked. Look at these questions. Underline the most important words and phrases in each one.
 - 1 You will hear two friends talking about a new shopping mall. What does the man think of it?
 - 2 You will hear two friends talking about a film they watched. What did the girl like best about it?
 - 3 You will hear a boy telling his aunt about a book he's read. How does he feel about it?
 - 4 You will hear two friends talking about a website. What do they agree on?
 - 5 You will hear a girl telling a friend about a problem. What does the boy advise her to do?

Gist questions in Part 2 often focus on opinions and attitudes expressed in the dialogue. You won't be asked about a specific detail, such as the exact location of a café or the time at which an event begins. Instead, you may be asked what someone said, how one of the speakers feels about something or what they think.

- 2 Practice recognizing people's attitudes and opinions. Read these statements. Then tick the ones that express an attitude or an opinion.
 - 1 That book was so sad. Honestly, I wish I hadn't read it now.
 - 2 Their train was cancelled because of bad weather this morning.
 - 3 After lunch, we listened to a brand new podcast about hip hop.
 - 4 Her speech was pretty good, but we all felt it was a bit too long.
 - 5 It was embarrassing because hardly anyone came to the school play.
 - 6 His new film is on at our local cinema at the moment.
 - 7 Kevin thinks it's rude when people are late, but I don't agree.
 - 8 We made pancakes using flour, milk and an egg.

TIP: Listen for stressed words

People often put more emphasis on certain words, such as adjectives, when they are expressing their feelings – for example, *It was embarrassing*. Listening for the stressed words can help you to identify the speakers' attitudes or opinions.

TIP

Remember: The answer options will usually paraphrase what the speakers have said. Both speakers may present a variety of opinions or attitudes, but you must identify the one the question asks about.

3 Match the questions (1–5) with the correct statement (A–E).

- 1 How does the boy feel about snowboarding? _____
- 2 What does the girl like most about the scenery? _____
- 3 What does the boy advise the girl to do? _____
- 4 What does the girl think the boy might enjoy? _____
- 5 What do the boy and girl agree wasn't interesting? _____

- A Boy** You should definitely check out the museum. It's incredible.
- B Boy** Yeah, you're right. I thought the film was boring, too.
- C Girl** You could volunteer as a tour guide. You'd love it!
- D Boy** It's so much fun. I don't even care when I fall! It's really exciting.
- E Girl** The mountains were nice, but the ocean was definitely the best bit.

TIP

As you listen, try to notice the speakers describing how they feel, talking about things they agree with or like, or expressing their opinion.

4  **03** Listen. Then circle the correct option.

- 1 You will hear two friends talking about an exam.
 - A** The girl **thinks / doesn't think** the exam was easy.
 - B** The boy **thinks / doesn't think** the exam was reasonable.
 - C** The girl **thinks / doesn't think** she did enough revision.
 - D** The girl **thinks / doesn't think** some of it was confusing.
- 2 You will hear two friends talking about how much football players are paid.
 - A** The woman **agrees / doesn't agree** that the news is positive.
 - B** The woman **agrees / doesn't agree** with top football players' salaries.
 - C** The man **agrees / doesn't agree** that players are paid too much.
 - D** The man **agrees / doesn't agree** that many people are poor and hungry.
- 3 You will hear two friends talking about a clothes shop.
 - A** The woman **likes / doesn't like** this shop.
 - B** The man **liked / didn't like** the jeans.
 - C** The man **liked / didn't like** the T-shirts.
 - D** The man **liked / didn't like** the prices.

TIP

Listen carefully for words and phrases that the speakers use which are positive (*fair, fantastic, amazing*) and negative (*the worst, disgusting, disappointing*).

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Part 2

 04 For each question, choose the correct answer.

- 8 You will hear two friends talking about a singer.
What do they say about her?
- A Her music is better than it used to be.
 - B Her voice doesn't sound as good as usual.
 - C Her new song isn't as good as her older songs.
- 9 You will hear two friends talking about a new café.
They think the café would be better if
- A the dishes were named more clearly.
 - B the chairs were more comfortable.
 - C the staff were more polite.
- 10 You will hear a girl telling a friend about her art course.
How does the girl feel about it?
- A She doesn't like the other people.
 - B The classes don't interest her.
 - C She doesn't like starting the course so early.
- 11 You will hear two friends talking about their teacher.
The girl thinks that the teacher
- A gives them too much work to do at the weekend.
 - B doesn't explain things very well.
 - C is boring to listen to.

- 12 You will hear two friends talking about a film they watched.
The boy thinks the film
- A was less exciting than the film he saw last week.
 - B didn't have as much action as he'd hoped.
 - C was not as funny as he'd expected.

- 13 You will hear two friends talking about a website they use.
The girl thinks that the website
- A is better than it used to be.
 - B is not as easy to use as before.
 - C has lost some of its best features.

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Part 3

Part 3 of the Listening paper tests your ability to listen and fill in six gaps. You listen to a longer text, which is always a monologue (that means there is only one speaker). On the exam paper, you will see a summary of this text with six gaps. You won't be given any options to choose from. You have to write the missing word or words in each gap.

The missing information will be one or two words or a number or a date or a time.

TIP: Predicting

- You will hear the instructions, and then there will be a pause for 20 seconds. Use that time to look at the summary.
- Focus on the gaps, and try to predict what type of word is needed in each one. Is it a noun, for example, a number or a date?
- Look closely at the words before and after the gap to help you.

1 Read the sentences. Pay close attention to each gap, and the words closest to it. Then choose the type of information you think is missing.

1 The concert was held on the _____ of October.

- A verb
- B date
- C name

2 Megan wants to _____ one day.

- A noun
- B number
- C verb

3 The speaker gave some _____ to her best friend.

- A time
- B verb
- C noun

4 Dan paid _____ dollars for his phone.

- A date
- B number
- C verb

5 Her uncle was a very _____.

- A number
- B one word
- C two words

TIP

In Parts 1 and 2, the correct answers use paraphrased language. However, here in Part 3, the missing information will be the same as what you hear on the audio. But the words around the gaps may be different.

TIP

Remember: The recording will probably mention several similar ideas. Pay attention to the gapped sentence, and listen for the correct information.

- 2  05 Listen. Then circle the correct option to complete the sentences.
- 1 Freya left Scotland in _____.
 A 1979
 B 1991
 C 1995
 - 2 The latest month that you can rent the cottage for a week is _____.
 A June
 B September
 C December
 - 3 The audience must arrive before _____.
 A 11.00 a.m.
 B 10.45 a.m.
 C 10.30 a.m.
 - 4 For the carrots, it's important to keep a distance of _____ between the rows.
 A 30 cm
 B 2 cm
 C 7 cm
 - 5 You can find the bookshop next to the _____.
 A town hall
 B café
 C fish sculpture

TIP

Write your answers the first time you listen. Then listen and check your work.

- 3 Find and correct **one** spelling mistake in each sentence.
- 1 The event took place on the 13rd of May. _____
 - 2 There was a statue nex to the fountain. _____
 - 3 Participants were given halve an hour for lunch. _____
 - 4 They can only accept too more students on this course. _____
 - 5 The accident happened last Novembur. _____
 - 6 They met in the new café across from the statiom. _____
 - 7 The organizers had to decide which celebrities to invite. _____
 - 8 She didn't want to loose it, so she kept it in a safe place. _____

TIP: Spellings

To prepare for Part 3, it's a good idea to practise your spellings. However, if you are not sure how to spell a missing word, don't leave it blank. Make your best attempt as points will still be given for acceptable misspellings.

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Part 3

 **06** For each question, write the correct answer in the gap. Write **one** or **two words** or a **number** or a **date** or a **time**.

You will hear a man talking to a class of students about a language course.

FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS

Class numbers:

- Minimum 8 students
- Maximum **14** _____ students

Day and time: Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. - **15** _____ p.m.

Place: Room 26, second floor (opposite the **16** _____)

Coursebook title: **17** _____ French

Price: £8 (if you order now, it will arrive on 1st **18** _____)

International evening: Each class will provide some **19** _____

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Part 4

Part 4 of the Listening paper combines all the listening skills you practised in the previous parts.

You will hear a longer text, which is always an interview. The interview will be played twice. You will be asked six questions with three answer options, respectively, to choose from. You need to listen for gist and the overall context, as well as listening for specific information and details.

At the beginning of Part 4, before the recording is played, there will be a pause of 45 seconds. Use this time to read the questions and the answer options. Think about what you are being asked in each question so that you can listen carefully for the information you need.

- 1** Here are some questions and answer options typical of what you might find in Part 4. Read them carefully. Then circle the correct type of information that each question is asking for.

1 What is Gerry's blog about?

- A** extreme sports
- B** winning and losing
- C** fun and games

This question asks for **an opinion / overall gist**.

2 Gerry didn't enjoy rollerblading because

- A** he was very tired that day.
- B** he didn't feel safe enough.
- C** he thought he looked silly.

This question asks for **detailed meaning / someone's attitude**.

3 What does Gerry say about readers of his blog?

- A** They have been extremely supportive.
- B** He communicates with them regularly.
- C** Every reader is very important to him.

This question asks for **general gist / specific information**.

4 Next year, Gerry is planning to

- A** set up a new website.
- B** travel to South Africa.
- C** do more interviews.

This question asks for **specific information / someone's opinion**.

5 Gerry didn't enter the competition because

- A** he was too busy with school work.
- B** he wanted to build up more followers.
- C** he hadn't heard about it in enough time.

This question asks for **someone's attitude / detailed meaning**.

6 What does Gerry think of video blogs?

- A** He feels they're too noisy.
- B** He's not sure about them.
- C** He thinks they're exciting.

This question asks for **someone's opinion / general gist**.

TIPS

- Some of the items in Part 4 are in question form, and some are sentence completion.
- Look closely at the language in each one and ask yourself: *Do I need to listen for someone's attitude or opinion, or for a specific detail?*
- In the questions, look for words like *think, feel, because* and *say*.

TIP

Remember: The answer options will paraphrase what the speaker said. If you read or hear a word that you don't understand, don't panic. You can usually work out the meaning from context.

2 Match the questions (1–6) with the text that answers them (A–F).

- 1 How did she start working as a game designer? _____
- 2 She doesn't think gaming is a bad thing because _____
- 3 How does she usually get her ideas? _____
- 4 She is grateful to _____
- 5 What does she say about her free time? _____
- 6 Her hopes for the future are _____

- A** That really happens as a team. I mean, we sit down together and discuss different possibilities. We all make suggestions. It kind of develops from there.
- B** Oh, I generally don't think that far ahead! I just take things one day at a time. Right now, I'm happy with the business, but, I don't know, maybe in a year or two I might like to start giving courses on gaming. We'll see.
- C** Well, I'm not really into sport in general, but I love yoga. I do it three evenings a week and I find it very relaxing. I'm busy most weekends, but when I can, I meet my friends for lunch or dinner.
- D** Originally, I wasn't going to be a game designer. I was actually doing a degree in maths! A friend of mine was developing a video game and he asked me to help because I knew how to write code. That's how it all began!
- E** I have so much to thank my mother for. She always encouraged me to believe in myself. And she inspired me to try new things. She's amazing!
- F** Some people are very negative about it. I know that. But there are a lot of positive aspects to this industry as well! I'm proud of creating something that others can enjoy. It makes people think quickly, and it's fun!

3  **07** Studying the questions and knowing what information you need to listen for is very important. It is equally important to know what information you can ignore. Listen to the excerpt from this interview. Read each question and the summary of statements (A–G). Then cross out the ones that do **not** help you to answer the question.

- 1** What does the woman say about fans and followers?
- A** 10,000 people follow her online.
- B** There's nothing special about 10,000.
- C** She feels good about what she has achieved.
- D** Others have hundreds of thousands!
- E** She wants to do better.
- F** Some people have millions.
- G** Teenage girls typically follow her.
- 2** How does the woman feel about her success?
- A** She has 10,000 online followers.
- B** It's fairly common to have 10,000 followers.
- C** She is proud of her achievement.
- D** She's happy, but she wants to do more.
- E** There are people with millions of followers.
- F** A lot of teenage girls follow her.
- G** Some boys have started to follow her, too.

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Part 4

 08 For each question, choose the correct answer.

You will hear a woman called Alice Parker talking on the radio about a new shop.

20 What kind of business has Alice started?

- A a restaurant
- B a shop with a café
- C a travel agency

21 Why did she decide to start the business?

- A She wanted to make a lot of money.
- B She wanted some experience of selling.
- C She wanted to be independent.

22 When did she decide to start a business?

- A when she was abroad
- B when she was shopping in England
- C when she lived in India

23 When she goes abroad, she chooses items that are

- A expensive.
- B unusual.
- C easy to carry.

24 What is Alice planning to do soon?

- A open another shop
- B employ more people
- C sell more food

25 What does Alice dislike about her new business?

- A the number of hours she works
- B difficult customers
- C having to travel