

Test 1 IELTS only: IELTS Listening Section 1

Narrator: You will hear a woman named Jane talking to a colleague at work about a concert she saw the previous evening. Look at the map. The boxes with the letters A-H indicate the location of Jane and her friends. You have some time to read Questions 1 to 5. *[PAUSE: 30 seconds]*

Narrator: For Questions 1 and 2, write the correct letter A-H next to the questions. You will see that an example has been done for you. Jane was standing in front of the stage, so C is her location and has been written in the space. Now we shall begin. You should answer the questions as you listen because you will not hear the recording a second time. Listen carefully and answer Questions 1 to 5.

Mike: Hi, Jane...Jane...I said, 'Hi'.

Jane: Oh, hi, Mike. Sorry, my ears are still buzzing from last night's concert.

Mike: So how was it?

Jane: It was fantastic. I went with some flatmates. You remember meeting Katie and Rebecca, right?

Mike: Sure. Was it at the Centre Space?

Jane: Yes, I love that place.

Mike: So where did you watch it, inside?

Jane: Well, it was really crowded. We all ended up in different places while the concert was on. I think I had the best place though. I followed this guy and ended up only a few feet from the lead singer.

Mike: So where were Katie and Rebecca?

Jane: Well, Katie still hasn't managed to give up smoking, so I think she went out for a cigarette. She said she met a friend there. When the concert started though, they made their way to the corner bar to the left of the dance floor. She has a crush on the bartender so she stayed there the whole time flirting with him.

I guess Rebecca met some friends and sat with them in the booth nearest the entrance. That was until her new boyfriend showed up. By the time the band started, she had wandered over to the main bar with him. I guess they were just off the dance floor so they had a really good view.

Mike: So what happened after the concert?

Jane: Well, I went looking for them for about half an hour. But I gave up because it was so crowded and decided to have a drink and sit with Rebecca's friends. Ten minutes later, Katie and Rebecca arrived. Katie was very upset.

Mike: Oh, why?

Jane: Katie said she must have left her pink designer handbag on a table on the patio. Katie went to look for it, but it wasn't there. She was so upset. She had found Rebecca and they went to the bar to ask if someone had handed in a handbag, but nothing. Katie looked like she was going to cry.

Narrator: Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you have some time to look at Questions 6 to 10. *[PAUSE: 30 seconds]*

Narrator: Now listen and answer Questions 6 to 10.

Mike: Did she have much in it?

Jane: Luckily, she said that she had left her wallet at home, so she didn't lose her credit cards or her bank card. Unfortunately, she had about £40 in it for her taxi fare home. She thought she had lost her mobile phone too, but it was in her back pocket. She did have her keys in the bag, but that was okay because we all had keys to the flat. I guess it was mostly that the handbag itself was really expensive.

Mike: Well, did she ever find it?

Jane: Well, that was the funny part. She'd completely given up and said she wanted to go home. When we went to get our coats, she gave the coat check person her number. When the man came back he had her coat in one hand and her bag in the other. She had completely forgotten she'd left it there.

Mike: That's pretty funny.

Jane: I know. Katie's always doing stuff like that.

Mike: But tell me, what was the band like?

Jane: They were great live, maybe better than their album. And they looked really wild.

Mike: What do you mean?

Jane: Well, the lead singer had his trademark long brown hair under a cowboy hat. He was wearing just black leather pants so you could see he had a big Japanese samurai tattoo on his chest. The lead guitarist was another story. He had a red Mohawk. And he was wearing these crazy pants made of cuddly animals. When he turned around you could see he had tattoos on his back that looked like two angel wings. It's funny, we each had our favourite band members. Rebecca liked the drummer, Katie thought the lead singer was really good-looking and I liked the guitarist best.

Mike: Sounds like you had a good time.

Narrator: That is the end of Section 1.

Test 2 IGCSE only: IGCSE Listening Part 1

For Questions 1–6 you will hear a series of short sentences. Answer each question on the line provided. Your answer should be as brief as possible. You will hear each item twice.

1 Benny is travelling to Paris next week. According to the weather forecast, on which weekday morning would it be best for him to sit outside at a café?

Weather presenter: And now the weather for our holiday travellers. Berlin should be hot and sunny all week with a high of 25 degrees. Amsterdam might experience some thunderstorms, as a cold front moves in from the west. And Paris will continue to see rain until mid-week, but this should clear up by Thursday afternoon.

2 Your English class is planning a trip to London this Friday. Where must you meet your class and when?

Alex: Sorry Peter, I came late to class today. What's the plan for the London trip on Friday?

Peter: Oh, well, Mr. Ferguson suggested we meet in Terminal 1 by the information desk. He said you need to be there two hours before we take off at 4 pm.

3 Pamela is going to the cinema. When will her film start?

Cinema: Good afternoon. This is the New Haven cinema hotline. How may I help you?

Pamela: Oh hello, I was wondering if you still have any tickets available for the late show.

Cinema: Let me see, was that for the film in Studio One or Two?

Pamela: Studio Two.

Cinema: OK, that would be the 9.25 show. Just let me check. Yes, we still have a few tickets available.

4 Richard needs a map of the Underground. How much does he pay for it?

Richard: Hello, I'd like a packet of crisps and I'd like to buy a London Underground map please.

Kiosk assistant: Well, that will be one pound for the crisps. The maps are free to the public.

5 Scott is going to play a game of football with his friends. What three things does he need to bring with him?

Dharmash: Oh, hi, mate. Are you still coming to the pitch tomorrow?

Scott: Hi, Dharmash! Yeah, definitely. I was just going to call you to ask whether I should bring anything with me.

Dharmash: Well, it'll be pretty hot out, so you better bring a bottle of water. Other than that, just make sure you've got a good pair of football boots. The grass is slippery. Also, we usually go for some chips after so remember to bring some money with you.

6 Sharon and her friend are out shopping. Why does her friend suggest she buy some shoes?

Sharon: Beth, what do you think of these?

Beth: Mmmn, those are okay. Do they come in blue?

Sharon: I don't know. I could ask.

Beth: Hey Sharon, what do you think of those pumps? They're red, so they'd go with your favourite top.

Sharon: Yes, but...they're a bit pricey.

Beth: You'll get a lot of use out of them though, trust me.

Sharon: Well, alright, I'll try them on.

Test 3 IGCSE / IELTS

Nina: Hello, and welcome to London Heathrow Airport. My name is Nina and I'm here to give you a tour of our facilities. Now if you'll just follow me, we will start off in Terminal 2.

Heathrow is the busiest airport in Europe and the third busiest in the world just behind Atlanta and Chicago. To accommodate the flow of more than 67 million passengers who pass through the airport every year, we stay open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We have four terminals right now, with our big new fifth terminal scheduled to open in 2008.

In case this is your first time here. I'd like to give you a few statistics to show just how vast this place is. We have a total retail space of 48,000 square metres, that is, about six and a half times bigger than the football pitch at Manchester United.

Every year nearly half a million planes land here. To make sure passengers reach their planes on time, we have over 500 check-in desks. And Heathrow

employs the equivalent of a small city, around 68,000 people. There are also over 34,000 car parking spaces, with about half reserved for staff. Speaking of staff, how many of you have seen the BBC TV documentary *Airport*?

Okay, that's quite a few of you. Well, as many of you are probably aware, that programme was filmed here on location at Heathrow, using some of our very own staff. Although some of the staff have moved on, many of the people who appeared in it still work here. And before you ask, Jeremy Spake wasn't a professional actor when he was on the programme. But I must say, he has managed a fairly successful career as a presenter since then.

At any rate, I saw at least two people you might recognise from the show earlier today. If you're lucky, you might get a chance to say hello to one of them later in this tour.

Now, I'll tell you a little bit about the history of London Heathrow. The land that was used to create the first airstrip in this area was originally owned by the Vicar of Harmondsworth. He sold the land to Fairey Aviation, an early British aeroplane manufacturer, who used the airstrip to test their aircraft. In 1944, the Ministry of Air took control of the site for use in World War Two, although it never in fact saw any military use.

The airport itself gets its name after the small village of Heath Row, which was where Terminal 3 stands now. The village was demolished in 1945 when the airport site was developed.

On 1 January, 1946, the Royal Air Force gave control of the airport to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the airport officially opened. The first plane to leave that day was a flight headed for Buenos Aires.

The terminal that we are in now, Terminal 2, is in fact the very first terminal building. It was originally called Europa Building and was opened by the Queen in 1955.

If you'll look over here, you can see...

Test 4 IGCSE / CAE / IELTS

Presenter: Welcome to *Science Today*, your weekly science news and interviews show. I'm your host Jonathan Peel. On our show today, we are going to look at a subject that everyone seems to be talking

about – stem cells. To help us understand this a bit better, I've asked cellular biologist Dr Veronica Randall to join us. Welcome Dr Randall.

V. Randall: Please just call me Veronica.

J. Peel: OK. Well, Veronica. Let's begin with the basics. What are stem cells?

V. Randall: Well, stem cells are basically unspecialised cells. They have not yet 'quote-unquote' been told what to become. They are also remarkable in that they will continually renew themselves through cell division for long periods.

J. Peel: So why are these cells so special?

V. Randall: The best way to think about these cells is that they are literally blank slates. Under certain physiological or experimental conditions, these cells can become any kind of specialised cells you want. You just need to tell them what they are going to be and they become it. Now some of your listeners might already be thinking what the potential of this discovery might be. Well, to tell you the truth, the potential does seem limitless.

J. Peel: Well, could you give us some examples?

V. Randall: Sure. Take for example the case of Parkinson's disease. It affects about 2 per cent of the population over 65 years.

J. Peel: Yes, and some people much younger than that. The actor Michael J. Fox developed Parkinson's, if I'm not mistaken?

V. Randall: Yes, that's true. Along with the boxer Muhammad Ali. With Parkinson's disease, in the brain there is progressive degeneration and loss of neurons which produce the hormone dopamine. Eventually, the decreasing levels of dopamine cause a whole host of problems from tremors and rigidity to less mobility. It can start with the hands shaking, then later the head and legs.

However, Parkinson's has also been shown to be one of the first diseases to benefit from stem cell therapy. In a recent study on mice, embryonic stem cells were made to become specialised dopamine neurons. When these were introduced into mice with Parkinson's-like neurological problems, the cells began working, producing dopamine and improving the motor function of the mice. Scientists are currently working on a way to do the same in humans.

J. Peel: That's fantastic.

V. Randall: And the same possibilities exist for

everything from creating insulin-producing cells for diabetes sufferers to regenerating nerve-cells for spinal cord injuries. Before he passed away, the actor Christopher Reeve had become a major proponent of stem cell research for finding a cure for spinal cord injuries.

J. Peel: I understand there is still a lot of opposition to this research. Why is that?

V. Randall: Well, it comes from the fact that there are two types of stem cells – embryonic stem cells and adult stem cells. The embryonic stem cells are cells formed in the earliest stage of life and they are capable of developing into any cell in the body. It should be noted that these cells come from embryos which have been created in the lab, mostly by *in vitro* fertilisation clinics, and have been donated for research purposes. Many religious groups oppose the use of embryonic stem cells because the cells come from embryos.

J. Peel: Does it make a difference if we use embryonic or adult stem cells?

V. Randall: Actually, it does. Embryonic stem cells are widely available and can become any cell in the body. Adult stem cells are very rare in mature tissue and seem to only be able to become specific types of tissue. As far as we know, bone marrow cannot produce heart tissue, for example. As well, the embryonic stem cells can be grown easily in the lab, but a way to do this for adult stem cells has yet to be discovered.

On the other hand, adult stem cells from a transplant patient would not carry the risk of transplant rejection. However, it has not been determined whether embryonic stem cells would in fact cause tissue rejection.

Presenter: So what does the future hold for stem cells?

Test 5 IGCSE / CAE / IELTS

S. Law: Welcome to this week's *London Business Review* podcast. I'm your host Steve Law.

This week, we'll be discussing the life and work of someone who had a huge impact on the advertising world – David Ogilvy. To discuss his extraordinary influence, we have brought in two advertising executives, Stanley Montgomery and Lauren Mackenzie. I'd like to thank you both for coming.

Let me start this discussion with you, Lauren. How would you describe Ogilvy's impact on advertising?

L. Mackenzie: Well, I think you could call him the 'father of advertising'. Besides creating some of the most innovative advertising campaigns of the 20th century, Ogilvy also helped develop many techniques in print and television advertising that are today considered standards in the business.

S. Montgomery: I'd certainly agree with Lauren on that. He was one of the first to apply a more scientific approach to advertising.

S. Law: Why was that so important?

S. Montgomery: Well, one of the biggest challenges with any advertising campaign is to find out whether or not your work is actually having an effect on sales. Are people buying more because of it? If so, why? If not, why not? I think the famous department store owner, John Wanamaker, put it best when he said: 'Half the money I spend on advertising is wasted; the trouble is I don't know which half.' And Ogilvy made it one of his key aims to find this out.

L. Mackenzie: Yes, I think a lot of this goes back to when he worked for George Gallup's Audience Research Institute. As you probably know, Gallup was the statistician responsible for modern polling for market research surveys. And it was through Gallup that Ogilvy became very aware of just how useful doing meticulous research could be.

S. Law: What kind of research do you mean?

S. Montgomery: Well, he would get all kinds of research on simple, yet important things. Take print ads for newspapers. For example, when you put a headline in quote marks, readers will be able to remember your headline 28 per cent better. Or if you don't hit the readers with what a product is or what it can do for you immediately, they will remember it 20 per cent less than with normal adverts.

L. Mackenzie: Yes, the same goes with the USPs, or unique selling points. We all know how important this can be. If you wait to explain a product's USP until the main text of an advert, you should remember that only 5 per cent of people bother to read this far. This means you are losing 95 per cent of your readers, who won't read about the USP at all. Mind you, nowadays most print ads tend to be just headlines anyway.

S. Law: But have all of Ogilvy's ideas about advertising been correct?

L. Mackenzie: That's a good question. Some have dated, others have taken time to become

fashionable. Take, for example, using celebrities for endorsing products. Now, there have been some brilliant examples of matching the product to the celebrity. I mean, look at Nike and Michael Jordan. However, there has been a recent development that Ogilvy was aware of. Pepsi is a good example of this. A few years back, they decided to drop Britney Spears and Beyoncé Knowles from Pepsi ads on the grounds that these commercials tended to promote these stars' own brand identity and did little to help Pepsi.

S. Montgomery: I agree. While many companies continue to use celebrity endorsements like David Beckham and Gillette or Bill Cosby and Jell-O, there has been a steady shift away from them.

S. Law: So you're saying the stars are getting paid to promote their own brand?

S. Montgomery: Well, yes,...

TEST 6 CAE only: CAE Listening Part 4

Narrator: You will hear five short extracts in which different people are talking about science. Look at Task One. For questions 21-25, choose from the list A-H each speaker's occupation. Now look at Task Two. For questions 26-30, choose from the list A-H each speaker's aim for the future.

You will hear the recording twice and while you listen you must complete both tasks. You now have 40 seconds to look at Part 4. *[PAUSE: 40 seconds]*

Narrator: Speaker 1

Speaker 1: Well, I've been working on this issue for the company for the last twelve years. We have developed several concept models in recent years and are pleased to see a growing interest in the media. As the public becomes more aware of the possibilities, I think we will see an increased demand among consumers for a cleaner alternative. By making a shift away from fossil fuels to a fuel based on water, we will ensure that we can cut carbon dioxide emissions. And I am very pleased to know that I will be making a contribution to helping make the Earth a better place.

Speaker 2: Actually, I'm very concerned about traffic in my city. My son has asthma so I know first hand the effect too much air pollution can have. I'm glad that in my work, I can make a positive difference. Our department is in charge of

many things such as building new roads. Many people would say that creating more roads leads to more cars on the road. But I would counter that cars left idling in slow traffic lead to much greater fuel consumption and air pollution. Cars aren't going away any time soon. The better you can manage traffic in a city, the better the air quality and way of life.

Speaker 3: Honestly, I don't give global warming much thought. My entire livelihood depends on moving goods from one city to the next. Diesel fuel powers my truck and my truck pays my bills so I've got no problem using oil. What I am concerned about though is the rising price of fuel. Just a few years ago, it seemed the price of oil was about half what it is today and every week the cost of litre of diesel goes up. If these prices keep rising, I might need to consider some other line of business.

Speaker 4: I lead a team of experts who have been investigating this issue for the government since the mid-1970s. In the past two decades, technology such as infrared satellite imaging has provided us with fairly conclusive evidence that, indeed, temperatures on Earth are warming. And it is becoming clearer that human activity in the form of transport and energy production is a significant driving factor behind this. I would have to assume at some point we will be forced out of necessity to switch to some other fuel than oil. Unfortunately, by then, it may be too late to stop the changes in the climate.

Speaker 5: Think about it for a minute. Carbon dioxide is a part of the cycle of life. We breathe it out and plants take it in. It's ridiculous to label carbon dioxide a pollutant. If it was, everyone including environmentalists would be polluters. Don't get me wrong, I'm worried about the environment as much as you are. Our industry is looking at the possibility of developing new modern fuels like hydrogen and sugar ethanol. But let's be realistic. Until these fuels can be supplied at a reasonable price, society will need to continue using oil. And we will continue to provide this valuable commodity.

(See page 256 for **TEST 7 CAE Listening Part 1.**)