

Cambridge

English Skills Test

General

Listening

Sample Test

SUITABLE FOR CANDIDATES WHO ARE HEARING IMPAIRED

Time: Approximately 30 minutes plus your extra time allowance.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, centre number and username on your answer sheet.

Answer all the questions in Parts 1 – 5.

Write your answers on the answer sheet together with the number of each question.

You may write your answers on the question paper while you are listening. You will have time at the end of the test to copy your answers onto your answer sheet.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer sheet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

There are five parts to the test and you will hear each text three times.

The first time the Supervisor will read through the text without stopping.

The second time the Supervisor will stop at various points to give you time to look at the questions and make notes.

The third time the Supervisor will read through the text without stopping.

There are 18 questions and each question carries one mark.

During the second reading, you do not necessarily need to answer a question each time the Supervisor pauses.

Part 1

For question 1, listen and choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

1 Which train is at the station now?

- A** the train to Birmingham
- B** the train to Oxford
- C** the train to London

Part 2

Listen to a talk by a woman called Sally Cruz, who spent a holiday on a boat on a river in the USA.

For questions 2 – 6, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

- 2** At the beginning of the trip, Sally says she was
- A** worried about her children's safety.
 - B** unhappy because she was cold and wet.
 - C** frightened of the river water.
- 3** What gave Sally special pleasure during the trip?
- A** seeing her children enjoy the natural world
 - B** being able to swim in fresh water
 - C** leaving her computer behind
- 4** What does Sally say about camping?
- A** She managed to sleep in spite of the uncomfortable tents.
 - B** She liked to stay up late talking with people round the campfire.
 - C** She was always the first person up in the mornings.
- 5** Sally was particularly satisfied with the meals in camp because
- A** her children enjoyed the healthy diet.
 - B** she was given a rest from cooking.
 - C** the cooks always served local food.
- 6** Sally admired the guides because
- A** they were always very cheerful.
 - B** they were very young for such a responsible job.
 - C** there were very few of them to look after twenty people.

Part 3

Listen to a part of a talk where a careers advisor talks about job interviews.

For questions 7 and 8, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

- 7** What risk does the careers advisor warn job applicants about?
- A** giving irrelevant answers to the interviewer's questions
 - B** revealing negative information about themselves
 - C** exaggerating how skilful they are
- 8** What advice does the careers advisor have for interviewees?
- A** Mention an event outside the world of work that made you feel nervous.
 - B** Request clarification if you don't understand the question you are asked.
 - C** Give a concrete example of when you handled a difficult circumstance.

Part 4

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about the trees in their city. For questions 9 – 13, choose from the list of options (A – H) what each person values most about the trees in their city. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

9 Speaker 1

10 Speaker 2

11 Speaker 3

12 Speaker 4

13 Speaker 5

Options

- A They lessen the effects of summer heat.
- B They can inspire a real community spirit.
- C They can have a positive effect on mood.
- D They add variety to the urban landscape.
- E They compensate for the ugliness of the city.
- F They keep people in touch with the natural world.
- G They make a major contribution to reducing pollution.
- H They encourage people to think about the city's history.

Part 5

Listen to part of a podcast in which a woman called Mel, who is a keen cyclist, is talking about a race called The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic.

For questions 14 – 18, complete the sentences by writing no more than three words in each gap.

The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic Race

Mel jokingly suggests that the train might have an **(14)** because of its performance in the race.

Mel says that **(15)** is the key factor cyclists need to complete the Iron Horse Bicycle Classic Race.

Mel believes that its **(16)** is the main reason that cyclists are drawn to the race.

Mel is most looking forward to comparing her performance on the **(17)** when she takes part next year.

Mel uses the term **(18)** '.....' to explain the effects of the weather in 2008.

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