

Practice Test 5 | Listening



Total marks available: 31

You have **35 minutes** to finish the examination.

PART 1

You will hear 10 sentences twice. Choose the best answer in each situation.

Now look at the answers. You have two minutes to read the answers.

Now listen to the sentences and select the best answer.

1.
 - a. He's doing too much.
 - b. Really well, thanks.
 - c. How are you?
2.
 - a. No, she rather likes it.
 - b. No, she doesn't play the piano.
 - c. Yes, she must be careful.
3.
 - a. OK. Let's go then.
 - b. Sorry, I've got no idea.
 - c. That's possible.
4.
 - a. Yes, of course. Is this better?
 - b. I hear they're pretty good.
 - c. You're welcome.
5.
 - a. You must have seen him, he's on holiday.
 - b. You can't see him, he's on holiday.
 - c. You can't have seen him, he's on holiday.
6.
 - a. She said she doesn't know Louise.
 - b. I spoke to Louise earlier.
 - c. She said she would try to get in touch with you.
7.
 - a. It is a good match.
 - b. The winner will receive a prize.
 - c. I'd say they were pretty good.
8.
 - a. Yes, I bet it works.
 - b. Yes, it's completely normal.
 - c. Yes, it is used a lot.
9.
 - a. No, we're fine, thanks.
 - b. What else would you like?
 - c. I don't care what anyone thinks.
10.
 - a. Why are you so surprised?
 - b. You worry too much.
 - c. I'll find it for you.

PART 2

You will hear two conversations. You will hear them twice.

You have two minutes to look at the questions for both conversations.

Now listen to **Conversation 1**.

1. What is Richard's main job?

- a. A TV panellist.
- b. Writing questions for TV quizzes.
- c. Hosting a TV quiz show.

2. What was a special moment for Richard?

- a. Getting a place at a prestigious university.
- b. Watching his first football match live.
- c. Playing as a professional footballer aged 16.

3. What does Richard say he was very ashamed of?

- a. Sending text messages when he was at work.
- b. Bumping into a car while focused on his phone.
- c. Forgetting to put the rubbish bins into the street.

4. Whose footsteps did Richard want to follow in?

- a. a policeman's
- b. his grandfather's
- c. his ex-wife's

5. What does Richard say is important in life?

- a. succeeding in work
- b. becoming respected
- c. being a good person

Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

Now listen to **Conversation 2**.

1. How is Peter doing the project?

- a. by studying from books that are available online
- b. by copying information from online sources
- c. by watching a film to find information

2. Why does Peter say plagiarism is not a problem?

- a. The students are quite young.
- b. The students will not be caught.
- c. The students are sitting an official exam.

3. What does Lesley say about using other people's work?

- a. It is never acceptable.
- b. It can be difficult to get permission.
- c. It can be done if they are referred to.

4. Why might copying work from the Internet cause problems in the future?

- a. It makes homework seem too easy.
- b. It does not improve writing skills before university.
- c. It will be unacceptable in their future studies.

5. What can help lecturers discover plagiarism?

- a. using the Internet
- b. computer programs
- c. their experience in the subject

Listen to the conversation again and check your answers.

PART 3

You will hear a debate and discussion. Read the questions and answers for both the debate and the discussion.

Now listen to **the debate**.

1. **What does Jonathan Stobbs feel would be fair?**
 - a. Everyone being taxed at the same rate.
 - b. Financial assistance from the government.
 - c. Supporting less well-off people.

2. **Jonathan despises people who**
 - a. give hard-earned cash to the poor.
 - b. sit in front of the TV all day.
 - c. give their family a comfortable life.

3. **What does Helen say about working hard in her job?**
 - a. It is worth the effort she puts in.
 - b. She is paid a fair amount for it.
 - c. Other people get all the benefits.

4. **Helen believes that people who earn more money**
 - a. can't make ends meet.
 - b. should contribute more.
 - c. make do with what they have.

5. **What does Carl's job allow him to do?**
 - a. Avoid paying higher taxes.
 - b. Object to the higher rate of tax.
 - c. View both sides of the argument.

6. **What is Carl's overall opinion?**
 - a. A fairer system is needed.
 - b. Big businesses should be rewarded.
 - c. Things are fine as they are.

Listen to the debate again and check your answers.

Now listen to **the discussion**.

1. **According to Trevor Jones, what do you need to become a home-school teacher?**
 - a. a degree in education
 - b. time to devote to the child
 - c. a little knowledge of all subjects

2. **On what matter does Patricia agree with Trevor?**
 - a. Home schooling is difficult in the beginning.
 - b. Home schooling creates a lot of problems.
 - c. Home schooling is fairly straightforward.

3. **What problem does Patricia have with home schooling?**
 - a. It interferes with her work.
 - b. She can't tell her daughter off.
 - c. Her daughter often doesn't try hard.

4. **What is the problem with visiting a museum to learn history?**
 - a. There is only so much you can learn there.
 - b. You can't get the child to focus.
 - c. You approach the subject from a different angle.

5. **What is Trevor's final concern about home schooling?**
 - a. The child is separated from people of the same age.
 - b. The child won't become a very dependable teenager.
 - c. The child doesn't get to attend a proper school.

Listen to the discussion again and check your answers.

Practice Test 5 | Reading

There are 31 questions in this examination.
You must attempt all the questions.
Total marks available: 31
You have **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

TEXT 1

The red fox can thrive in almost any environment, from the bitter cold of the Arctic to the intense heat of North Africa. Most people would expect to find them in areas far away from those inhabited by humans but, on the contrary, more and more of them are making themselves at home in modern towns and cities.

One of the main reasons that red foxes are drawn to residential areas is food. Red foxes are not particularly fussy eaters and will eat mice, birds and berries, or your leftover pizza. In other words, our towns and cities are full of potential food for them. They much prefer suburban areas to industrial or built-up inner-city areas where there are no gardens.

Although foxes are more closely related to dogs, they possess an almost cat-like agility which allows them to easily navigate their way around an urban landscape. Their 'parkour' abilities mean they can access and exploit far more areas of a city than other less agile urban animals such as the badger.

Some cities are much more amenable to red foxes than others, with many people viewing them as a welcome addition. It gives them a sense of having genuine wildlife in their gardens. In addition, as foxes are known to prey on rats and pigeons, they very likely aid in the control of these common pests. Although reports of people being bitten by red foxes are extremely rare: which is actually very surprising considering the number of people and foxes living side by side, those that do occur are usually as a result of the animal being cornered rather than an unprovoked attack.

It is now thought that foxes in urban areas may be changing their natural behaviour in order to adapt to city life. In the past, studies found that the foxes' diet was still predominantly rodents and birds, with human food being just a supplementary part of it. However, recent research would suggest that as more and more people leave food out for the wildlife in their gardens, the foxes' diet will likely shift towards food that are provided by humans.

Whatever the future may hold for city-dwelling foxes, the abundance of food available means they are unlikely to leave. They have successfully adapted to our urbanised world and are one of the few animals that can actually tolerate and adapt to our ever-changing behaviour.

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1. Many people would not expect foxes to live in
 - a. the countryside.
 - b. big cities.
 - c. villages.

2. Foxes prefer
 - a. inner-city areas.
 - b. industrial areas.
 - c. residential areas.

3. A fox is agile like a
 - a. cat.
 - b. dog.
 - c. badger.

4. Why do people like having foxes in towns?
 - a. They bring more animals with them.
 - b. They control pests.
 - c. They never bite.

5. Why do foxes prefer inhabited areas?
 - a. They can find shelter easily.
 - b. They can find food easily.
 - c. There are no wild animals.

6. There is a punctuation error on:
 - a. line 17
 - b. line 24
 - c. line 27

7. A word has been spelt correctly but used incorrectly on:
 - a. line 5
 - b. line 11
 - c. line 21

8. There is a spelling mistake on:
 - a. line 1
 - b. line 2
 - c. line 3

9. There is a grammatical error on:
 - a. line 21
 - b. line 25
 - c. line 28

10. The best phrase to replace 'tolerate' in line 29 is:
 - a. put away
 - b. put down to
 - c. put up with

TEXT 2

Sir Walter Raleigh, one of England's foremost explorers, surrounded himself with some of the most controversial intellects of his age, including mathematicians, astronomers, geographers and students of the natural sciences, as well as poets, playwrights and philosophers. He led this select band of advanced thinking noblemen, courtiers and educated commoners during the English Renaissance and the Reformation, along with his friend Henry Percy, the Earl of Northumberland. The group included the likes of William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, Thomas Hariot, George Chapman and Matthew Roydon. They met under cover of darkness, always behind closed doors, to discuss the new scientific discoveries that were exciting the minds of intellectuals all over Europe, even though it was dangerous to do so at that time. They were avid in their pursuit of knowledge. It was the fact that these free-thinkers met at night that led to them being referred to as 'The School of Night' and they are often identified with the School of Night in Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* in which the King of Navarre says, 'Black is the badge of hell / The hue of dungeons and the school of night.'

However, over the past century, the School of Night has transitioned from a theory that enjoyed wide, though never universal, acceptance by early modern scholars to become almost exclusively the stuff of imaginative literature. By 1981, arguments in support of this Elizabethan group's existence had fallen out of mainstream academic favour due to lack of substantive supporting evidence. These days, few early modernists would lend much credence to the idea that this clandestine, Elizabethan group really existed, nor would they regard this belief as much more than a curiosity in the history of twentieth-century scholarship.

The story of the School of Night's academic serves, in some senses, as a cautionary tale: it exemplifies how assumptions can become part of what are regarded as truth. Although typically mentioned in dismissive terms in academic work nowadays, the School of Night has nonetheless enjoyed a remarkable longevity in popular culture. Indeed, the theory has experienced a resurgence of interest in recent years. The group has been portrayed in a variety of literary contexts, the most recent being Deborah Harkness's *Shadow of Night* (2012).

All this begs the question of where did this story come from, and how could it have risen to such scholarly prominence as to need continual discrediting in the first place.

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11. What is the writer's main aim?

- a. to give a brief history of Sir Walter Raleigh's achievements
- b. to discuss the changing popularity of an idea over time
- c. to criticise how academics have dismissed the idea of the School of Night

12. What was dangerous during Raleigh's time?

- a. working as a playwright
- b. discussing new scientific theories
- c. meeting other people at night

13. Why had a belief in the School of Night faded by 1981?

- a. It was never mentioned by Shakespeare.
- b. There was a lack of evidence that it existed.
- c. New evidence was found.

14. Why does the School of Night provide a cautionary tale?

- a. People should have realised how important the group was.
- b. People believed something just because it was repeated.
- c. People just assumed the group never existed.

15. There is still interest in the School of Night

- a. among serious scholars.
- b. in the media.
- c. in literature.

16. There is a spelling mistake on:

- a. line 3
- b. line 5
- c. line 9

17. The word intellectuals in line 8 can best be replaced with:

- a. scholars
- b. politicians
- c. noblemen

18. There is a punctuation mistake on:

- a. line 15
- b. line 23
- c. line 30

19. A phrase has been omitted on line 22. It should be:

- a. up and down
- b. rise and fall
- c. right and wrong

20. There is a grammatical error on:

- a. line 10
- b. line 23
- c. line 29

TEXT 3

The Yellow Card Scheme is vital in helping the MHRA* monitor the safety of all healthcare products in the UK to ensure they are acceptably safe for patients and those that use them. Reports can be made for all medicines including vaccines, blood factors and immunoglobulins, herbal medicines and homeopathic remedies, and all medical devices available on the UK market. From the 20th of May 2016, the MHRA is also collecting reports of safety concerns associated with e-cigarette products through the Yellow Card Scheme.

The Scheme collects information on suspected problems or incidents involving:

- side effects (also known as adverse drug reactions or ADRs)
- medical device adverse incidents
- defective medicines (those that are not of an acceptable quality)
- counterfeit or fake medicines or medical devices
- safety concerns for e-cigarettes or their refill containers (e-liquids)

It is important for people to report problems experienced with medicines or medical devices as these are used to identify issues which might not have been previously known about. The MHRA will review the product if necessary, and take action to minimise risk and maximise benefit to the patients. The MHRA is also able to investigate counterfeit or fake medicines or devices and if necessary take action to protect public health.

Side effects to a medicine, vaccine, herbal or complementary remedy

All medicines can cause side effects (commonly referred to as adverse drug reactions or ADRs by healthcare professionals).

Side effects reported on Yellow Card are evaluated, together with additional sources of information such as clinical trial data, medical literature or data from international medicines regulators, to identify previously unknown safety issues. These reports are assessed by a team of medicine safety experts made up of doctors, pharmacists and scientists who study the benefits and risks of medicines. If a new side effect is identified, the safety profile of the medicine in question is carefully looked at, as well as the side effects of other medicines used to treat the same condition. The MHRA takes action, whenever necessary, to ensure that medicines are used in a way that minimises risk, while maximising patient benefit.

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21. What is the purpose of the text?

- a. to suggest a new way to monitor healthcare products
- b. to raise awareness of the risks of healthcare products
- c. to explain how an organisation checks the safety of health products

22. What new issue has the MHRA been collecting reports on since 2016?

- a. e-cigarettes
- b. herbal medicines
- c. the Yellow Card Scheme

23. What is not a function of the MHRA?

- a. investigating fake medicines
- b. analysing problems with medical devices
- c. informing doctors about new medicines

24. What is an ADR?

- a. a side effect
- b. a positive effect of vaccines
- c. a healthcare professional

25. Who makes assessments for the MHRA's reports?

- a. experienced doctors and nurses
- b. doctors, scientists and pharmacists
- c. hospital managers, doctors and patients

TEXT 4

Student stress: self-help tips

Starting university can be a stressful experience. How you cope with the stress is the key to whether or not it develops into a health problem.

Stress is a natural feeling, designed to help you cope in challenging situations. In small amounts it's good, because it pushes you to work hard and do your best, including in exams.

Leaving home to start your studies can involve some stressful changes. These might include moving to a new area, meeting new people and managing on a tight budget.

Signs you might be stressed

The first signs of stress are:

- irritability
- sleep problems

Too much stress can lead to physical and psychological problems, such as:

- anxiety – feelings ranging from uneasiness to severe and paralysing panic
- dry mouth
- churning stomach
- palpitations – pounding heart
- sweating
- shortness of breath
- depression

Things that can help with stress

Short periods of stress are normal, and can often be resolved by something as simple as completing a task – which cuts down your workload – or by talking to others and taking time to relax.

Some of these suggestions might help:

- Work out what it is that's making you anxious. For example, is it exams, or money or relationship problems? See if you can change your circumstances to ease the pressure you're under.
- Try to have a more healthy lifestyle. Eat well, get enough sleep, exercise regularly, cut down on alcohol, and spend some time socialising as well as working and studying.
- Try not to worry about the future or compare yourself with others.
- Learn to relax. If you have a panic attack or are in a stressful situation, try to focus on something outside yourself, or switch off by watching TV or chatting to someone.
- Relaxation and breathing exercises may help.
- Try to resolve personal problems by talking to a friend, tutor or someone in your family.

Don't struggle alone. Anxiety can seriously affect your academic performance, and that's not only distressing for you, but means a lot of wasted effort.

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26. Stress has positive effects when
- it solves health problems.
 - experienced in small amounts.
 - you are in a natural environment.
27. A young person can be under considerable stress when
- visiting a new area.
 - socialising in a new environment.
 - leaving home to go to university.
28. Which is not mentioned as one of the early signs of being stressed?
- feeling irritable
 - feeling tired during the day
 - not being able to sleep well
29. The phrasal verb 'cuts down' in line 25 can be replaced by:
- reduces
 - changes
 - stops
30. What is the first step in dealing with stress?
- keeping yourself busy
 - identifying what is causing the stress
 - talking to a professional about stress
31. What piece of advice is given for coping with stress?
- enjoy an alcoholic drink on occasion
 - lead a healthier lifestyle
 - prioritise your social life

Practice Test 5 | Writing

There are two tasks. You must attempt both Tasks.

Formal Writing Task 1, you must complete **either** Option 1 **OR** Option 2.

Informal Writing Task 2, you must complete the set Task.

Total marks available: 24

You have **75 minutes** to finish the examination.

Option 1 Formal Writing Task 1 – Allow around 35 minutes for this task

Your local council is looking at ways to improve the town where you live. They want residents to have amenities which will improve the community and make the area a desirable place to live. Write a letter to the council with ideas on what they could do.

You could write about:

- building a library
- opening a bigger health centre
- more facilities for young people, such as sports centres and cafés

OR

Option 2 Formal Writing Task 1 – Allow around 35 minutes for this task

Nowadays, teenagers spend a lot of time using smartphones and computers. Do you think this is a good or a bad thing? Write an argument to support your opinion.

You could write about:

- socialising with friends
- doing research for homework and school projects
- the dangers of the Internet

Write 200-250 words.

(12 Marks)

Informal Writing Task 2 – Allow around 35 minutes for this task

A local theatre company is putting on a performance of *Cinderella* to raise money for a children's charity. You really want to take part, but don't want to go to the auditions on your own. Write an email to a friend telling them about the production and persuade them to audition for the play with you.

You could write about:

- when the auditions are
- what characters you both could audition for
- why you think your friend would enjoy it

Write 250-300 words.

(12 Marks)

You will be assessed on:

- content
- use of appropriate tenses
- word order
- use of conjunctions, adjectives and vocabulary
- legibility of writing

Practice Test 5 | Speaking

PART 1 (Approximately 2 minutes)

Your teacher will ask you some questions. Answer in full sentences.

PART 2 (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

- Situation 1:** You are on holiday in your country and you meet a person who lives in the same town as you, but you don't know each other. They ask you to tell them where you live and who your family and friends are. What would you say?
- Situation 2:** Your friend wants to organise a surprise party for another friend of yours. He / she asks you for advice. What would you say?
- Situation 3:** You have arrived late for a meeting with your college professor. You need to apologise to your professor and give reasons why you are late. What would you say?
- Situation 4:** You are watching a film at the cinema but the person behind you is talking loudly on their mobile phone. You need to politely ask the person to be quiet. What would you say?

PART 3 (Approximately 6 minutes)

Follow your teacher's instructions.

Scenario 1: You are being interviewed for a radio show regarding the new food market which only sells produce that has been produced locally. You are very pleased with it and enjoy shopping there. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the role of the journalist.

Scenario 2: People with essential jobs such as doctors, policemen and teachers earn a lot less money than famous celebrities. You think this is very unfair and that it should be the other way around. Your friend seems to think this is how it should be. Convince your friend that it is wrong. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of your friend.

Scenario 3: Your younger brother is only 16 and wants to go backpacking around the world with a couple of friends. Your parents are not sure but you think it is a good idea as he will have an amazing time. Persuade your parents to allow your brother to go. You will have two minutes to prepare your arguments. You may make notes. I will take the place of one of your parents.

You may use this space to make notes.