

Test 1

Transcript

Part 1

Training

1 02 2a

Woman: Well I would've given you a ring, but there was something wrong with the battery in my mobile. It was really annoying because I was expecting a call from Emily and I've lost her number so I can't call her back.

Man: It doesn't matter. It was probably getting quite late by then anyway.

Woman: Well actually I was going to call you when I got home last night. I didn't think you'd mind how late it was, really. But I couldn't find the spare battery I'd left somewhere in my room so I couldn't do that either.

1 03 PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 *You hear a customer talking to a shop assistant about a coat she bought.*

Assistant: Can I help you?

Customer: Yes, I bought this coat here yesterday but when I tried it on at home I found it was too tight on me, so I'd like to exchange it for a larger one.

Assistant: I don't think we have one in stock. Perhaps you'd like to try on another kind of coat, or a jacket? Actually we've got some lovely winter jackets, just in.

Customer: No, that's not really what I'm looking for.

Assistant: I could order the one you mentioned if you like. Or return your money, whichever you prefer

Customer: Could you order it, please?

Assistant: Fine.

2 *You hear a weather forecast on the radio.*

I'm afraid it looks like there's quite a storm heading towards western and northern areas, and that will arrive about dawn tomorrow. The rest of the country will start off cloudy with a few showers, but by lunchtime there will be clear skies and the bright weather will last well into the early evening, apart from in the south where there might be a few foggy patches once the sun goes down. At around the same time, bad weather will reach eastern regions, bringing high winds and heavy rain, with the possibility of flooding in low-lying areas.

3 *You hear an office worker talking about cycling to work.*

I sometimes think back to when I used to drive to work in the morning, looking at my watch and worrying in case the traffic made me late, and though I still have to ride through it and I still get held up by the lights, I much prefer going on two wheels. By the time I arrive I feel pleasantly tired, almost as if I'd been for a light workout at the gym, and that's a good way to start the day. I hardly give any thought to my work until I actually sit down at my desk, because nowadays I feel much more relaxed and able to cope with whatever might come up during the day.

4 *You hear a radio announcer talking about a competition for writers of short stories.*

We're looking for good short stories to read out on next week's programme, so if you think you're capable of writing an interesting tale in less than 750 words, either send it in as an email attachment or post it to us and you may be one of the lucky five prizewinners. Unlike in some competitions, as long they are original pieces of writing you can send in as many as you like, and there's no upper or lower age limit. In fact, last year's first prize was won by a seventeen-year-old, and the winner of the second prize was just sixteen.

5 *You hear a conversation about reading.*

Woman: So what sort of books do you like to read in your spare time?

Man: Well, in my student days I went through a phase of reading novels that could really make me laugh out loud, but although I still like entertaining stories my tastes have changed a little.

Woman: To what kinds of thing?

Man: Action stories that take place in remote parts of the world. The kinds of location my grandfather visited in his younger days but I can only dream of travelling to. I particularly like those with weird characters, quite unlike anyone you've ever met.

6 *You hear two people talking about watching films on the Internet.*

Man: Isn't it much simpler to look at some online reviews, choose a movie, pay a little to download it and then settle down to watch it, rather than go into town, queue up for tickets and then sit in a crowded, uncomfortable cinema?

Woman: There's certainly a much wider choice available, and getting the one you want is easy, too, but it's never the same as seeing it on the big screen. And I wouldn't take too much notice of the comments made by other buyers: they're even less reliable than the arts critics in the newspapers.

7 *You hear a woman at an airport talking on the phone.*

Yes, it's an awful feeling and I've been kicking myself here. It's never happened to me before, though I've had a few near-misses. Like the time I got stuck in traffic on the road to the airport and only just made it in time; or when I got off the Underground at Terminal 5 rather than 4, and had to race back to the station when I eventually realised my mistake. On this occasion I got there on time but there were just too many people waiting ahead of me, and when I finally reached the desk I was told the flight had closed.

8 *You hear a man talking about his new job.*

When I first saw the ad in the employment section of the paper, it wasn't the fact I'd be earning far more than I am now that caught my attention, it was the chance to achieve my full potential doing something relevant to the experience I'd gained before I took up my current post. In fact, though the job description in the ad talked about good prospects of rising within the company structure, that's never really been an ambition of mine.

Part 2

Training



Most rabbits are equally happy living outdoors or indoors, but if you decide to keep them in the house with you, there are some safety measures you should take. Firstly, make sure that all electric cables are properly protected, or else your pets might bite through them, with disastrous results. Also, **(10) never leave house plants lying around, as these might be poisonous.**

PART 2

You will hear an expert snowboarder called Brad Mitchell talking about the sport of extreme snowboarding. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

When you go extreme snowboarding, you head for the highest peaks and the steepest slopes, taking little more than a map and some basic survival equipment with you. Unlike in ski resorts, **(9) you won't see any signs telling you there are rocks, or trees around,** so it's up to you and your guide to make sure your route is as safe as possible. Of course, you should never attempt to go down a slope on your own. It's essential to be accompanied by **(10) a guide, who must go first every time** as there may be no clear route down through the rocks and other dangers. They'll also show you the way up to your starting point, which may involve a long, difficult climb, and may wear a backpack containing supplies. I know some snowboarders like to take a helicopter up to the top, and that's quick and easy – though expensive – but **(11) I always prefer to go on foot, with a helmet on, of course.** When you finally get up there, the view is always completely different from the way it looked from below. People say to me it must take a lot of courage to start going down such a steep slope, but if you've reached that point then you must be a pretty experienced snowboarder and **(12) what's really required is a tremendous amount of confidence.** You never know exactly which way you're going to go or what you're going to encounter on your way down, and you often find yourself having to make split-second decisions, but that's part of the fun. **(13) There's nothing quite as exciting as suddenly having to perform a series of jumps as you descend, and then managing to stay on your feet afterwards.** The ability to do that is obviously something that takes those new to extreme snowboarding quite some time to learn. And whereas doing a reasonably good take-off seems to come fairly naturally to most of us, **(14) landing is a more complex skill to acquire, as I found in my early days out on the mountain side.**

Falling correctly is also something you need to practise, initially at low speed and on gentle slopes, and later in conditions more similar to those you'll encounter on the mountain. **(15) Rule one when you lose your balance is not to panic,** or else you'll get tense and be far more likely to injure yourself than if you're relaxed and just let yourself go with the fall. Often the best thing to do is roll out of the fall, but it's natural to try to use your arms to try to slow yourself down and if you do so remember that **(16) elbows, if you fall on them, are much stronger and less likely to be injured than wrists.** Following a high-speed fall, you might find yourself covered by some of the white stuff that has fallen with you. There may be just a few feet of it and you can usually pull yourself up to the surface, but if you can't you're in big trouble and that's why **(17) I'd never go down a slope without a small device fastened to my body that sends out a signal to the rescue services if I get buried.** I know some safety experts

recommend also taking a medical kit, but somehow I think that if I were buried under ice, my priority would be to get out or get rescued. I'm always looking for new challenges. Competition snowboarding was something I looked at, but there were just too many guys showing off. Teaching snowboarding is certainly something I might do one day, but **(18) what I really dream about is parachute snowboarding:** going straight down a mountain, flying off a cliff and then floating down to the valley below. Now that's what I call extreme.

Part 3

Training



It seemed to me that everything had gone quite well. I was really nervous of course, but I'd gone at about the right speed and I hadn't made any serious mistakes or had an accident or anything like that, so **I was fully expecting to pass this time.** But when it was over and I let go of the steering wheel, I noticed the expression on the guy's face and I just knew I'd have to take it **again** in a few months. So until then it'll be back to waiting at bus stops and on railway platforms, or asking friends to give me a lift. And on top of that **I'll have to pay for more lessons,** which I really can't afford.

PART 3

You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about deciding to take up new interests. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the main reason each speaker gives for deciding to take up their new interest. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

Speaker 1

It starts as soon as I get home in the early evening. I have a quick snack and then **log onto one of my favourite sites.** Soon I've filled **up my basket with all kinds of things – whether I actually need any of them is irrelevant – and then head for the check-out.** It's all so quick and easy. Sometimes I'm watching TV and there's an ad for a tasty-looking ready meal and I'll log back on for a minute and order that, too, though when it's actually delivered it usually turns out to be just junk food and it ends up in the bin.

Speaker 2

I first realised something wasn't quite right when I kept falling asleep at all hours of the day. Getting up around seven isn't easy when you've been up till two the night before, but somehow **I never manage to log off until then.** There are just so many great sites, particularly news and sports and also shopping, though I rarely end up buying anything. According to a quiz I did, I do seem to have an addiction, though compared to things like overeating I don't think it's a particularly harmful one. I mean, I'm quite fit and – unlike some of my colleagues – I always get to the office on time.

Speaker 3

I always feel I have to be doing something. **I just don't feel right if I'm not working on my fitness level, and the possible long-term effects of that are beginning to concern me.** It also affects my life right now in various ways. For instance, I always go to bed late and get up early. I also need bigger meals than less active people, and although I always choose food that's good for me, it can be rather expensive and hard to find in the shops. At least, though, the fact that I go everywhere round town on foot means that I'm never held up by traffic!

Speaker 4

It was on all the time in my parents' home and it's like that here in my own flat. Usually the same channel, too, because to tell the truth I'm totally hooked on the same kinds of series. It's odd in a way, because most people of my generation spend all their time on the Internet, or, in the case of the fitter ones, doing sport every evening and weekend. I know my own lifestyle isn't particularly healthy, though at least nowadays I'm up reasonably early, unlike back in my student days when I often had trouble getting out of bed before noon.

Speaker 5

It's always my intention to set off in plenty of time, but somehow there always seems to be something that holds me up. It may be a job that needs finishing off, an email that has to be answered – or even a TV programme that hasn't quite ended. Then I end up literally running to wherever I'm going, always the last to turn up and also often the most stressed one, too. I've tried getting up earlier in the morning so that I have more hours in the day to get everything done, but the lack of sleep just makes me feel tired later on and doesn't help at all.

Part 4 Training



Dave: So **(cue)** what would you say to somebody who, say, is about to leave school and is considering becoming a police officer?

Lucy: Well, **(C)** I'd strongly recommend getting some experience of life, understanding how the world works, by working in something else first. **(A)** Many would benefit from doing a degree, perhaps in Law – and the starting salary would be higher. There are some great careers in the police force these days, though **(B)** everyone has to start as an ordinary officer, working long hours and often finding themselves in difficult situations. But it's a great challenge!

1 09 PART 4

You will hear Leonie Steiner talking to an interviewer about her work as a music teacher in a school. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Interviewer: I have with me Leonie Steiner, who's had a distinguished career both as a pianist and as a music teacher. Leonie, who was your first-ever piano teacher?

Leonie: There's a long piano-playing tradition in my family and from a very early age I was keen to start playing. In earlier generations fathers and mothers had taught daughters and sons, but both of mine were working full-time, so from the beginning **(24)** they had me taught at home by a tutor. That would have been shortly before my first year at primary school, where I also had lessons.

Interviewer: And when did you actually start giving lessons?

Leonie: In my late teens, by which time I was giving solo performances. Some professional musicians give private classes to make enough to live on, or perhaps to find out whether they would make good teachers, but for me it was never a conscious decision to become a teacher. **(25)** I'd always enjoyed working with younger students, doing what I could to help them develop as musicians, and without realising it I was becoming a teacher. And ever since then, that – together with performing – is what I've done.

Interviewer: And what kind of students do you prefer?

Leonie: I'd say **(26)** those who perhaps aren't naturally brilliant, but respond well to intensive teaching and go on to become top performers. More so than those who seem to have been born to play at the highest level, or students who've been taught the wrong way and need to get rid of bad musical habits. That can be hard work for both pupil and teacher.

Interviewer: And what do you think of the standard of music education in our schools nowadays?

Leonie: It varies widely. I get the impression there's been a general shift away from putting pressure on students to achieve exam success to a more skills-based approach, and I think that's to be welcomed. The media sometimes talk about a shortage of qualified music teachers but I'm not convinced. **(27)** I'd say there's a much greater need to invest in new pianos, violins and so on, ensuring they're top quality so that students really like the sound they make. Because the key to success is making sure pupils enjoy their music lessons, both in terms of playing and singing.

Interviewer: Do school music lessons normally include singing these days?

Leonie: In the majority of cases they still do, and it's generally popular among pupils, but **(28)** a lot of them are afraid of doing so in public because of what other people may say or think. That's a great pity, I think, and if a child wants to sing, I feel strongly that they should always be encouraged to do so.

Interviewer: You're very highly regarded by your ex-students, many of whom have gone on to have successful careers. What do you think has made you such a good teacher?

Leonie: Well, if that's true **(29)** it probably has something to do with the fact I've always found it easy to get on with those of a different generation, whether they're at primary school, secondary school or university. In that respect I don't think I would've benefited from actually being trained at college as a music teacher.

Interviewer: Looking back over your career, what big decisions have you had to make?

Leonie: Well, in my late thirties I wondered whether I'd still have the energy needed to keep doing lessons as I got older, but once into my forties I found that wasn't an issue. Also around then, **(30)** I was offered the position of assistant head, and I had to think carefully about that because I would've been on a much higher salary, but in the end I said 'no'. It would also have meant I had less time for doing lessons, and for performing. My response to an offer of work in another country was the same, though I found it much easier to make up my mind about that one. I've never regretted staying here.

Interviewer: Thank you Leonie.

Speaking paper

Part 1

Training



Interlocutor: Good morning.

Hanif & Yara: Good morning.

Interlocutor: My name is Jennifer and this is my colleague, Stephen. And your names are?

Hanif: I'm Hanif.

Yara: My name is Yara.

Interlocutor: Can I have your mark sheets, please?

Yara: Here you are.

Hanif: Please.

Interlocutor: Thank you. Where are you from, Hanif?

Hanif: Er, from Rabat. Is capital of Morocco.

Interlocutor: And you, Yara?

Yara: I come from Brazil and my town it is called Santos. Is in the coast, not far of São Paulo.

Interlocutor: First, we'd like to know something about you. Yara, what do you like about living in your home town?

Yara: Well, it is much smaller than São Paulo so is more quiet, and the people is more friendly too. Also there is the wonderful beaches, where you can do surf.

Interlocutor: And what about you, Hanif?

Hanif: There is a many beautiful, er, buildings. And the monuments. But is town modern, too.

Interlocutor: OK. And what sort of things do you do in your free time?

Hanif: Pardon?

Interlocutor: What sort of things do you do in your free time?

Hanif: Oh, I like stay with friends. We go sometimes for sport. Or seeing any movie in, er, cinema.

Interlocutor: And what about your free time, Yara? What sort of things do you do?

Yara: I like best to go to nice places with my friends, like the gardens by the beach, is I think the most longest in the world. Many people enjoy taking the bicycle there, though I prefer go by foot. Is really lovely.

Interlocutor: OK. Now, thinking about the future, in what ways do you think you will use English?

Yara: I'll do business studies at the university, and for that I need to know English well. As well as that I want to travel in Europe and North America, that are countries where English is very important.

Interlocutor: And you, Hanif. In what ways do you think you will use English?

Hanif: Same, really. For study and the travel. Is very important the English for me.

Interlocutor: OK. Thank you.

Part 2

Training



Interlocutor: In this part of the test I'm going to give each of you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs on your own for about a minute, and also to answer a question about your partner's photographs. Sofia, it's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show young people with others who are close to them. I'd like you to compare the photographs and say why the two different kinds of relationship are important to teenagers. All right?

Sofia: Well, in both photos there are some young people, maybe about 15 or 16 years old, and it looks as if they're having a good time in different ways. In the first picture, there are a group of them, probably friends I think because they have about the same age, and they're laughing for something. A joke or one thing like

that. While here, in the other one, the, er, teenagers are with two people older than them; these could be their grandparents. They also look happy, though smiling, not laughing. The relationship with the friends is very important, I think, because everybody needs to be with other people that has the same interests. Things like music and films and clothes, and also to talk about the problems. But the family is really important too and one reason is that all people spends a lot of time with them, especially the evenings and the weekends. And celebrations, for example the weddings and parties. Another reason is most of teenagers know that the family always will give help if you ask them.

Interlocutor: Thank you. Riccardo, do you prefer to spend your free time with family or with friends?

Riccardo: Normally, I'd rather be with, er, the friends, because of the age and because we do a lot of sport together, such as football and basketball. It's also better to eat the meals with the friends. I like to eat the er fast food much more than the meals that I eat at home with my family, if I have some money of course because to buy food in the restaurant it is very expensive.

Interlocutor: Thank you.

Part 3

Training



Interlocutor: Now I'd like you to talk about something together for about two minutes. Here are some things that you often find in the home. First, talk to each other about how useful these things are to people.

Eleni: Shall we start with the dishwasher?

Stanislaw: Yes, fine.

Eleni: OK, this is very useful because you can put in it all the dirty plates and things, for example after a meal with all the family. What do you think?

Stanislaw: Well, I'm not so keen on having a dishwasher. The main reason is that I live by my own so that I can wash by hand the cups and plates very fast. But every apartment must have a fridge, don't you think so?

Eleni: Right. Especially in hot countries like mine, because if not the food goes bad very quickly, and the drinks they are not nice. So the fridge definitely everyone needs.

Stanislaw: So how about this one, the freezer? With that you can keep food for much longer than in the fridge.

Eleni: Hmm, I not really sure about that. Yes, it is handy for always having the ice cream and things like that, but fresh food taste much better than the frozen food, and frozen vegetables is not so healthy. The next thing, though – the washing machine – is something always useful.

Stanislaw: I think so, too. It must have been terrible, in the old days, to have to wash all the family's clothes by hand.

Eleni: Or go out all the time, to the ... the place where they wash the clothes.

Stanislaw: The laundry? The launderette?

Eleni: Yes, that. And you need too the iron, for to make the clothes look smart. Would you agree?

Stanislaw: Er, I think I'd rather have clothes which don't need iron. For one thing, for me it is quite difficult to use the iron.

Eleni: I think you can learn, is very easy!

Interlocutor: Thank you. Now you have a minute to decide which two things are most important to you.

Eleni: Well, for me one of the most important ones is definitely the washing machine. That makes a really big difference in the home.

Stanislaw: I don't really agree. For single people like students living alone, you don't use it often. I mean, if you have a few socks and things to clean, you don't need a washing machine for them. I think it's OK, but not an essential thing. The freezer is more useful, really.

Eleni: Mm. So do you choose that, for one of the two things most important?

Stanislaw: Yes, because it makes the life more easy. You can go to the supermarket, do all shopping for some weeks, and keep everything in the freezer until you need it.

Eleni: That is possible, I suppose. And which other would be best, for you?

Stanislaw: The fridge. Especially for things like milk and salad, and fish.

Eleni: That's true. So we are agree about that. But I think the washing machine is more important than the freezer. Are you sure you don't change your mind?

Stanislaw: No, I think it might be better to have different things in different kind of home. Shall we leave it at that?

Eleni: Yes, let's agree to disagree about that one.

Part 4

Training



Interlocutor: Han, do you like doing housework?

Han: No really. In my opinion it is something you must do but nobody enjoys it.

Interlocutor: OK ... um ... Marisol, do you like doing housework?

Marisol: No, I hate doing the housework jobs. I help my mother and my father at home, but always I do the things like that as fast as possible. I think everyone feel the same.

Interlocutor: Who usually does jobs such as washing and cleaning in your home?

Han: Er, often I do some cleaning and washing. And cooking, of course. In the microwave. Because I am alone I must do all jobs, of course.

Interlocutor: And who usually does jobs such as washing and cleaning in your home?

Marisol: Well, my dad does a little but normally it is my mother that have to do the most of the work. The things are changing in my country, but too much slowly. **(4) For example** the woman these days can get the good jobs, but also they have to make all the housework and that is completely wrong. What do you think about that?

Han: I don't know, really. The society has changed a lot and now the young men, it seems to me, do some housework too, and take turns look after the children.

Marisol: **(5) Yes, but isn't it true that** the majority of the work and the time with the kids still is for the woman? The man he does a few jobs and thinks everything is finish and then he sits down to watch the TV, or go out with the friends. That is the reality, no?

Han: Yes, probably you're right. Things have to change much more.

Interlocutor: OK. Er, do you think machines will ever do all the housework for us? Marisol?

Marisol: **(1) Sorry, could you say it again, please?**

Interlocutor: Do you think machines will ever do all the housework for us?

Marisol: OK. I'd say that it will take a lot of years before the machines will do everything in the house, **(3) because many of these jobs you must do by hand**, like cleaning the windows or making tidy the room.

Interlocutor: Han, do you think machines will ever do all the housework for us?

Han: My own view is that finally it will happen, and **(3) the reason is the technology moves so fast.** A few years ago, who imagined, **(4) for instance, that now every home has a computer** to do many things for us?

Interlocutor: Uh-huh. Er, some people say we use too many electrical things at home. Do you agree?

Marisol: Maybe. I'm no sure. Perhaps we can use some things less, for to waste less electricity. So I agree partly. **(2) What's your opinion of that?**

Han: Well some things probably aren't really essential, like the electric mixers and electric can-openers. Or something I saw on TV other day: electric curtains. I mean, if you're so lazy you don't feel like to open the curtains ... so, yes, I agree there are too many things like that.

Interlocutor: Right, thank you. That's the end of the test.

Test 2

Transcript

1 14 PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 You hear part of a conversation in a watch repair shop.

M: I'm sorry but quite frankly it's hardly worth mending.

F: Are you sure? I know it cost a lot when my grandmother bought it.

M: Well, you could take it to another watch repairers but you'd be wasting your time because they would tell you exactly the same, I'm afraid.

F: I see.

M: So really the best alternative would be to replace it. As it happens, I think we have a very similar model in stock. I can check now if you like.

F: No, I'd rather have this one fixed if you don't mind.

M: OK, I'll see what we can do.

2 *You are on a train and you hear a woman leaving a message on an answering machine.*

Hi, it's Jane. The train was stuck in a tunnel for over an hour and though we're moving again it looks as if I won't make it in time to catch the bus. I think the last one leaves the station at twenty past nine, and there won't be any taxis around at that time either. So I'd really appreciate it if you could pick me up there. And of course you needn't wait for me to have dinner, you go ahead and have yours and I'll get something from the snack bar here. Can you call me back or text me to confirm? Thanks, see you later.

3 *You hear a talent show judge commenting on a performance she has just seen.*

Well, it's good to see someone who really believes in their own ability to sing a tune as powerful as that, even though others – including myself, I'm afraid – are unlikely to share that belief. Which is a pity, because it was brave of him to attempt such a challenging piece of music, and he certainly has the right look to be a star, too. I know some will say he should've sung something less demanding, to at least get through to the next round of the competition; but I always feel that's a mistake, that it's better for everyone if limited technical ability is apparent from the start.

4 *You hear the beginning of a talk in a community centre.*

Before I begin, I just want to thank everyone for attending, especially those of you who've had a difficult journey owing to the floods that have affected both road and rail links from neighbouring areas. I'd also like to express my sympathy to the farmers around here whose crops have been destroyed by the extreme weather. I hope that this evening's subject, rural life in this area in the nineteenth century, might be of particular interest as we shall be looking at how communities coped with natural disasters such as these in earlier times.

5 *You hear a man talking about saving money.*

I've managed to save up quite a lot from my wages, and if I can find someone who'll give me a good price for my mountain bike I should just about have enough. I thought about getting a big fast motorbike, like the one Max has, but four wheels have always appealed to me more, even when I was kid. I remember getting into a really smart two-seater when I was too small to see through the windscreen, and thinking 'one day I'm going to have one of these'. Well, nothing's changed since then.

6 *You hear a woman talking about a concert being cancelled.*

It was supposed to be tomorrow night and I do wish they'd let me know before I'd arranged for someone to look after the twins then. She was very good about it, though, and said she could come over another evening instead, so I suggested next Friday as there's an exhibition on at the local gallery that I'd very much like to see. I'm pleased about that, of course, but ideally I would've been able to go to both that and the concert.

7 *You hear a man and woman talking about a flat they are considering renting.*

Woman: It's certainly one of the better ones we've seen, isn't it?

Man: Yes, I quite liked the high ceilings and big windows. They give a real feeling of space.

Woman: Yes, though in fact there isn't actually a lot of floor space, and all that furniture takes up most of what there is. I'd replace some of those things, too.

Man: Some of them are rather old-fashioned, I agree, but I suppose you can't expect everything to be brand new when the landlord's charging so little, and that's definitely a plus.

Woman: And with what that would save us, we could afford some new items for the place. So let's go for it.

8 *You hear a woman talking about her tablet computer.*

It's certainly a wonderful device and I wouldn't be without it. In fact, it goes everywhere with me so that it's always there whenever I need it. I suppose using a virtual keyboard can sometimes get on my nerves a bit when I have to write a long email, but there wouldn't be any point in upgrading to a more expensive one with more memory or whatever because I'd still have the same problem. But apart from that, I'm very happy with it.

15 PART 2

You will hear a man called Markus Fischer talking about mooncake, a traditional Asian bakery product. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Mooncake has long been popular among the Chinese communities in many western societies and of course it first appeared in China many centuries ago, and it's also extremely popular in countries such as Indonesia and Thailand, but (9) I hadn't actually tasted it until I visited Japan some years ago. I enjoyed it so much that since then I've eaten it in places as far apart as Vietnam and the Philippines, each time being pleasantly surprised by the differences in appearance, ingredients and flavour. Of the traditional types in China, I very much like those filled with egg, dried fruit or seeds, though (10) for me the one that really stands out has nuts inside. All of these kinds are quite sweet, as of course are the more modern varieties filled with chocolate or ice-cream, though I'm not so keen on those. Whatever the type of mooncake, though, (11) it is best accompanied by tea. I certainly drank lots of it when I was in Shanghai last year, rather than my usual favourite coffee with milk. I was fortunate enough to be there while people were celebrating the Moon Festival, an annual event that sometimes takes place in October although (12) last autumn it was in September. In other years it's been held only just after the end of August.

During the festival I learnt a lot more about mooncake from the Chinese family I was staying with. (13) I noticed the form of a rabbit on the upper surface of the one I was about to bite into, and it was pointed out to me that others may have flowers on the top, or the name of the baker's written there. Mooncake is traditionally seen as a way of bringing families closer together, so (14) I'd assumed that most Chinese people baked their own at home, but when I asked the family about that they said few did, mainly because it's so difficult to prepare. Nowadays, of course, people in towns and cities often buy mooncakes in supermarkets, and at that time of year many are received as presents in gift-wrapped boxes, often from relatives or friends, though (15) in the case of my host family theirs was from the employer of both the man and the woman. Although living in Shanghai, the family originally came from the city of Ningbo, further up the coast to the north-east, and as a gift they gave me a mooncake to take with me when I left. (16) This one differed from the generally sweet varieties found elsewhere in China in that it tasted a little salty, on account of the fact that it was made from locally-produced

ingredients that included meat. By this time I was becoming fascinated by everything connected with mooncake, and I asked the family to tell me a little about its history. They told me it first became popular in the fourteenth century during the time of the Ming Revolution, when **(17) people passed on secret messages to one another as writing on the top of four mooncakes.** To understand the code, the cakes had to be cut into four slices each and then joined with those from the other cakes to complete the message. This took place on the day of the Moon Festival, which then – as it still is today – was one of the most important dates in the Chinese calendar. **(18) Once the message had been received, the evidence soon disappeared when everyone ate the mooncakes.** Another legend describes the passing of messages hidden inside mooncake, although presumably in that case the secret letter was burnt once it had been read.

16 PART 3

You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about deciding to take up new interests. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the main reason each speaker gives for deciding to take up their new interest. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

Speaker 1

I've always been a keen swimmer and that keeps me in good shape, so when I made my mind up to do badminton it was far more about socialising than exercising, especially as I'd only recently moved to this part of town and I hardly knew anyone. I hadn't realised, though, just how competitive badminton can be – so much so that I've now been invited to take part in a local championship. I've got no chance of winning it, or even coming close, and to be honest I'm not really bothered about that, but it might be fun so I think I'll give it a try.

Speaker 2

I work part-time in a petrol station, which in some ways is quite a pleasant job but last year I found that I was increasingly getting into financial difficulties. So I began to study the way electronic devices work and how to repair them. I found that fascinating, and eventually I felt confident enough to place an online ad offering my services. I got loads of replies and I've now paid off nearly all my debts. I've thought of giving up my job at the petrol station, but I think I'd miss meeting different people every day if I worked entirely from home.

Speaker 3

For years I'd been so scared of heights that some people used to make fun of me, so one day I decided to do something about it: go rock climbing. Feeling that if I could do that I'd be able to do anything, I joined a local club. On my first day I was surprised to find there were two other people who'd joined for the same reason, and we soon became friends. Together we got fitter and stronger, and encouraged each other to keep going, until by the end of the year we felt unconcerned about tackling the most challenging of climbs.

Speaker 4

I never imagined that going horse riding could be such good exercise until I'd spent a weekend trekking in the mountains with friends. That was something of a bonus, really, because what'd initially attracted me to it was that it offered a contrast in every respect to my day job as a cab driver in a noisy, polluted city centre. And although it's certainly not the cheapest of activities, I find it so relaxing that I always feel it's worth every penny.

Speaker 5

Gardening had always seemed to me as just a way of passing the time, of doing something completely different from office work, or perhaps even – for the really keen – of winning a prize for the largest home-grown vegetable. So it was only by chance that I became interested in it, when the old lady next door asked me to look after her garden while she was away. On her return she was so delighted by my efforts that I felt I'd done something really worthwhile, so I then offered to garden for other neighbours in their 80s and 90s. They sometimes offered me money, but I always refused to accept it.

17 PART 4

You will hear an interview with a woman called Adriana Moretti, who works as a wildlife photographer. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Interviewer: Adriana, what originally made you decide you wanted to be a professional wildlife photographer?

Adriana: Well, unlike some who eventually take it up as a career, I wasn't a particularly talented photographer, but **(24) I was fascinated by what living creatures do and why.** I developed my skills as a photographer while I was actually doing the job, and it wasn't until then I realised my work could take me to all kinds of distant places.

Interviewer: So beginners don't need to take budget flights abroad to improve their photographic skills?

Adriana: No, they can usually do that in their local countryside, where there'll probably be just as wide a variety of wildlife as anywhere, really. Actually, learning has if anything become simpler. **(25) For instance, the cost of good-quality digital cameras and other essential items has fallen dramatically in recent times, enabling far more people to take good photos.** Studying photography can certainly help improve one's technical ability, though I'd do that at college rather than by signing up for one of those online courses.

Interviewer: And of course you need practical experience.

Adriana: Yes, there are things you can't learn sitting in a classroom. I remember I once spent all night trying to photograph owls after it'd been raining heavily.

Interviewer: That can't have been very comfortable.

Adriana: No, the ground was very wet and muddy, though fortunately I had a good pair of boots on and there was a fence that made a good seat, but **(26) I found it hard to keep still because of the mosquitoes. By morning my face and hands were covered in bites,** but I did get some great pictures.

Interviewer: So it's a job that requires patience.

Adriana: Definitely. I was once in tropical Australia trying to get a shot of a huge crocodile as it opened its mouth. I'd been lying there for ages and in that heat some might have got sleepy or bored, but I couldn't keep my eyes off that magnificent creature. I was quite close to it, but I knew that species of crocodile was normally harmless to humans and **(27) my main concern was whether it would actually open its mouth at all before I had to leave.** In the end it did, though, and it was worth the wait to get a picture of all those teeth. Of course some animals are difficult to photograph at all.

Interviewer: For example?

Adriana: Well I hadn't actually got round to photographing tigers until recently, when I was sent to a National Park in India. And from there I travelled to northern China and managed to get some great pictures of a snow leopard hunting in the mountains. **(28)** It'd been my intention to go on to northern Russia to try to get my first-ever shots of polar bears, but things didn't work out as planned so I'll have to do that some other time. I've taken photos of brown bears, of course, but they're much easier to locate.

Interviewer: It certainly sounds a great job to have, but does it have any negative aspects?

Adriana: Well, the agency may expect you to go to some fairly unpleasant places, though if it's a country where there's armed conflict going on I normally refuse. And being completely on one's own in the jungle or desert can get some people down, but I can't say it bothers me. **(29)** Spending so much time away from my daughters, though, is a different matter, but unfortunately it goes with the job. Whenever I'm home I always try to make up for that by spending as much time as I can with them.

Interviewer: Tell me, how easy is it to get a job as a wildlife photographer?

Adriana: Well, it's certainly an attractive career, and **(30)** nowadays there are just so many people out there doing it to such a high standard that it's difficult to get into. On the other hand, the public don't show any sign of losing interest in pictures of wildlife, and even though you can find millions of them online, people always seem to want new ones.

Interviewer: Thank you, Adriana.

Test 3 Transcript

01 PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 You hear a film review on the radio.

This movie has been widely advertised as the big cinema event of the autumn and it certainly has its positive aspects. For instance, the photography is superb, particularly in the outdoor scenes, and the soundtrack perfectly matches the setting and the content throughout. Rather frequently, though, I lost track of the plot, as – I suspect – did many others in the audience. In fact, it was just as well that all the leading actors put in such strong performances or I would have lost interest long before the final third of the film, when the tension – and with it the volume of the music – really starts to rise.

2 You hear two students talking about a holiday abroad.

Man: If a group of us travel together, we might be able to get something off the standard rates for fares to other countries, because it's becoming impossible without some sort of discount.

Woman: There would have to be a lot off, the way prices are going. It'd be worth it, though, to see a bit of the world.

Man: I don't know. There are lots of fun things you can do here in summer, and you don't add to global pollution by flying everywhere.

Woman: You can take a train, or a bus. Or even go by ship. None of those leaves much of a carbon footprint.

3 You hear a woman talking on the radio about a place called Dolphin Bay.

I often used to listen to that travel programme on the car radio, and although apparently they once mentioned Dolphin Bay I don't recall it. So it wasn't until last summer that I became aware of the existence of that wonderful place thanks to a TV documentary, following which I went to see it for myself. Since then I've discovered a whole website about it, with lots of fantastic photos, a video of dolphin families in the clear blue water, and links to blogs by other people who love the place as much as I do.

4 You overhear a woman talking outside the post office.

After I'd been waiting in the queue for ten minutes I thought that while I was there I might as well also get some stamps for another parcel I need to send quite soon, but then I realised I didn't have any cash on me. This one, the one I was actually there to pick up, had been sent some time ago and delivered to my house yesterday, but as there was no-one in they left a note saying it would be here from this morning.

5 You hear part of a discussion on local radio.

Woman: It's essential we ensure that no more hedges are cut down.

Man: I mentioned that at a council meeting, but someone from the transport department said hedges prevented drivers from seeing other vehicles approaching, which could cause accidents.

Woman: That's just ridiculous, isn't it?

Man: Yes, it is. And there are people who've moved here from the city saying they don't want the views from their country homes spoilt by tall hedges.

Woman: They really don't know how vital they are, how many species depend on them as a place to live. And they would probably be the first people to complain if some of those species started disappearing.

6 You hear a man talking about motorcycling.

It was a lovely sunny morning in autumn when I set off for the North, and for the first hour it was a wonderful feeling riding round the long, fast bends on such a powerful bike. But suddenly it started to rain and the temperature dropped alarmingly. Within minutes I was frozen, and I had to slow down because of wet leaves on the road. It's at moments like that when some start to wonder whether they should've bought a car instead, but I've never felt that myself. Though I do admit that on that occasion it might have been sensible to find a more comfortable way to travel.

7 You overhear a student talking about her new college.

I didn't really want to change college, even though this one's a slightly shorter walk from my house than the old one, and to be honest I'm still not used to the way maths and science are taught here. I'd also wondered, before the term started, whether the other students might be a bit suspicious of me because I'd come from a rather exclusive college, but in fact they couldn't have been more welcoming. That's made it a lot less difficult to settle in.

8 You overhear a driving instructor talking to a learner after the lesson has ended.

Well, you're definitely making progress and you should be ready to take your test within a month or so. There are just a couple of points. Firstly, you're quite right to stay well below the speed limit, but on the other hand you shouldn't be holding up the traffic either. You would've realised that if you'd checked in your mirror on Kings Road, which you should've done. Actually, I was also wondering whether you'd spot that 'keep left' sign as we approached the end of the main road, but clearly you did and that was a definite plus.

02 PART 2

You will hear a student called Fiona Doyle talking about living in the countryside after growing up in a city. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

My parents now both work from home so they made the decision to move from our city-centre flat to the countryside, although it meant big changes for the whole family. It was a winter evening when we first went to the village, and as we walked along the pavement (9) I remarked on how dark it was without the street lights of the city, and how bright that made the lights of the cars seem as they approached. I also noticed the sound of running water, and when we reached the house I was delighted to discover that it stood next to a little bridge over a stream. I soon decided I liked the house. It has thick stone walls, high ceilings and wooden floors. The central heating keeps the temperature in all the rooms pleasant throughout the year, although (10) during the colder months those in the basement tend to get a bit damp, probably because of the stream. My room is actually on the other side of the house so I don't hear it at night, which is a pity, really. I was used to the constant big-city background noise of traffic and voices, and (11) for a while after we moved in I'd keep waking up in the middle of the night owing to the total silence there. It doesn't bother me now, though, and these days I look forward to settling down for the night in my large, comfortable bed. I rarely stay up any later than when I was in the flat, and in the mornings I normally wake up at the same time, but (12) there aren't the sounds of the city telling you it's time to get up so I'm usually in far less of a hurry to do so. The atmosphere here is so relaxing, and I have a wonderful view from the window of my room. Whereas before I'd see city wildlife like cats, dogs and maybe the occasional fox, (13) here I start the day to the sound of distant farm animals and the sight of rabbits in the open fields. Apparently there are also deer around, though I haven't actually spotted any yet. The pace of life in the countryside is certainly slower, but I think I've adjusted pretty well to it. I must confess, though, that (14) I can get a bit fed up with the speed of the Internet connection here, compared with how fast it was in the flat downtown. In spite of that I still manage to chat online with my friends there more or less whenever I want, so I don't have the feeling of missing them that I thought I might have before I moved. There is, though, fairly weak mobile reception out here – sometimes no signal at all – and (15) when that happens I may not receive calls they're trying to make to me, which can be annoying. I suppose poor public transport is another disadvantage of living in the country. There isn't a railway station within five kilometres, (16) it's nearly a two-kilometre walk to get to a bus stop, and taxis charge a fortune to come out here. It's so different from where I grew up, where the buses stop right outside your home or you can take the Underground.

(17) You can live quite happily there without a car, but not here. People say 'why not go by bike?', but the reality is that it's just too far to ride anywhere from here – and dangerous on those country roads, especially in the dark. I'll just have to rely on my parents for lifts everywhere until I pass my driving test, which I hope will be before I go to (18) university next year. Fortunately, it'll be a shorter drive from here than from where I used to live, and I'll avoid the awful traffic on the roads in and out of the city, too!

03 PART 3

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about difficult situations they have been in. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker says they did in each situation. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

Speaker 1

There was a storm blowing as I walked along the cliffs, and down below I noticed a rowing boat being thrown about by the huge waves. I took out my phone to call the rescue services, or the police, but there was no signal. If the boat had hit the rocks it would have been smashed to pieces, so I ran along the cliff top until I came to a small bay. I ran back and shouted to the crew to row towards it as hard as they could, and eventually they managed it. There the waves pushed their boat into the bay, where they were able to take shelter.

Speaker 2

It was my first night out in that city, and when I saw the last bus home disappearing round the corner I knew I had a problem. It was cold and I couldn't afford a taxi, but I didn't want to bother my host family by asking them to pick me up so I set off on foot, telling myself it'd only take me an hour or so. Four hours later I was still walking. I was soaked through and my hands were frozen. When I eventually reached the house the family said how worried they'd been, and asked why I hadn't phoned. By then I wished I had.

Speaker 3

I realised straight away I'd been overcharged, but it was only by a small amount and my first thought was to forget about it as I was in a hurry. Then I noticed the assistant glance at me and somehow I knew it had been deliberate. I gently pointed out the error, but he became quite aggressive. Not wanting to get into a row about it, I asked to speak to the manager, and when she came over I explained that I hadn't been given the correct change. The assistant angrily denied this, but the manager pointed to a security camera right above us. He immediately gave me my money.

Speaker 4

Carlos, Alfonso and I had been camping in the mountains, and it was time to leave. Just then a dense mist descended and soon we realised we were completely lost. I was in favour of keeping going along the path, while Carlos suggested heading downhill. Alfonso, though, wanted to phone Mountain Rescue for help. The two of them had just started arguing when a shepherd appeared. I asked him which way we should go and he said we'd taken a wrong turning at the bridge, so we headed back the way we'd come, turned left by the river instead of right, and within twenty minutes we'd reached the village.

Speaker 5

I was doing a cross-country run when suddenly I tripped and fell, feeling a sharp pain in my ankle. As I lay there I wondered whether I'd be able to stand on it, maybe even carry on running, but I remembered what I'd been taught as a nurse so I kept it still, checking to see if it was broken. It didn't seem to be so I decided against calling an ambulance, but I didn't want to take any chances so I phoned my sister. She immediately offered to come and collect me, and within fifteen minutes she was able to help me to the car and take me home.

04 PART 4

You will hear an interview with travel writer Amy McCarthy about her first experience of travelling abroad. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Interviewer: Could you tell us, Amy, about the first time you travelled abroad, and why?

Amy: I was just eighteen, and back in those days I had no confidence in my ability to travel on my own and pick up other languages, much less actually live and work abroad as I do now. So when (24) Carla and Nicky asked if I'd be interested in joining them for a few weeks somewhere sunny, I immediately said 'yes' and we chose a holiday on the Spanish island of Ibiza.

Interviewer: Why Ibiza in particular?

Amy: I love seeing new places, and as it was somewhere neither Carla nor I had ever visited before, Nicky agreed she'd like to go back there even though it'd cost a bit more than going to a Greek or Turkish island, say. I suppose (25) what appealed to us was that it offered such a wide range of activities, including of course its famous nightlife. So we found a reasonably-priced package holiday for three, booked it, and on the first of July I headed for the airport.

Interviewer: How did you feel as your journey began?

Amy: To be honest it didn't start terribly well. I was too late for the airport bus and ended up taking a taxi so as not to miss my flight, only to find at the terminal that it'd been delayed for two hours. So (26) I spent the morning shopping there, until I suddenly noticed my wallet was half empty, and I hadn't even left the country yet. Feeling a bit angry with myself, I decided to get something to eat, but the high prices put me off and I wished I'd brought some sandwiches, as the other two had.

Interviewer: And how did you get on?

Amy: Quite well at first, but then there were a couple of disagreements, including one between the other two about who should go out for bread. I don't eat it much so I wasn't really bothered, nor was I particularly concerned about Carla's habit of accidentally locking herself out of the flat, but (27) I did get irritated when I kept seeing used cups, saucers and plates lying around next to the sofa or armchair where she'd been sitting. It's not something anyone in my family would have done.

Interviewer: Were you missing them?

Amy: Yes, I didn't want to admit it but I was.

Interviewer: So did you stay in touch with them while you were away?

Amy: Well, before I left, my parents had asked me to phone them while I was away and I'd said I definitely would, but (28) whenever I felt like doing so somehow I couldn't. I wanted to be able to tell them what a great time I was having, but as soon as they heard my voice they'd know I wasn't. I felt guilty because they'd topped up my phone for me, so there was no way I could use lack of credit as an excuse.

Interviewer: Did things improve later in the holiday, or did you wish you'd organised things differently?

Amy: A bit of both, really. We decided we'd each make lunch every third day, and that worked pretty well, I found. I was also glad I didn't have to buy much while I was away because I already had most of the things I needed in my suitcase. (29) I did feel, though, that a fortnight would've been enough, and I could have done without the third week there. Still, I was the one who'd actually made the reservation so I couldn't complain.

Interviewer: How did you feel about it all on your return home?

Amy: I had mixed feelings, really. (30) I knew I'd made mistakes, but I also felt sure I'd been taught some important lessons which would benefit me the next time I went away. And that gave me the confidence to try again, perhaps with different friends or – more likely – on my own. Because somehow I knew that one day, once I'd graduated in a few years time, I'd return to Spain and get a job there. Which is exactly what I ended up doing.

Interviewer: Thank you, Amy.

Test 4 Transcript

05 PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 You hear a man and a woman talking about a department store.

Man: I got a great pair of shoes in that store, reduced to half price.

Woman: That must've been during the sales. You don't often see bargains there, though I will say they always seem to have whatever it is you're looking for.

Man: Yes, though it took me quite a while to find the pair I needed. I asked two of the assistants if they had my size in stock but neither of them made much of an effort to find out.

Woman: That's fairly typical of the kind of people who work there. Perhaps they're not paid very much.

2 You hear a woman asking a man questions in a city-centre street.

Woman: Hello, could you tell me whether you came into town by bus today?

Man: Yes, I did. On the 86.

Woman: That's the one that stops just round the corner there, isn't it?

Man: Yes, that's right.

Woman: And do you take the same bus every day?

Man: Yes, I do. It's a pretty good service. It's usually on time, and not too crowded.

Woman: What about facilities for disabled passengers? Are they up to standard?

Man: They seem to be, yes.

Woman: And one last thing: is the fare good value for money?

Man: I'd say so, yes.

Woman: Fine, that's all thanks. Have a good day.

3 You hear part of a radio interview with a newspaper's science reporter.

Nowadays we hear some fairly extreme views on climate change. On the one hand, some green politicians say the damage has already been done and all we can do is prepare for the terrifying consequences. That's too pessimistic, I feel. Then there are those – none of them scientists, I should add – who believe it's all part of a natural cycle that involves periods of global warming followed by global cooling. Unfortunately, the latter view enables politicians in certain countries to claim there's nothing much to worry about, and avoid taking the strong, possibly unpopular, measures that are so clearly needed if the planet is to avoid disaster.

4 You hear a recorded message when you phone a hotel.

Welcome to the Seaview Hotel information line. Our operators are all occupied at the present time, so please press the appropriate number and we will deal with your call as quickly as possible. To make a room reservation, book a restaurant table or arrange for transport to or from the hotel, please press one. To alter the arrival or departure date of an existing booking, request a larger or smaller room, or arrange for a late check-out, please press two. For all other services, including cancellation of bookings, please press three.

5 You hear two parents talking after watching their son play in a football match.

Man: It was a pity the ref didn't give our boys that penalty right at the end, wasn't it?

Woman: Well, I think he got that right, and anyway it would've been a bit unfair on the other team who, let's face it, played better throughout the game.

Man: A draw might have been a fairer result.

Woman: Perhaps, but it was a shame our David had to be on the losing side.

Man: Right. He was the only one of them that put in a decent performance.

6 You hear a man talking on the radio about a castle by the sea.

The castle really is a spectacular site in a magnificent location, set against a stunning background of huge mountains right next to the rocky coast. There's a track that runs along the top of the cliffs for miles and it's a delightful walk, but it doesn't actually lead anywhere. Nor is the bus an option since the local company went out of business. That was a pity, because there were some great views for passengers, so now there's no alternative to driving, which is a real shame. Perhaps one day they'll re-open the old railway line, but we've been saying that for years and it's unlikely to happen anytime soon.

7 You hear a woman talking about her computer.

I only had ten minutes before I had to go out and I needed to email Sarah. I was getting nervous and it took me three goes to log in because I kept hitting the wrong keys when I saw 'enter password', but eventually I was able to get in and write my message. I clicked 'Send' but nothing happened. With time running out I began to panic, wondering whether my laptop was the latest victim of that bug which was going round, but then I noticed a little icon on the screen that meant I wasn't connected to the Internet. At that I gave up and rushed out of the house.

8 You overhear a man leaving a message on an answering machine.

Hi, I'm calling because I've been doing some thinking about working at the office and, to cut a long story short, I'm afraid I'm starting to get fed up with it. It's not my colleagues' fault at all, but I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't mention this to any of them. Anyway, the thing is I know you once felt the same way about a job you had so I'm wondering how you coped with it and what the pros and cons are of changing jobs. I'm sorry to bother you with this, but I know I'll regret it if I don't do something about it, and soon.

2 06 PART 2

You will hear a man called André Laroque taking about a luxury railway journey in Canada. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

At the height of its popularity in the 19th century, the Royal Canadian Pacific was sometimes described as 'the most beautiful railway route in the world', but during the 20th century it had declined to the point where passenger trains no longer ran along its 20,000 kilometres of lines. Then, in 2000, **(9)** a thousand-kilometre passenger service started again, and this was the one I travelled on in my own private sleeping compartment, sharing a coach with fifteen other people. The four-day journey began and ended in Calgary, the largest city in Alberta and one that has received international praise for being a pleasant place to live. *The Economist* magazine recently placed it equal fifth in a list of the world's top cities to live in, while **(10)** according to another study that looked at which is the cleanest, it came top. It is located close to the Rocky Mountains, which are crossed at two different points by the railway line. At various points along the route the peaks rise over a kilometre straight up from the line, so although they aren't as tall as those in the U.S., **(11)** they're so steep that their appearance is breathtaking. Scenes of trains winding their way through beautiful green valleys next to spectacular snow-covered peaks are of course often associated with Canada, especially in films, and **(12)** the Canadian Pacific has become known throughout the world as a result of images of it appearing on the nation's stamps.

So it was with some excitement that I boarded the train that morning, and immediately I was impressed by the luxury of the accommodation. It was like stepping back into another age, apart from the fact that each of the eight coaches had air-conditioning. The weather there in August was hot, so **(13)** that was a welcome feature, as was the fact that I'd have a shower to myself. The furniture was old but of extremely high quality, and the chairs and beds were highly comfortable. The meals, naturally, were superb, and were always prepared on board by top chefs. We had our own waiter in each coach, of course, but **(14)** what I hadn't expected was that all of us would be served at a single large dining table, which could also be used for business meetings. The sixteen of us soon came to enjoy sitting together for evening meals as these were actually more like dinner parties, with everyone in formal dress, and live music as entertainment. On other journeys, apparently, they sometimes have performances of classical guitar, though **(15)** on this occasion it was violin. The next day we travelled along a river valley with marvellous views of the mountain scenery until we reached Emerald Lake, where the train stopped for us to go on a forest trek to observe the local wildlife. There were plenty of salmon splashing about in the river, and we saw a mountain goat on a track high above us. **(16)** It would've been great to have spotted a bear but on that particular day we were out of luck, though I'm sure I saw a wolf, and there

was certainly an eagle flying overhead at one point. Back on the train, we went up and over Kicking Horse Pass, descending what is known as the Big Hill. Each of the coaches weighs a hundred tons, so (17) when the driver used the brakes to slow down they sent up a cloud of black smoke which was clearly visible to those of us sitting by the windows. On our last evening, we came to another remarkable sight near Lethbridge, Alberta's fourth biggest city. Looking like a giant spider's web, (18) the mile-long bridge across the Oldman River is larger than any other of that type in the entire continent. The following morning we arrived back in Calgary, after what must surely be the most wonderful train journey in North America.

07 PART 3

You will hear five short extracts in which people talk about why they changed their job. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the main reason each person gives for their last change of job. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

Speaker 1

In many respects there isn't a great deal of difference between my previous job in a large insurance company and this one, certainly in terms of my duties, my chances of promotion and the salary, which remains just about adequate for my needs. The only real exception is that in my current one I have 26 days off annually compared to 20 before. That was the crucial factor when I made my decision, as I love to spend my free time out of doors – especially after sitting in an office nine to five every day.

Speaker 2

Making the change actually meant taking a drop in salary, but I feel it was worth it. Although the work I used to do at the advertising agency was sometimes interesting, after five years I felt I'd managed to do everything I was likely to achieve there and it was time I took on something new. I needed to really test my ability and skill rather than just receive a good salary for a job well done, even if it involved working slightly longer hours and taking fewer holidays, and with little chance of promotion. I also had to move to another city, but as I don't have kids that wasn't a major problem.

Speaker 3

I'm making a good living now, certainly in comparison to the situation at my previous company where I barely brought in enough to live on. I also get five weeks off a year instead of four, though that was a less significant factor in my decision to move, as was the two-hour reduction in the working week. I'm still working in the import-export business, though dealing with customers over the phone, by email or by video conferencing rather than in their own countries.

Speaker 4

I'm still in the same flat I was in before I began work here, though I actually don't mind that because it's a pleasant enough place and with only a slight increase in my salary I couldn't afford anywhere bigger anyway. What really appealed to me when I saw the job ad was the chance to be in the fresh air all day, so I applied immediately in spite of the fact that the working hours are considerably longer than in most other kinds of work, and the prospects of promotion are rather limited.

Speaker 5

In the small manufacturing firm where I used to work I'd long felt that I wasn't really going anywhere, so when the opportunity to work here came along I took it straight away. Not that the salary or the conditions such as the working hours or holidays were particularly attractive, but they were offering in-company training that should eventually ensure, perhaps in a few years, that I reach a higher position. The only disadvantage of that would be that I'd probably have to move to a bigger city, but overall it'd be worthwhile, I think.

08 PART 4

You will hear a radio interview with Lily Jenkins, whose favourite sport is windsurfing. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Man: Today I have with me Lily Jenkins, who will be talking to me about the sport she loves: windsurfing. First of all, Lily, let's go back to when you were a complete beginner. What was it like windsurfing for the first time?

Lily: Well, some beginners have the wrong idea. Some imagine they'll be racing across the ocean waves on the very first day and are then disappointed to discover they won't, but I already knew it would take practice to reach that stage. Others initially feel nervous about standing on a wet board; they're convinced they'll slide off, when in fact nowadays all boards are designed to avoid that happening. (24) Fortunately, I'd been shown a DVD for learners so I knew in advance more or less what to expect, though of course there were still some surprises.

Man: So do you need to spend a lot of time practising before you're any good at it?

Lily: There's certainly a lot to learn and people always seem to end up needing more time to reach an adequate level than they thought, but (25) I suppose it depends on the individual in terms of their fitness, previous experience in related sports such as sailing, and of course how much effort they put in. Interestingly, buying expensive, high-quality boards and sails doesn't seem to make much difference to the progress beginners make.

Man: What in particular helped you progress?

Lily: Well, it's a highly technical sport so I didn't make the mistake of thinking that just because I could surf waves I could teach myself to windsurf, or that I could learn from a friend, no matter how expert she might be. Instead (26) I signed up for a six-month course at a local windsurfing centre, and it was money well spent.

Man: I imagine safety aspects featured in that. Do you have any tips?

Lily: Yes, before you go always check the weather forecast and tides. Also, (27) let somebody on shore know what time you're due back and, just in case the rescue services have to search for you, what colours your board and sail are so they know it's you. There are also some myths concerning windsurfing, such as starting out on lakes because they're calm. They can be freezing cold, too, so ignore that. Also, modern sails are light and easy to pull out of the water, so don't worry when it falls in – it happens to all of us.

Man: Looking back, do you think you made any big mistakes when you were starting out?

Lily: Well, I began by buying the right kind of equipment, that's to say a large board with a small sail, but within three months I was ready to move up to the next level of kit, with a board that's smaller and a sail that's bigger. That, unfortunately, meant I had to sell my original equipment at quite a big loss, so **(28)** it would've made more sense to have hired it for that initial period of time.

Man: Tell me, what is it about windsurfing that gives you most pleasure?

Lily: Oh lots of things, such as the feeling of becoming physically fitter and stronger, or discovering how to do things I'd never tried before. But **(29)** if I had to choose one it'd be the way it lets you empty your mind of all the stress and concerns of daily life, and just enjoy being out there on the open water.

Man: Finally, Lily, how do you see your future in windsurfing?

Lily: Well, I've thought of coaching but that would mean spending a lot of time in practice pools, whereas the place I like to be is the open sea, **(30)** perhaps racing other people. In fact, that's probably what I'll do once I've developed my skills a little more. I may not win any prizes but I'll certainly enjoy it. And windsurfing is something you can keep doing even when you're quite old. Because unlike land-based sports, if you crash you're very unlikely to hurt yourself.

Man: Thank you, Lily.

Test 5 Transcript

01 PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 You hear a man talking on the radio about a new airport terminal.

This new terminal has many outstanding features, but in a sense is not that different from an old-style factory. Not on account of its dimensions – it's actually built on a larger scale than anything designed for manufacturing that I've ever seen – but in the way every square metre of it plays a part in ensuring that the paying customers move smoothly from stage to stage until finally they become the product: security-checked individuals carrying hand luggage ready to board an aircraft. Very few object to this process, and there would seem to be no logical reason to change it.

2 You hear a man being interviewed for a job.

Woman: So would you say your relationship with the manager in your last company was rather difficult?

Man: Yes, though in spite of that I would have stayed if the management had shown they valued me, but with all the hard work I was doing I didn't feel I was receiving what I deserved.

Woman: In what way?

Man: Well, even with bonuses my income simply wasn't enough to live on, especially in the capital.

Woman: Are you sure you want to stay here?

Man: Oh yes, I'd miss big-city life too much if I moved away.

3 You hear a woman talking about a city she enjoys visiting.

I go there most summers, when the sun is shining and the restaurants are full of visitors enjoying the wonderful local dishes they serve. Eating out is certainly something I've always looked forward to when planning a trip there, but even so the real highlights are still the ancient city walls and the magnificent medieval castle. I love being there during the carnival, although with so many tourists in town the atmosphere has changed, and the local people are perhaps a little less willing to talk to strangers than they used to be, unfortunately.

4 You hear a man and a woman talking about a hotel they have recently stayed at.

Man: Compared to other places we've stayed at, the food wasn't too bad, was it?

Woman: Well, I've had better at the café round the corner from home, which isn't saying much. And at least the café's easy to get to. You don't have to climb a steep hill and then go up a flight of stairs to reception.

Man: But the view from our room out across the bay was marvellous, wasn't it?

Woman: It was hardly worth all that walking. Though I suppose as a place to stay we got our money's worth.

Man: And it was a budget hotel, after all.

5 You hear a woman talking about buying a clock on the Internet.

As soon as I saw it on the website it knew it was exactly what I wanted, even though it wasn't what you'd call a bargain. So I clicked on 'buy it now' and was about to pay by debit card when I noticed that having it sent from abroad added a lot to the total, which hadn't been clear in the item description. But I went ahead anyway and I'm glad I did, because when I unwrapped it five days later I could see that if it hadn't been so carefully packed in such a large box it would probably have got broken.

6 You hear a bus driver talking about his job.

From spring until early autumn I really enjoy being one of the first people up and about in the morning, though in the darker months it can get me down. I suppose it's the same for everyone including passengers, but chatting with them always cheers me up, and I hope I have the same effect on them. Of course, in a big city like this there are terrible traffic jams in the morning and you can see car drivers looking at their watches and getting really stressed out. But they can't use bus lanes, which make life a lot easier for people like me during rush hours.

7 You hear a man talking on the radio about his early life.

Everybody, I suppose, has mixed feelings about their school days. Some have extremely negative memories, especially of certain teachers, though fortunately I'm not one of them. In fact, if they remember me at all, they probably recall me as a boy who could've achieved far more if he'd made more of an effort, and I'm now mature enough to recognise that they were right. I sometimes wonder how the others in my class are doing these days, though unfortunately I long ago lost touch with them.

8 You hear a man telling a woman about an art gallery he has visited.

Man: I've just been to that little art gallery on Market Street.

Woman: I didn't know there was one there.

Man: Neither did I until yesterday, even though I've walked past the building every day for years. Simon mentioned there was an exhibition of Italian art on and gave me the address, so I went along.

Woman: And how was it?

Man: Well, it's such a small place I was expecting it to be packed, but in fact it wasn't. There were some interesting paintings and sculptures, too, though it was a rather limited collection. Still, they say their next exhibition will be more extensive, and if it is I might go there again.

3 02 PART 2

You will hear a woman called Amanda Murillo talking to a group of college students about Taekwondo, the Korean martial art. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Hello, my name is Amanda Murillo and I'm here today to tell you about my favourite sport – Taekwondo. Ever since I was a small child I've enjoyed doing exercise, either indoor or outdoor. Keeping fit is important to me and **(9)** on Saturday mornings I always used to spend a couple of hours at the gym, but I was finding that a bit dull. I'd thought of doing tennis or swimming, but there wasn't a tennis court nearby, and the nearest decent-sized pool was too far away to go every week. I'd heard of Taekwondo, though when I mentioned it to my elder brother he seemed to think I was too small to be any good at it. **(10)** But my cousin Monica, who's done other martial arts, disagreed, and said 'Why not give it a try?'. So I persuaded my best friend Anna to go along to a Taekwondo club with me and we both found we enjoyed it. There were certainly some tall, athletic-looking men and women training there, but **(11)** the instructor pointed out that it was technique that really mattered, not being big and strong. And as he was only about my height, I believed him. In fact, during my first few sessions I discovered that I had one or two advantages over some of the others. For instance, I've always been quite good at dancing so **(12)** I tend not to lose my balance easily, and that gave me a certain amount of confidence when I was starting out. I also noticed that quite a few of the boys and young men, even those who'd been training for quite a long time, **(13)** seemed far less relaxed than me. They gave the impression of being physically tense, which is not good when doing martial arts. I always find that I get rid of any tension at the beginning of each session, when **(14)** we do a gentle warm-up followed by some intensive activities such as 50-metre races, and then spend a few minutes doing stretching work with a partner. Anyway, the benefits of all that exercise soon became apparent when we started doing patterns, each of which is a series of pre-arranged movements that have to be practised again and again. **(15)** I was able to turn at the waist and kick to a height that I'd never imagined possible. I could also punch surprisingly well, probably because I wasn't all tensed up. Of course, most Taekwondo students want to practise doing their kicks and punches with an actual opponent, but before you can do that you have to get the right safety gear. **(16)** Thick gloves are essential, as is similar protection for your feet. Students in other Taekwondo organisations also protect their head with a light helmet, and wear soft pads on their arms and legs, but we don't feel it's necessary. Most of the injuries I've had have been minor things like cuts and bruises to my legs and arms, **(17)** the only exception being a broken ankle two years ago when I fell badly. I also feared I'd broken my wrist on that occasion, though fortunately an x-ray showed I hadn't. So compared to many sports, Taekwondo's a relatively safe activity and I hope to keep doing it for many years. Eventually, like nearly all my fellow students, I want to get a black belt but that takes several years. **(18)** The one before that is red, and that's the one I'm aiming for right now, though I'll have to do a lot more training to reach the standard required. My current one is blue, which came after green and before that yellow. It seems a long time now since I wore that beginner's white belt! Well, thanks for listening.

3 03 PART 3

You will hear five short extracts in which people criticise the computer they use when travelling. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) the criticism each speaker makes of their computer. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

Speaker 1

Compared to the tiny keyboard on some models, this one is easy to operate because it's a decent size. That, though, is not true of the monitor, and I often find myself having to reduce the size of text to the point where it's hard to make out if I want the whole document visible at the same time. On the other hand, its dimensions mean it fits easily into a travel bag, and weight isn't a problem either. One final point: for a relatively cheap model, it doesn't look bad at all.

Speaker 2

I took it with me to Australia and in most respects I found it ideal. It was handy for getting information on the places I was visiting, for storing and viewing photos, and of course for emailing, instant messaging and video conferencing. The only time it let me down was when a pop-up message suddenly appeared telling me it needed charging again after just a few hours. Out there in the desert I was a long way from the nearest electricity supply. Something similar happened again a few days later, but other than that it performed well throughout my time abroad.

Speaker 3

In many ways it's a great little machine, with pluses that include its appearance, its small but well-designed keyboard, its weight – at just under a kilo – and also the size of the screen, which is 30 centimetres. The device is more than adequate for visual applications, but the same can't be said for musical or speech functions, most likely on account of the tiny speakers. Apart from that I'm very happy with it, and I'd recommend it to anyone who needs to stay online and in touch while travelling.

Speaker 4

I soon got used to the virtual keyboard, and in fact I now prefer it to the traditional kind. I've also adapted to the smaller screen size on this one, and found a way of ensuring the sound quality is always high. My only complaint is that there's no simple way of plugging in things like printers, though of course wherever possible I avoid making hard copies for the sake of the environment. I also like the fact that it uses very little energy, which means it can go for long periods of time without recharging.

Speaker 5

Someone like me with quite big hands is constantly at risk of hitting more than one letter or symbol at a time, which makes writing long messages or documents rather tricky. Reading them, though, is fine, and there's no problem running lots of applications because it's such a powerful little device. Another advantage is that music sounds excellent when played through the speakers, unlike on other small laptops, or on tablets. Above all, the fact that it can last for ten hours without charging means you can take it just about anywhere without worrying whether it's suddenly going to shut down.

You will hear a student called Ahmet Kaya talking about his vacation job, which involves working at night. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Interviewer: Tell me, Ahmet, what made you decide to start working nights in a supermarket?

Ahmet: I'd been applying for shop work for a while, and although I had a few replies (24) the salaries they were offering weren't that good. Then a friend pointed out I'd get an extra twenty per cent for night shifts, so I took his advice and got myself a job working from nine until six in the morning, which was the same length of time as for the day shift.

Interviewer: How easy did you find it when you first began?

Ahmet: Actually, I'd expected it to be easier, because I've always stayed up late at night – sometimes right through till morning – but (25) it's not the same if you have to stay awake all the time whether you feel like it or not. On the other hand, it's nice early in the morning knowing you have a good long sleep ahead of you rather than wishing you could've stayed in bed longer. And as for the evenings, well, most people I know don't do much then anyway, so I've never felt I'm missing much.

Interviewer: But what about your social life? When do you see friends?

Ahmet: (26) They all have long working days and don't tend to go out much during the week, so we wouldn't be meeting up anyway. And I don't have a partner at present, though if I had obviously it would mean seeing each other less often. I know that's a problem for some of my colleagues, though others say if you have Friday and Saturday off, you can stay awake all night and go from club to club until morning – not that I've tried that. Actually, the hours do have some advantages.

Interviewer: Such as?

Ahmet: Well, I myself cycle to and from work but my workmates tell me there aren't that many people on the buses or Underground, and that it's much easier to get to see a doctor or dentist early in the day when most other people are busy. Fortunately I never need to do that, probably because I am pretty healthy. (27) I also keep myself pretty fit, which is easier and a lot more pleasant when you have the gym or the pool virtually to yourself because everyone else is working or studying.

Interviewer: Can working nights be bad for your health?

Ahmet: Well, the statistics do show that night-shift employees tend to suffer more from colds and flu, but as I'm in such good health generally I'm unlikely to go down with either of those. (28) They also indicate a higher risk for staff of having a fall, or – perhaps in my case – having things falling on top of you, at around one or two in the morning. So I do take more care after midnight. I've also heard that people who aren't exposed to enough daylight can get irritated more easily, but it's summer so it's light when I leave work and it stays light until I start again.

Interviewer: And do your mealtimes have to change?

Ahmet: Not as much as you might think. (29) When I'm at home I tend to get snacks from the fridge at odd hours of the night, pretty much anytime I like. And it's the same when I'm not. I work in a supermarket, remember. So once my shift is over I don't usually bother with breakfast.

Interviewer: Finally, what kind of people are the shoppers?

Ahmet: All sorts, really, including night workers like police officers, and young people on their way to or from cinemas or nightclubs. Sometimes I think they wonder what the police are doing there, until they see they're carrying shopping baskets. One of the nice things about the night shift is that (30) shoppers seem to have more time to chat, and that helps me pass the time. But compared to people there in the day, their trolleys tend to have more junk food in them, so maybe their diet isn't so healthy.

Interviewer: Thank you, Ahmet.

Test 6 Transcript

3 05 PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For Questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1 You hear two teenagers talking about a lost scarf.

Boy: When did you last see your scarf?

Girl: Well, I don't recall whether I was actually wearing it before I went into the department store, where I tried a sweater on – which of course I wouldn't have done with my hat and scarf on.

Boy: You must've left it there, then.

Girl: Oh yes, I remember now. I did leave my hat behind and I went back into the changing room and got it.

Boy: But not your scarf?

Girl: No, and it'd definitely gone by the time I got the bus home. So it most likely happened when I was looking at shop windows earlier. It was quite windy.

2 You hear two people talking about a proposed new motorway.

Woman: Most people round here are against the new road, aren't they?

Man: Well, it'd go straight through an area of outstanding natural beauty and the view from the village would never be the same again.

Woman: And I imagine it'd be very noisy, too, with lots of vehicles racing along day and night.

Man: I don't know. I mean, it'd be some way off and if there is any sound from it I imagine it'll be fairly distant.

Woman: Even so the route they're proposing would mean building over the village football pitch, wouldn't it?

Man: That's true, though to be honest I'm not really bothered about that. I'm a rugby player myself.

3 You hear a radio announcer giving a traffic update.

If you've never seen them play live before, make sure you get to the park nice and early this evening so you're not too far back from the stage. And to do that you'll need to allow at least 45 minutes to get into town because there's likely to be unusually heavy traffic on the ring road. As well as people returning from the sales, which began today, there'll be thousands of fans heading home after the big match finishes a quarter of an hour or so from now.

4 You overhear a woman talking on the phone.

If you're going into the sports shop when you're in town this morning, could you have a look at the prices of trainers for me? Size 38, white. If there are any special offers on, I'll try to get over there sometime later in the week. I can't get away from the office myself this afternoon, but I know my cousin Emily will be delighted to see you if you want to call round to her place. Could you mention that I've bought her that hat she liked so much, and that I'll give it to her when I see her just before the wedding next month. Thanks.

5 You hear two people talking about holidays.

Woman: Brazil and China are two places I've really enjoyed, though I know you're not keen on flying long distances so somewhere nearer home might suit you better. It's time you had a proper holiday.

Man: You're probably right. I could do with a decent break, preferably somewhere quiet.

Woman: I doubt whether a package holiday would appeal much, then, so how about spending a fortnight in the village in the nature reserve? You wouldn't leave much of a carbon footprint there because there's no road – and no power supply, either.

Man: Maybe. I know some people at work did that once so I'll have a word with them.

6 You hear an art critic talking about a famous painting.

Technically, it's a superb work in every respect. That goes without saying. But so are many others of its kind, and yet they don't attract the same degree of public attention and affection. And why is this one considered so much more special than those that cost tens of millions more? Perhaps the answer lies in the situation it shows. Or, more precisely, the way it sums up a situation that all of us have to face up to and deal with at some point in our lives. That, I think, is what makes it so valuable to us, rather than its price in the international art markets.

7 You overhear a salesman talking about his job.

I've always been quite good at my job. Never one of the stars, but certainly someone who meets their sales targets every month, so it came as something of a shock when I heard a rumour about a younger representative possibly taking my place in the sales team. I know other employers would be keen to have me, but I've no desire to make a move. Actually, it's not so long ago that people were talking about me as the next sales manager, and I was already imagining how I'd spend the higher salary that went with it. How times change.

8 You hear two people talking about a ferry ride to an island.

Woman: We spent an awfully long time in that ship, didn't we?

Man: Yes, though we actually sailed into the harbour right on schedule. It's just as well there was plenty to do on board to pass the time, though.

Woman: Right. I enjoyed the film they showed, and the restaurant was good, too. I just wished I hadn't eaten quite so much once we reached the open sea and the ship started rolling around. At one point I thought I was going to be sick.

Man: You didn't look too good for a while. That used to happen to me whenever I sailed anywhere, but these days I'm OK.

You will hear a businesswoman called Jessica Morton talking on the radio about a car journey she made across a desert in Australia. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

Hi, my name is Jessica Morton and today I'm going to talk about what happened to me when I had to travel across the country on business earlier this year. It was a Tuesday morning in the heat of early summer when I had a phone call from my boss, saying **(9)** there would be a meeting the following Thursday afternoon, and that it was vital for me to attend. The only problem was that it would be in the town of Alice Springs, in the centre of the country, and I was at a conference in the southern city of Adelaide. An online search revealed that all flights there were already booked. Then I checked the rail timetable and **(10)** at first sight it seemed there was a train to Alice Springs every Sunday and Wednesday, but then I noticed the Wednesday service was only in winter. Not really fancying a 21-hour bus ride, I decided to hire a car. I drove north to the town of Port Augusta, and from there set off along the long, straight Stuart Highway through the desert. Passing a sign saying 'Alice Springs 1,050 kilometres', **(11)** I reminded myself to fill up at the small town of Glendambo, as it would be 252 kilometres until the next petrol station. As I drove into Glendambo, I saw a sign that said 'Population: sheep 22,500, flies 2 million, humans 30'. That made me smile, but a couple of hours after the stop I started to feel bored. I was tempted to stop and have a look at a dry river valley, and further on there were some trees, but **(12)** it wasn't until a hill became visible that I eventually turned off the highway to have a quick look at the countryside. I travelled several kilometres along a firm, flat track of red sand, passing a farmhouse and an old abandoned car, and was about to turn round when (13) suddenly I had to brake sharply. I wouldn't have been that surprised to see kangaroos running across the track as I'd seen some near the main road earlier on, but these were wild horses. Later I recalled hearing there are lots of them in the desert, and camels, too. At that moment, though, my only concern was the fact I couldn't get the car moving. The front wheels were spinning, sinking deeper into the soft sand, so I got out of the air-conditioned car – and into oven-like heat. **(14)** I needed something like rugs to place between the sand and the wheels to make them grip, but I didn't have any so I used some clothes instead. That failed, and I realised I needed help. I knew my mobile phone would be useless in such a place, and of course emailing would be impossible, too. **(15)** I turned the car radio on, just to hear some voices, really – but there was no sound from it. I was just too far from civilisation. That shocked me, and at sunset, to avoid using up all the remaining petrol – which would've been a disaster – **(16)** I turned off the air-conditioning. It was still fiercely hot and I couldn't sleep, but at least I'd had the sense to bring plenty of water, and even a little food. The next morning, I set off for the farmhouse I'd seen. When I finally arrived, exhausted, I found it was empty, with broken windows and no water or electricity, and **(17)** I began to wish I'd followed the rule of staying with your vehicle if you want to survive in the desert. Fortunately, I eventually managed to get back to mine, and I'd had an idea so I got to work on it. Five minutes later, I started the engine and slowly began to move forward, until at last I was rolling smoothly along the track. **(18)** To increase the surface area of the tyres, I'd let some air out until they were almost as flat as those on the abandoned car. If I hadn't seen them I'd probably never have thought of it. Later that day I reached Alice Springs. My business suit, though, was totally ruined.

You will hear five short extracts in which university students are talking about their next summer vacation. For questions 19–23, choose from the list (A–H) what each speaker wants to do during their vacation. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have thirty seconds to look at Part 3.

Speaker 1

I'd been hoping to see my mates in my home town again this summer, but unfortunately they'll all be away. So what I'm looking forward to doing this time is catching up on some works by my favourite French novelists, even though my knowledge of the language isn't that great and it'll have to be the translated versions. Actually, I'd love to spend some time in France, but that will have to be for another year – perhaps the summer after next if I can get a vacation job to save up some money just before I go.

Speaker 2

Like most of my fellow students I'm going to do a summer job, but unlike them I'll be working as a volunteer, collecting old clothes for a not-for-profit organisation that sends them to the poorest people in developing countries. Unfortunately it'll mean doing a lot of walking, but it's for a good cause and in any case I can't drive. I've read a bit about the work the organisation does and it seems very worthwhile. In fact, when I graduate in a couple of years I might go and work on a project with them in Africa.

Speaker 3

In the holidays, I always seem to end up sleeping twice as much as in term time, but I'm determined to do something more useful this summer. I've thought of taking Chinese lessons, or reading all the works of Shakespeare, but the one thing that would really change my life would be if I didn't have to rely on my parents for lifts everywhere. So I've already booked lessons for the summer, and will be taking my test in early autumn. After that, assuming I pass, I'll be able to visit my friends whenever I want.

Speaker 4

When my friends said they were going to Florida for a beach holiday I was tempted to join them, but in the end I decided against the idea. Instead, I told myself I was going to change my rather unhealthy summer lifestyle, which usually consists of sitting around chatting, watching TV and reading magazines, and spend my time in the countryside. I've made my mind up to walk everywhere rather than use the car, even though I've just passed my driving test, though whether I actually manage to keep to that remains to be seen.

Speaker 5

For years now, I've been trying to learn Spanish, but so far I don't seem to have made much progress with actually speaking it. So rather than spend another summer here doing not very much with my university friends, I'm going to improve my listening and speaking skills by staying with a host family in one of the countries – I haven't decided which, yet – where they actually speak the language. I realise that a two-month stay won't be cheap, but I'm now doing some evening work and hope to have saved up enough money before the summer.

You will hear a radio interview with a woman called Amelia Richards, whose job involves planning people's weddings. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Man: Amelia, you're a professional wedding planner, which means you handle all the arrangements for people's weddings. What in particular do you have to do?

Amelia: A whole range of things. I begin by meeting the couple and discussing their requirements, possibly giving them some guidance on how the ceremony and reception are conducted and putting forward some suggestions. I look after all the paperwork and correspondence and make most of the big decisions, **(24)** with the exception of more personal ones such as what the bride will wear, or who will be invited. I also book the venue, the photographer and the caterers, negotiating the price in each case as I'm responsible for ensuring that costs stay within budget.

Man: So do people ask you to organise their weddings in order to save money?

Amelia: Well, I might be able to reduce some of the costs, but they do have to pay my fee so it probably works out about the same. **(25)** In most cases it's more likely to be a question of them simply being too busy to do it without assistance. In the past the two families probably had a big role in planning the event, but nowadays it's far less common for them to be involved in the details.

Man: Tell me, what made you want to become a wedding planner?

Amelia: In my case **(26)** it was after I'd been doing some voluntary work for a not-for-profit organisation, setting up various kinds of entertainment for people in need. Others come into wedding planning through different routes, such as restaurant management or providing meals for open-air events. Some even do so when they find they enjoyed making all the arrangements for their own weddings, but I'm single so I wouldn't know about that!

Man: And what particular skills do you feel you have?

Amelia: I'm told I'm quite good with people, and that I have good organisational skills. But I think that's only true as long as I can concentrate on a single wedding and then move onto the next one. I suppose **(27)** people can rely on me not to get upset or lose control of the situation if things go wrong, at what is often a very emotional time for everyone. Sometimes I find myself accepting jobs purely because I think a couple need my support, although that doesn't really make financial sense.

Man: So you don't charge everyone the same amount?

Amelia: Some of my colleagues do, but **(28)** I prefer to look at the overall budget with the clients and charge, say, a tenth of that. I've thought of fixing an hourly rate for what I do, but that would mean negotiating payment after the event, and I'd rather agree a figure before it.

Man: With weddings becoming so expensive these days, it sounds like quite a well-paid job to have. But does it have any disadvantages?

Amelia: The hours might not appeal to everyone. Normally, meetings with clients can only take place after they finish work or on Saturdays or Sundays, though personally that doesn't bother me. And from May to September, which is when most people choose to get married, I don't get many days off, though it's quite different in the winter months and that's when I take a break or two. Of course, that also means I'm not earning then, and in fact **(29)** I never actually know when or even if I'm going to get another pay cheque, so that's certainly a less positive side to the work. I'd still recommend it, though.

Man: So how would someone go about finding work in this type of business?

Amelia: Well, some companies offer courses in wedding planning, though I'm not convinced the average couple are looking for diplomas. **(30)** They're far more likely to be impressed by shots of beautiful weddings planned and run by you. An alternative is to provide written references from past clients, but my own view is that when it comes to weddings, a picture really does say a thousand words.

Man: Thank you, Amelia.