

A1 Cambridge English, Certificate in Advanced English - Listening

A2 Part 1

PAUSE 05''

A3 You'll hear three different extracts. For questions 1-6, choose the answer which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

PAUSE 02''

A4 EXTRACT 1

You overhear two friends discussing a new film, which is based on a novel. Now look at questions one and two.

PAUSE 15''

FX*****

PAUSE 02''

F: I'd say that was a pretty good film...

M: It took a brave director to adapt it from the original novel –

F: And it was only his second-ever film, apparently.

M: But it's a really famous book, it's been around forever and there's been loads of film versions, most of which I've seen, so I wasn't exactly waiting to be impressed. But the screenwriter's started this film halfway through the book, so we first meet the heroine running out of a building in distress - but we don't know why so we're hooked into the mystery immediately.

F: ...and the rest is in flashback, so if you know the story it feels fresh, and if you don't, you're still gripped. What about the star?

M: Well, she looks fragile enough to break, but she's actually very tough...

F: ...a sense of steely determination...

M: ...but the girl in the book's only nineteen, yet we know that actress won't see twenty eight again.

F: She does look younger, though...and the great thing is she gives very little of her inner feeling away...

M: ... yet her face speaks volumes.

F: It's all in her expression, yeah.

PAUSE 05''

FX*****

PAUSE 02''

REPEAT EXTRACT 1

PAUSE 03"

A5 EXTRACT 2

You hear two students talking about new human-like robots designed to work in space.

Now look at questions three and four.

PAUSE 15"

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

F: Did you read this article about the latest human-like robot – designed for the International Space Station?

M: No – I've heard about it though. I know about the use of robots in factories – in car plants for example – and how fantastically efficient they are, but humanoid robots with arms, legs and flashing eyes? OK they *do* exist outside science fiction – where they're always trying to take over the world or something. And I do remember all that over-excitement when some expert got one to actually climb a couple of steps, and wasn't there one that managed to catch a ball? But that's the entire sum of their achievements.

F: You just haven't kept up. This type is the first talking humanoid space robot, and it's going to provide emotional support and companionship to astronauts during their stint in the space station. It's programmed to recognise people's faces and greet them accordingly. It's getting amazing media coverage and it's a hot topic of conversation just now ... until the next big thing comes along, of course. It looks a bit like a children's comic character – but leaves a lot to be desired, in my opinion.

PAUSE 05"

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

REPEAT EXTRACT 2

PAUSE 03"

A6 EXTRACT 3

You hear two friends talking about what is known as a pay-what-you-want restaurant which has no fixed prices.

Now look at questions five and six.

PAUSE 15"

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

- F: I went to that new restaurant last week – you know the one near the university which doesn't fix prices but asks you to pay what *you* think the food's worth. That's proved an excellent way to get themselves talked about – not sure how they'll do, mind you.
- M: Could be a disaster, I think – it's all very well believing people are inherently honest, though if they're just trying to build up a reputation with an introductory gimmick, it's certainly worked. I understand it's been packed – maybe the well-to-do like the idea of subsidising all those hard-up students!
- F: I think it takes more than an innovation like that to change people's ideas about the distribution of wealth in the community!
- M: So how was the meal?
- F: Not bad – I've had better, but I've certainly had worse too. It was rather spoilt for me though – I felt a bit like a food critic, trying to decide how much each dish was worth. It was interesting to see such a mix of people there – quite a few students, noisy as you'd expect, and plenty of tourists it seemed. And none of them will have paid over the odds, I'm sure.
- M: Maybe I'll give it a try.

PAUSE 05"

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

REPEAT EXTRACT 3

PAUSE 03"

A7 That's the end of Part 1.

PAUSE 02"

A8 Now look at Part 2.

PAUSE 05"

A9 You'll hear a woman called Jane Hill talking about her work for a charity that aims to protect sea turtles. For questions 7-14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2 and you'll also have 1 minute to check your answers at the end of Part 2.

PAUSE 45"

FX*****

PAUSE 02''

F: Welcome to my talk about working for a charity which protects sea turtles, animals which, I hope, you'll grow to love as much as I do.

The most common are the green sea turtle and the leatherback – that's the largest type and the only one with tough skin on its back rather than a hard shell. Like other sea turtles, it's got no teeth, having, instead, a sort of modified beak to eat with.

As for sea turtles' ears, they aren't visible – they're tucked behind their leathery skin, and pick up low frequencies best. Their vision underwater is reasonably good, but, out of water, they're short-sighted, so *that* sense isn't well-developed, unlike their ability to smell, which is extremely sharp.

The females come ashore to lay eggs. They dig a hollow which they fill with soft-shelled eggs, covering them completely with sand before returning to the water. Occasionally, they change their minds though and leave the beach without doing this – an event technically known as a false crawl. We don't entirely understand the reasons for such curious behaviour.

Another strange thing is that the gender of infant turtles seems not to be random but to be governed by sand temperature – more females being born when this is high, regardless of the usual biological factors.

Sea turtles vary in their eating habits – leatherbacks feed exclusively on jellyfish, while their relative, the hawksbill, dines mainly on sea sponges. Green sea turtles, which aren't meat-eating, go for sea grass, and in keeping it short and healthy they improve the underwater environment.

My work involves various beach duties, such as counting nests and

getting rid of holes – that’s a tedious but important task – as these, although fun to dig for holiday-makers, prove hazardous for sea turtles. I also remove any beach furniture which could make life difficult for them by forming potentially harmful obstacles.

The job’s very rewarding overall, especially the nightly beach patrols where we look for adult females who’ve lost their way. The charitable organisation I work for also tries to educate the public and, of course, to raise funds. We’ve recently updated our website to make it more interactive and have opened a beachside gift shop, to raise awareness, and recent donations will help us observe sea turtle behaviour as they’ll go towards enhancing our webcams system.

I’m increasingly aware that the sea turtles are at risk from modern life, whether from beachside development and the accompanying debris left by tourists, or from ocean-polluting garbage, including plastic bags. In fact, I was horrified to discover, these are mistaken for jellyfish and eaten. Sea turtles spend so long at sea that they’re especially vulnerable to oil pollution, too – which is very sad as oil lingers for ages on the water’s surface, where they like to bask and float.

Well, I hope this has (*FADE*) given you some idea ...

[476 words]

PAUSE 10"

A10 Now you’ll hear Part 2 again.

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

REPEAT PART 2

PAUSE 05"

A11 That’s the end of Part 2. You now have 1 minute to check your answers to Part 2.

PAUSE 1'00"

A12 Now look at Part 3.

PAUSE 05"

A13 You'll hear an interview in which two young entrepreneurs – Chloe Price, who sells skincare products online, and Martin Moore, who is a distributor of snack foods – are talking about their work. For questions 15-20, choose the answer which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part 3.

PAUSE 70"

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

INT: Today I'm talking to two people who've recently set up their own businesses – Chloe Price and Martin Moore. Chloe – you've produced a new line of skincare products that's already selling well. What's the secret of your success?

CP: I did take a couple of business courses after college, but I don't actually have a Masters degree in Business Administration, an MBA, and my paper qualifications generally are a bit sketchy. What's driven me to the level I'm at is learning as I go – failure and success can both teach you something! In college I was always planning social events, designing websites – and writing for fun. I learned to create programmes, fundraise, operate on a budget and interact with people. I think this is why I was able to sell my skincare products after only six months of research.

INT: Would you say that technology has positively changed the entrepreneurial environment?

CP: Definitely. My approach to finance would have been quite different if I'd had to set up a physical shopfront – an online store has taken less time and reduced my initial outlay. I take all my photos on my iPhone. Using social media makes it possible to engage with my customers – that's the huge advantage. When I was designing packaging, I polled friends on Facebook for their preference – plastic or glass. The technology is there to promote my business too, of course.

INT: Martin – you've set yourself up as a distributor of snack foods. What made you choose the food industry?

MM: Well, after one year in college where I majored in business

administration, I decided my long-term goal would be to set up on my own, so I dropped out. College just wasn't taking me where I wanted to be. I needed to pick up some practical experience so I ended up working for one of the major players in the food packaging industry – that's what was available at the time. I must say I had reservations about the way the work of their employees is organised, but that's where I got the background know-how to make it on my own. And it all took off from that point.

INT: So how did you decide *what* you were going to distribute?

MM: I went to the Sweets and Snacks Expo in Chicago, but first checked out the list of exhibitors on the website, and researched the companies listed there. A product called SnapStyx was what ended up working best for me. And that's because they're healthy – no genetically modified ingredients – and they taste great as well! It helps that the manufacturer has a solid reputation, and of course they've been promoted by some pretty cool celebrities. The packaging's great as well.

INT: So do you have any advice and guidance for others who'd like to follow your example?

MM: Most of my friends aren't interested – they're looking for a bit more security, I suppose. For people out there – time's never lost by going to the odd leadership lecture the way I did. And as Chloe's said, the internet can be a mine of information, but you have to treat it carefully. But I've actually learnt most in the jobs I've done by talking to other distributors. Guys who've been in the business longer than me love to talk about their work, especially to a young one trying to follow in their footsteps – that's invaluable. I generally got a good response from the companies I emailed, but there's a limit to what reading up can teach you.

INT: Finally a question to both of you. Have there been any surprises along the way?

CP: I *knew* I'd have to be prepared to put in the time – 18-hour days sometimes in my case. And then there are the things you wouldn't necessarily have thought to worry about. I spent an eternity deciding on the typeface for my website, but that has to be just as right, in its own

way, as something major like a financial plan.

MM: Getting funding was something I probably underestimated, but I took lots of good advice before deciding on who to approach. And I wouldn't have believed how much time has to be devoted to little things like copying and filing invoices correctly. Anyway, we've obviously both given it our all – but I'm sure we were both prepared to do that from the outset.

CP: I'm with you there.

INT: Sadly, that's all we have time for, but . . .

PAUSE 00'10"

A14 Now you'll hear Part 3 again.

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

REPEAT PART 3

PAUSE 05"

A15 That's the end of Part 3.

A16 Now look at Part 4.

PAUSE 05"

A17 This part consists of two tasks. You'll hear five people talking about taking part in a long-distance cycling event. Look at Task One. Choose from the list the reason each speaker gives for taking part in the event. Now look at Task Two. Choose from the list what problem each speaker had with the event. While you listen you must complete both tasks. You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 4.

PAUSE 45"

FX*****

Pause 02"

Speaker 1

Pause 02"

When my partner suggested doing this charity ride, I didn't exactly jump at the chance. My father – a keen cyclist - taught me to ride when I was seven, and I hated it. But my girlfriend kept on at me, so I agreed for the sake of keeping the peace, and we began a training programme. It really brought us together. The only trouble

on the day was down to my stubborn refusal to wear lycra. 100 kilometers is a long way, and it would have been more comfortable had I been properly kitted out! But we finished the ride successfully despite nearly running into the back of a bus!

Pause 03"

Speaker 2

Pause 02"

My work colleagues are enthusiastic cyclists. They do this event every year, and they encouraged me to sign up for it. Everyone puts in £20 towards a weekend away, and whichever of us finishes first gets to go on it. Well, they didn't need to ask me twice! I got my old bike out and started training. It hurt more than I expected, to be honest, but when the big day came that wasn't the problem. There was some mix-up with the online registration though, and I nearly wasn't allowed to start! It was sorted eventually, and I'm glad to say me and my old bike finished in one piece. Totally tired out but happy, even though I didn't win.

Pause 03"

Speaker 3

Pause 02"

It's a charity event, first and foremost, so I should be happy that it's become so popular, but I think it's too big for its own good now. I used to love it when it was just a few hundred enthusiasts – there was a sense of common purpose and everyone knew what they were doing. But there's a lot of inexperienced cyclists now, and they're frankly a danger. Slamming on brakes, wobbling around while trying to eat something. Half of them don't even give their bikes a once-over with a wrench before leaving. I only do it to keep my dad company – he hasn't missed a year since it started, which is quite an achievement.

Pause 03"

Speaker 4

Pause 02"

I'll make sure I'm better prepared next time, that's for sure. Not that I wasn't fit – I'd started training well in advance, carefully calculated to achieve peak fitness in time for the event. And I'd got plenty of sponsors, too, which was the whole point after all. No, I just didn't make things easy for myself on the day by forgetting basic things like an energy bar, and filling both water bottles. The organisers had a few checkpoints along the way where you could refuel, so I had to keep stopping and finished at a slower time than I'd hoped. That hurt. Still, mum and dad are proud of course!

Pause 03"

Speaker 5

Pause 02"

This guy at work talked me into it. He's even less fit than I am, but he'd promised his uncle he'd do this ride and I think he just wanted someone to train with. I thought it would do him some good – me too, probably - so I agreed. We get on well, so I figured it would be fun. My first mistake. My second was thinking it would be easy. We had all the gear, lycra, goggles, trendy helmets – which looked a bit out of place on our rusty old bikes. Our training sessions never lasted long – and it turned out they were totally inadequate. We were so out of shape we barely made it to the finish!

PAUSE 10"

A18 Now you'll hear Part 4 again.

FX*****

PAUSE 02"

REPEAT PART 4

PAUSE 05"

A19 That's the end of Part 4.

You now have two minutes to check all your answers.

PAUSE 1'00"

FX*****

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1'00"

FX*****

A20 That's the end of the test.