

Practice Test 1 – Paper 4 Listening

This is the Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 1.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

TONE

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 1

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PAUSE 5 seconds

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: Growing up in Surrey, I remember outings to local beauty spots being a big feature of our summer. More often than not we would go up high somewhere and look out over the countryside. One of my most abiding memories is trying to identify landmarks from Reigate Hill. As a child, I loved being up high and I suppose it was also fascinating to me because I loved maps, and up there it was like looking at a huge full-scale map, spread out before me. So it was no surprise to me to hear that The Countryside Agency has just given £70,000 to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in order to make certain areas more accessible to the public. The agency has a programme which they call the Inspiring Views scheme and the money is to be split between five sites, one of which is Reigate Hill. I don't know ... it's kind of satisfying for me to think that that same fascination I had as a child can now be enjoyed by new generations of people.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Two

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman (to herself): What pleasure can they possibly get from it?

Man: What's that?

Woman: Sorry. I was just reading that vandals have attacked the primary school again. That's the third time this month it says here.

Man (resigned): Modern times, love. That's what we've come to expect, isn't it. I don't know why you're so surprised.

Woman: Yes but look; (*reading from newspaper*) 'graffiti on the walls, several broken windows ... and a fire in the music room that caused hundreds of pounds' worth of damage.' I mean, that's serious! What if someone was trapped in the building when they started the fire? What if they themselves were trapped? You'd have thought they would ... don't they ...

Man (slightly sarcastic): What? Think about their actions? Think about the consequences? That's just it, isn't it? Why do you think they call it mindless violence? Think? They think, all right. They think about how not to get caught. Beyond that, they're not capable of much else, I'm afraid.

Woman: Well I'm not so pessimistic as you. There must be some way to get through to them. They're young. Some of them don't know any better. They don't know that there are alternatives and, well, they could be told.

Man: You'd have to catch them first. I know what I'd like to say to them.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Two

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Three

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: The rise of the popular singer is pretty much intertwined with the history of the first half of the twentieth century. In the beginning, singers were very much in demand, on one condition – they had to sing loud, simply because the recording equipment at that time was extremely primitive and not at all sensitive.

With electricity in the twenties came much better recording techniques but a change in fashion. Musicians dominated and vocalists were no longer required. Dance bands were all the rage and any singing that had to be done was given to one of the band members. Singers

had to play an instrument. Bandleaders were not prepared to pay good money for someone if all they could do was sing!

But towards the end of that decade, things began to change again with the advent of radio. In 1927, Gene Austin's 'My Blue Heaven' became the first million-selling vocal record. The public was keen to be sweet-talked by a succession of men with smooth voices. The Big Band era of the forties briefly stole the limelight but, apart from that, the singer was never again out of a job.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Three

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Four

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Presenter: Well, the country has certainly taken a battering over the last fortnight and I hope you are getting back to normal after the recent floods and the traffic chaos they brought with them. But, there's a chink of light at the end of the tunnel, or at least there is through the tiny window of Studio One. Spring weather on the way? Time to remove a layer or two? Maybe you're thinking of braving the elements and doing a spot of gardening. Well here to tell us what's in store is Francis Dunne. What have you got for us today Francis – good news on the horizon?

Francis: There is indeed, although it depends to some extent on just where your horizon lies. For those of you lucky enough to live in the North, you're going to get a foretaste of spring in the next day or two. Clear blue skies are forecast, with reasonable temperatures – I don't think we'll hit the twenty mark, but in some areas it will be quite close. Higher ground, of course, will see slightly lower temperatures – around fifteen – with the prospect of a bit of mist or fog in the morning and evening, and possibly some drizzle overnight. For the rest of us, though, I'm afraid it's business as usual with a fresh wave of gales on the way which will see us through till Tuesday. Long-term, though, things will improve. You could be sowing those seeds by the end of the week.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Four

PAUSE 2 seconds

That's the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 2

You will hear a police officer talking about the job of Community Ward Officer. For questions 9-17, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part Two.

PAUSE 45 seconds

TONE

Interviewer: I'm here today in Northampton to find out a little bit about life on the beat. That's Police Constable Nigel Godfrey's beat, to be precise. PC Godfrey has been in the force for six years and for the past year he has been a Community Ward Officer. Let me start by asking you what that means – I'm not too familiar with the term.

PC Godfrey: Well, it's our official title now, but the role should be familiar. In the area where I work, I am simply a known face – someone who the public can turn to if they have something troubling them. While I'm on duty, I'm available to anyone in the area who wants to approach me about police matters.

Interviewer: And in the meantime, I suppose it gets quite boring does it? In between people coming up to you?

PC Godfrey: No! There's more to it than that. I work with various community groups, liaising with the organisers of those groups, going on school visits, talking to people about safety matters, crime prevention, that sort of thing. Part of the job is that I should provide a friendly and approachable side of the police force – whereas all too often people see the police as distant ... off-putting ... hostile even. I'm here to show that that's not the case and, hopefully, to facilitate communications between the public and the police. By organising meetings with members of the community, I give them a contact that they know they can trust. We believe that this helps to lower the crime rate. So, boring? No. Don't forget that I get called to crimes as well – I still do all of that, so I still have a huge variety of things to deal with ... and no two days are the same.

Interviewer: And what would you say is the best thing about your job, compared to, say, other jobs you've done as a police officer.

PC Godfrey: Well obviously I get satisfaction out of it, otherwise I wouldn't be in the police, but the one thing about this job is that you see the whole story. What I mean is that, in other departments, you're often paid to specialise in one thing; forensics, for example, or traffic duty. Here, not only do you get the whole range, but you get to see it through from start to finish. I mean, the chances are that I will know something about the person who has done something wrong – might even have spoken to him that morning – and I get a call and have to intervene. Now, nine times out of ten, my position in the community allows me to settle the matter without an arrest before it turns nasty. I stop things going too far and I'm only able to do that because of the nature of this role. Other times, when

people do cross the line and there's nothing else for it but to make an arrest, I get to be part of the whole process. Before I came here, I never knew much about what happened after my involvement – it's a complaint you hear a lot from policemen; they do their job and then the case is passed on to the next department. It's a bit like working on a production line, assembling cars, say. You get to put the seats in but you never see the finished car.

Interviewer: An interesting comparison. I wonder how many people have thought of police work in that way. I certainly hadn't.

PC Godfrey: Well, in a way, talking to you – and indirectly to your listeners – is what my job is all about. Yes, we work on a community level and your programme is being broadcast across the nation. There is that. But in many communities nationwide, the public have the same access as they do in Northampton. And part of my job is to de-mystify the police force ... to bring it to the public in a way that they can use it. So these explanations are useful if it helps people to see us for what we are, rather than some impersonal body that's out to get them! I wonder how many people have thought about this; that the average police officer would far rather that a dispute be settled amicably than in the courts. And of course, we get a lot more satisfaction from preventing crimes than we do from arresting people after the event.

Interviewer: So, plenty to think about there. It's certainly opened my eyes. Thank you, PC Godfrey, for taking the time to talk to us and, for listeners with access to the Internet, you can find ... *(Fade)*

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Two again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Two

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 3

You will hear a woman describing her experiences during an earthquake. For questions 18-22, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have one minute in which to look at Part Three.

PAUSE 1 minute

TONE

Presenter: With me in the studio is Julie Fields. Julie was unlucky enough to be on holiday in Japan when the recent earthquake struck. Julie, I'm glad you're here to tell the tale. We don't have too many earthquakes here in Britain,

so not many of our listeners have first-hand experience of what it is like to be present at, quite literally, an earth-shaking event such as this. What happened to you?

Julie: We were driving – it was just the two of us – when our car started to veer wildly from side to side. For a moment, we thought it was a flat tyre, so we pulled over and got out. Then we realised that the earth was still shaking. It seemed to stop after a few seconds ... and remember we still hadn't worked out what it was at this stage ... then it came back, with a vengeance! I think that's the point when Paul said, "It's an earthquake!" The ground shook violently from side to side, really jerky movements, as I remember. Then there was some up and down movement. I was holding on to the top of the car to try and keep my balance, and Paul was kind of bent double, unable to straighten up or get a foothold on anything. And we could hear rocks falling somewhere, which was the really scary thing. Anyway, the next thing was these plumes of what looked like smoke, but turned out to be dust, rising into the air. That was weird, and I remember staring at them, trying to work out what it was. After what seemed like hours, the earth stopped moving and the sound of the rocks faded away. It'd only been a few seconds, I suppose. We couldn't move for a few minutes, we were both shaking and I was crying hysterically. I'd never known anything like it, but I had absolutely no control over my emotions. I was crying so hard that I couldn't catch my breath.

Presenter: A harrowing experience. You say you were crying. Was that out of fear, do you think?

Julie: No. I've thought about this a lot. I don't think it could have been fear because, after all, I didn't start crying till after it had stopped. I don't know what it was. All I can say is that there is no time to be frightened at first because you don't recognise it while it is happening. Then, when the aftershocks start ... that's when the fear sets in, because when it starts up again you have a very clear memory of the big one and you expect the aftershock to do the same. There's also the worry that the next one could be even bigger. I'm told that's quite rare – that they usually diminish in size – but your brain doesn't work rationally when you're gripped by that kind of fear. My thought processes in the first few hours following the earthquake were very muddled. I wanted to run away, to stay still, to be airlifted, to go and dive into the sea somewhere – I didn't know what I wanted to do. I had a really hard time coming to terms with the fact that the one thing you could take for granted – the earth being beneath your feet – couldn't be taken for granted after all. And every time there was a little shake – or a big shake – I had a different response.

Presenter: How long did you stay there after the earthquake?

Julie: We were there for another five days afterwards.

Presenter: And what were you like during that time? Did you begin to get over it?

Julie: Well that was another strange thing. The more we heard other people's stories, the jumpier we became. I mean, the aftershocks continued the whole time, so we hardly slept at all. It was one thing to be out in the open

when it happened, and in a way, I'm glad we were, but back in the hotel, the sounds and the sensations were very different when there was a tremor. We seemed to spend the whole time rushing out of the building, waiting for a while, then slowly going back, in twos and threes. Until the next one. It was like that day and night.

Presenter: Julie, it sounds as though you won't forget it for a long time, if ever. We're glad you're back safe and sound on terra firma. Thanks for coming in today to talk to ... (Fade)

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Three

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 4

You will hear a brother and sister, Phil and Cathy, talking about mortgages. For questions 23-28, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. Write P for Phil, C for Cathy, or B for both, where they agree.

You now have thirty seconds in which to look at Part Four.

PAUSE 30 seconds

TONE

Phil: Have you found a place to live yet?

Cathy: No. It's a real nightmare! I mean, there are plenty of flats available, but I just can't make up my mind what to do.

Phil: What's the problem? I thought you wanted to move into a bigger place so you and Tim could start a family.

Cathy: Oh, yes.. that's not the problem – it's two things actually. You know I've always been keen that we should get our own place, well I think now is the perfect time for us to take out a mortgage. But Tim is a bit more cautious – I think he's afraid of being made redundant again, but I can't really see that happening, not now that he's been given that new account...

Phil: I don't know. I mean, look at what happened with my company – ten people were laid off last year and they're threatening even more cutbacks if the market doesn't pick up. And then where will I be? Two thirds of my salary alone goes on our mortgage, and Martha's pay wouldn't cover it if I lost my job. I think Tim is right to be careful.

Cathy: Oh come on, you're not going to lose your job – you are production manager after all! In ten years your flat will be yours, and you won't have thrown money down the drain on rent.

Phil: OK. Say that you do get a mortgage – if you start a family, are you going to carry on working full time? And think of all the extra expenses that a child will bring... I really think you should work out the maths here.

Cathy: You sound just like Tim! To be honest I haven't sat down and put pen to paper. It's actually a really good idea – I should. But you're overlooking the fact that I'm a civil servant, and I've got lots of benefits including maternity leave, and job security. Also Stella has agreed to help out, so I'll be able to go back to work.

Phil: You're right, that really is a plus. But can you cover a mortgage on just one salary? Not to mention your day-to-day expenses. I'm not trying to put you off by the way, after all I do have a mortgage myself. I suppose your mentioning taking out a loan has just made me realise how stressed I am about mine.

Cathy: Well, I must admit I didn't know it was a worry to you. What about Martha? What does she think?

Phil: Funnily enough she was very cautious at first, and I was the one who persuaded her – but I really couldn't tell you if she worries about it now. I think she has enough on her plate with work, the kids and looking after her dad.

Cathy: Well, you've got me thinking a bit more seriously about the matter, and I certainly won't go jumping in at the deep end... at least I'll stop nagging Tim so much anyway!

Phil: That'll be the day! (they laugh)

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Four

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

PAUSE 4 minutes

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1 minute

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Practice Test 2 — Paper 4 Listening

This is the Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 2.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

TONE

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 1

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PAUSE 5 seconds

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman: At the age of eleven I was sent away to boarding school; my father was posted overseas, so I suppose my parents thought that this was as good an option as any for me. For the first term I was all at sea I must admit, but after that I slowly began to find my feet and now I look back on those years quite nostalgically. You hear terrible stories of awful goings-on at boarding schools, but I can't say I noticed anything of the sort nor do I remember suffering in particular.

One of the good things is that it stood me in good stead for later on in life, in a way; having to fend for myself to a certain extent and not being able to run to mummy at the slightest problem. I think it gave me a lot of self-confidence and made me pretty independent. For instance, I didn't feel daunted during my first term at university, unlike a lot of my fellow students, nor was I particularly worried by the idea of looking for work in another area. The downside, I suppose, is that now, as a mother of two teenagers, I'm not always sure how to best advise them on the various problems they face. But, we muddle along somehow! *(laugh)*

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Two

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman: Do you remember when there were only three channels to choose from? I mean, there was just nothing on... and whatever was being broadcast wasn't usually worth watching. We're much better off now with all this variety.

Man: Well, I'm not sure there really is a noticeable change in quality you know. Neither would I criticise what I call the good old days. There's so much available now that you can't see the wood for the trees and I'm often at a loss to know what to watch. At least with a more limited choice it was easier to decide on something.

Woman: I suppose you've got a point there, but the thing is now, with all these channels, there is heightened competition, so each channel is fighting for the ratings and that means that they will produce better quality television.

Man: Well they should be producing better quality according to your theory, so why aren't they? Lots of the channels don't even produce anything, all they do is play re-runs of old series and films.

Woman: But don't you see that's the beauty of it, now there is something for everyone! Many viewers simply love those old re-runs, and now at the press of a button they can watch them. The vast number of channels means that television can now cater for all tastes.

Man: Well I can never find anything.

Woman: There's always the off button.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Two

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Three

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: For the vast majority of the population the attraction of this activity is probably beyond us. But over the last decade or so, its popularity has increased to the extent that people from all walks of life are having a go. Just what is it about jumping into a void with only your ankles to break your fall that is so alluring, though? Well, I think that unlike other dangerous sports, this does not require

any level of expertise; you don't need any form of instruction as you would with, let's say, free falling out of a plane. Neither does it require any measure of talent. The only similarity I can honestly see is that it takes an awful lot of nerve to do it.

But apparently the rewards are very much the same. As with snowboarding, rafting, motor cross or any other number of so-called dangerous pastimes, this gives you the same thrill and rush of excitement as the most difficult of them. I must admit I really take my hat off to anyone daring enough to take this leap of faith: and I mean faith not only in themselves, but also in the technology holding them up. Personally, I'll remain the awe-struck spectator with my feet firmly on the ground.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Three

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Four

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Presenter: Coping with the death of a loved one is a traumatic experience – and, for many, a very lonely one. I have with me in the studio today Jane Marshall, who counsels the bereaved and helps them cope with their loss. Jane, there was a particular chain of events that led to you becoming a counsellor, wasn't there?

Jane: Yes, my grandmother died when I was 12 and my grandfather was absolutely devastated. For many months we just didn't know how to help him, but then a friend of my mother's, who was a widow herself, suggested he join an over-sixties travel club. Before then, my grandfather hadn't been particularly outgoing, but afterwards, he suddenly sprouted wings, and decided it was time he saw the world. His itchy feet took him to three continents over the following decade. I think I just wanted to be able to give people this kind of insight.

Presenter: So travel is the solution then?

Jane: Oh no. Simply my grandfather managed to face the loss of my grandmother in a very positive way. He realised that he had to continue leading a fulfilling life, but at the same time not neglect the memory of his wife. So he globe trotted with a group of interesting people to whom he could both relate and talk. And this really is the key – I try to help people take up something which they will find fulfilling and which will also give them the opportunity to communicate with others.

Presenter: For example?

Jane: Well, this depends on a variety of different factors – someone's physical or financial situation, and of course a person's interests and lifestyle. For instance, one lady I've

been helping recently found her granddaughter was a source of incredible comfort, and now they have a regular date at the cinema and a take-away afterwards. Others who have no family have actually found an outlet in voluntary work or even correspondence courses. The important thing is to realise that life goes on of course, but your past is also of great importance. If both your past and your present bring you pleasure, then you are on the right track. And my grandfather achieved this I think.

Presenter: Jane Marshall, thank you.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Four

PAUSE 2 seconds

That's the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 2

You will hear an appeal made on the radio by an environmentalist. For questions 9-17, complete the sentences with a word or a short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part Two.

PAUSE 45 seconds

TONE

Woman: Good evening. I have the pleasure to be with you tonight to talk about a problem that is very close to our hearts ... and our consciences. Everyone has probably got, stashed away at home somewhere, a fur coat, a snakeskin belt or shoes, or something similar that we are too embarrassed to wear because we feel guilty. Deep down, we are fully aware that these animals should not have been sacrificed just for our Western vanity. It is not that we need these luxuries in the Western world. There are many synthetic products to replace them that are indistinguishable in appearance and often more durable. Synthetic fibres do not need special temperatures or expensive cleaning processes in order to keep them in good condition, nor do you have to keep them insured in your wardrobe because of their value. And, anyway, will the younger generation, sensitised by so many ecological movements, really want to inherit them?

The majority of people throughout the world are aware of the problem of endangered species. In every country, different species of birds or animals, as well as insects and plants, are listed as being in danger of extinction. Over five thousand species of animals are threatened in the world and seven times this number of plants are in danger.

Illegal hunting is responsible for the disappearance of elephants, tigers and bears, among others. Elephant poaching has become a big issue over the last fifty years as hunters brutally kill these majestic creatures solely for their tusks to provide a few tourists with some ivory trinkets. Similarly, the horn of the rhinoceros is highly sought after, immediately relegating this animal too to the 'wanted' list.

Contrary to expectation, sometimes livestock breeders themselves are responsible for the death of endangered animals as, in their attempt to protect their own herds, they poison or trap the wild animals that come prowling around. Other times, when an animal or bird is introduced into an area, it may displace existing inhabitants. This happened, for example, with the starling, a bird introduced from England to America about a hundred years ago.

The destruction of animals' habitats plays a huge role in the process of their disappearance. Forest fires are natural disasters for which man cannot always be blamed, but tree-felling operations in the developing world are slowly ousting animals from their homes. Rivers may be dammed and swamps drained and filled for construction and irrigation work. This means that animals and birds are forced to move elsewhere, where the food supply is not sustainable. To make matters worse, the insecticides farmers use to control pests and produce better crops take their toll on the bird population. If the birds survive, the females lay eggs with shells which are so thin that the embryos do not survive.

Again, if we turn our attention to fishing, the illegal use of dynamite can cause irreparable harm to the sea bed, while overfishing leads to a serious depletion in stocks, as indeed has happened with cod. At least whale and shark hunting, which provide some islanders with a livelihood, have been restricted somewhat by legislation. Each link in the chain affects the next one. But we should not think of ourselves as separate entities, controlling the chain, so to speak, but rather as one link, albeit an important one, in this tenuous cycle of life.

That is why I would like to appeal to you tonight ... to think of The Friends of Nature and all the good work that we are doing. I ask you to contribute generously to this charity. You can become a member by phoning our Freephone number 0800 37394 or simply talk to one of our consultants about the ways in which you can help.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Two again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Two

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 3

You will hear an interview with a pastry chef, Robert Higgins. For questions 18-22, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have one minute in which to look at Part Three.

PAUSE 1 minute

TONE

Interviewer: The career of pastry chef is not merely one of baking, as I recently discovered. Someone who opened my eyes to this culinary world is Robert Higgins, a pastry chef who manages a team of five in a luxury hotel pastry shop. Robert, you say that pastry is 'artistic expression undertaken in a business environment'. Can you elaborate?

Robert: By all means. First of all, someone who enters this field is obviously of a creative nature, and baking is a marvellously satisfying way of expressing one's talent. But take me, for example, as someone who has worked their way up through the ranks and now manages what is essentially a small business. Baking is just one of the aspects of the job. For my kitchen to run efficiently, I must plan menus, order ingredients, train and supervise staff, develop recipes, deal with clients and deliveries, maintain accounts... well, really a multitude of tasks in addition to the actual baking itself.

Interviewer: So, a pastry chef is also an adept businessman. Tell me then, what attracted you to this profession?

Robert: Funnily enough, I hadn't given it much thought - but at 23 I was made redundant and, feeling somewhat at a loose end, decided to go for a career change. It was actually my sister who suggested I try a culinary course, as we were then sharing a flat and I was forever cooking to pass the time. It seems she was impressed, and put it to me that I could do this for a career - and I thought about it and then said 'why not'. I enrolled on a culinary course and worked evenings in restaurants to finance my studies. I was then taken on as an apprentice with the company I still work for and, slowly but surely, with a lot of perseverance and determination, I made it to chef.

Interviewer: Not simply chef, though. Your pastries are renowned and sought after worldwide. How do you account for this success?

Robert: Well, a good pastry chef must be rather a perfectionist. You need to produce numerous baked items and remain meticulous. I think you also need to understand the subtleties of taste and flavour when baking, especially in dessert composition. Of course, a sense of style and aesthetics helps - no one will touch a pastry that doesn't look good, will they? I am certainly a perfectionist - anyone who knows me will vouch for that - and probably irritatingly so at times, but this is an art where there is no room for error. I also really enjoy my work, and it is a career which needs dedication, as a 15-hour day is not unusual.

Interviewer: So you've never regretted the career move?

Robert: Oh no. Not that it's all been plain sailing, mind you. The majority of baking jobs are production positions, and I found at first I was working very hard and felt concerned about getting burned out. But the chef I was working under showed me how to refine my techniques, and the production process soon became second nature to me. I also realised the discipline that repetitive tasks equip you with. Consequently, I am today very efficient at running the pastry shop. I also have a wonderful staff, so the only real anxiety I suffer is trying to create what I first envisage in my head. But then, that is also the joy of being creative.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Three

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 4

You will hear two people, John and Sandra, talking about their health. For questions 23-28, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. Write J for John, S for Sandra, or B for both, where they agree.

You now have thirty seconds in which to look at Part Four.

PAUSE 30 seconds

TONE

John: I've been thinking about trying some herbal remedies. I'm still getting migraines and the painkillers I've been taking don't seem to help at all. I'm also worried about my immune system. If I get too used to the medicine I'm taking, I think my body's natural defences could get really weak.

Sandra: Do you really think so? I think you'd have to take an awfully large amount for that to happen. Not that I don't support the idea of natural remedies, mind you, it just seems to have its limitations. If I've got indigestion I'm the first to drink a camomile tea, but for something more serious ...

John: ... well, this is the interesting thing ... according to what I've been reading, there are any number of herbs that can be used to treat quite serious ailments. For instance, garlic, apparently, is effective as a natural antibiotic and is a much better option than a pharmaceutical drug because it doesn't have any side effects. Apart from the smell! (*laughs*)

Sandra: You can say that again! It seems a bit far-fetched though. I know that garlic has beneficial properties; I mean, it's been known for thousands of years that a garlic-rich diet can do you enormous good – look at the Mediterranean diet for example. Even my father was recommended to eat more by the family GP when his blood pressure went up. But I thought herbs were more useful in the field of preventive medicine rather than ... well, I mean, if you were prescribed a course of antibiotics by your doctor, would you really run off and eat a head of garlic instead?

John: I suppose you've got a point there. And I'm not sure that I'd want to risk it. But I still don't agree that herbs are only preventive. I've been reading about ginseng, and it supposedly has this amazing quality where it pinpoints your problem and brings your body back to its natural state. Basically, whatever is wrong with you, ginseng can help the natural healing process.

Sandra: You should try it for your migraines. If it works I'll take back what I said about preventive medicine – and anyway I didn't say herbs are useful only in this way, but more useful. Also, I'm not saying that preventive medicine is a bad thing. I think we should all be much more self-aware, and if we combine that awareness with some family history we can use herbs to improve and prolong our life.

John: So what you mean is that you agree with the use of herbs for your health, but if you have something serious you'd prefer to opt for conventional treatment.

Sandra: In a word.

John: That's all very well, but when do you decide that what you've got is serious? I mean, I feel terrible if I get the flu or a heavy cold, but I wouldn't consider myself to be that ill. But I would be interested in trying out a herbal remedy if only because nothing else has ever worked.

Sandra: I don't see why you shouldn't try it out, especially for your migraines as I said before. Migraines are notoriously difficult to deal with, but you never know ...

John: You know I think you've convinced me. So if I get ...
(*Fade*)

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Four

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

PAUSE 4 minutes

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1 minute

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Practice Test 3 – Paper 4 Listening

This is the Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 3.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

TONE

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 1

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PAUSE 5 seconds

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman: The very first time I set eyes on this house ... well, I just knew ... I knew it was for me. I had taken a wrong turning down a country lane, on my way to visit a friend, and I wasn't sure where I was. Luckily it was for sale ... it had just gone on the market that morning. So I walked through the garden and knocked on the front door. The elderly lady who lived there invited me in. Strictly speaking, of course, she should have told me to make an appointment through the estate agent, but, you know, we hit it off from the word go. She showed me around and we had a few cups of tea and a great chat. She said that she was so worried about who might come to live in the house after she had left it. She didn't want just anyone to be there. In fact, she phoned the estate agent there and then and told him that she had found someone who wanted to buy the house and said that he

could take it off the market. It was a bit embarrassing, really ... she wasn't like most people who are selling their house and want to get as much as they can for it.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Two

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman: I had been out of work for almost eighteen months and was really feeling low when this opportunity was offered to me by the unemployment benefit office. You see, it's often quite hard to find a job if you have no real qualifications, and all I had was a few GCSE's. Anyway, after dragging my feet for over a year I thought ... why not? I've got nothing to lose. And I'm really glad I did the course. You see you get your first lessons free on the training programme and then – once you've got the basic skills – they help you find a job and, with the employer's agreement, you carry on your training one day per week. And then you use your salary to help pay towards the training scheme, which should help other unemployed people get started.

I found a job here at Claire's Salon within two months of starting the course, and at first I was just sweeping up hair and doing a bit of shampooing. But now I do highlights and styling too, all because I'm continuing my training.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Two

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Three

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: It's certainly great value for anyone interested in that kind of food. If you join this scheme before the end of March, everything that you buy for the next two months is half price. The only thing is, you have to buy quite large quantities ...

Woman: Sounds like a fantastic deal! What sort of things have you got, anyway?

Man: Oh ... all kinds of beans and lentils ... fresh fruit and vegetables ... lots of varieties of rice ...

Woman: All really healthy stuff! ... not my kind of thing at all ... though I do think it's good to buy in bulk. Do a lot of people do it?

Man: It's okay for beans and rice and things like that, but fruit and vegetables don't keep so well, do they? So it'd only suit you if you, made, say, your own jam, or froze a lot of food.

Woman: (*laughing*) Like a proper housewife, you mean! That's not me, I'm afraid!

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Three

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Four

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: Well, I know that traditionally it's not supposed to be something that men do ... but I don't mind it at all ... in fact, I quite enjoy it ... I find it very relaxing, really. You know, it gives you time to think about other things.

Woman: Oh, I just couldn't be bothered. Think of all the other things you could be doing! Actually, I hardly ever do it now ... John does it.

Man: Isn't that a bit mean, leaving it to him?

Woman: Not at all! Why? If he wants it done, he can do it for himself ... he knows I detest it. And anyway, it's not necessary ... we can easily live without it. It's an extra ... it's superfluous, as far as I'm concerned.

Man: But do you not think that everything looks a lot nicer ... more clean, more fresh? And it shows that you've taken some care ... that you want things to look nice.

Woman: Listen, it's got absolutely nothing to do with cleanliness!

Man: I suppose you're right.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Four

PAUSE 2 seconds

That's the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 2

You will hear a radio report given by a historian interested in certain aspects of ancient buildings. For Questions 9-17, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part Two.

PAUSE 45 seconds

TONE

Presenter: You may not realise that there is a lot more to some buildings than meets the eye. Here to reveal the inner secrets of some ancient structures is Dan Paterson, well-known Historian and Antiquarian.

Dan: Yes, ancient peoples had a particular concept of buildings which we today can find extremely strange and unusual. In recent years, a new area of studies has sprung up. It is called 'Archaeoastronomy', a word coined from the first half of 'Archaeology' and 'Astronomy', because it actually combines these two disciplines which, for us anyway, have always been separate and independent. It might be difficult at first to see any connection between the two, but let me explain. Many ancient buildings were closely linked to the sun and the stars. The place they were built in and the direction they faced was completely determined by the position of the sun or a particular star. That is to say, they were aligned with one or the other. Why? Because on one particular day of the year, for example, when the sun rises, it shines on one part of the building. This is usually at one of the equinoxes or solstices. In Newgrange in Ireland, at the winter solstice on the twenty-first of December, the rising sun shines directly down a narrow passage and illuminates the small room at the end. In Abu Simbal in Egypt, the same thing happens twice a year. Another famous example is Stonehenge, in England. Here, at the summer solstice on the twenty-first of June, the first rays of the rising sun shine on the centre of the monument. These are fairly well-known examples, I suppose, though I think most people don't realise how widespread a phenomenon this is. A much more spectacular case is Chichen Itza, in Mexico, part of the Mayan civilisation. There is a huge stone pyramid there with a large number of steps, dedicated to Quetzalcoatl, who was a god shaped like a snake. At the spring and autumn equinoxes, the sun makes an elongated, moving shadow on the steps of this pyramid, which looks just like a long snake slithering down. Speaking of pyramids, the largest of the Egyptian pyramids, the Great Pyramid of Giza, is aligned with the North Star. As a final example, I'll tell you about the Governor's Palace at Uxmal, in Mexico again. This building is aligned with the Morning Star. A person standing in the entrance there and looking straight ahead would see the Morning Star rising. The Morning Star is really a planet of course ... the planet Venus. To conclude, then, there can be very little doubt that all of this was deliberately done and carefully planned. There are too many similar cases for it to be mere coincidence. To my mind, these buildings were designed to face the rising sun or a star on a certain day in the year at a certain time. Why? Well, I cannot go into all the details now, but there is no question that one of the reasons was to mark certain times in the year ... certain key times ... the times that divide up the year in a natural way and mark the coming of the next season. Nowadays, we have clocks and diaries and calendars ... these are the instruments we use to tell the time and the date and the month. In the past, none of these existed ... so people used the regular movement of the sun and stars to help them to keep track of the passing of time.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Two again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Two

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 3

You will hear an interview with Maeve McCarthy, who works with the Travelling People in Ireland. For questions 18-22, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have one minute in which to look at Part Three.

PAUSE 1 minute

TONE

Interviewer: This is the third in our series 'On the Fringe of Society', and we're very pleased to have with us in the studio this morning Maeve McCarthy, who has worked with the Travelling People in Ireland for over ten years. Welcome, Maeve.

Maeve: Thank you very much.

Interviewer: First of all, for those of us who have never heard of them, can you tell us a bit about the Travelling People. Who exactly are they?

Maeve: Well, the Travelling People, or 'Travellers' as we sometimes call them, are people who have no fixed home. In the past, they travelled around the country in horse-drawn caravans. They used to be called 'Tinkers' because they mended anything made of tin ... like pots and pans ...

Interviewer: So does that mean that they are the same as the Gypsies which we have here in England?

Maeve: Mmmm ... there are certainly some similarities. I suppose the most obvious one is that they both move around from place to place ... but they are different in other respects. For example, the Gypsies traditionally tell fortunes and are sometimes associated with circuses. This is not true at all of the Travellers ... you could say they have a less ... mmm ... colourful image. Also, there are fewer Travelling People ... they form a much smaller group. However, the Gypsies belong to the Romany people, who are spread all over the European mainland, while the Travellers are a distinctly Irish phenomenon. Their ancestors may have been wandering poets, or possibly outcasts of society resulting from wars and various social upheavals. This is what really distinguishes one group from the other, I'd say.

Interviewer: Hmmm ... and have they managed to maintain their traditional way of life?

Maeve: Up to the first half of the twentieth century they did ... they did, more or less ... but then things began to change, and life now is very different. For example, no Traveller lives in a horse-drawn caravan now. They all have big, state-of-the-art caravans which can be pulled by cars. And they don't mend pots and pans, of course ... there's no demand for that any more. They earn their living as scrap dealers and horse traders these days. Irish society has changed a lot, and they have had to change with it ... to a certain extent ... probably to a large extent, actually ... yes.

Interviewer: What's the ... eh ... social situation? I mean, are the Travellers independent of Irish society, or are they well integrated into it?

Maeve: Well now ... the answer to that question highlights all kinds of problems, I'm afraid. I'm not saying that in the old days everything was rosy ... far from it. But I think it's true to say that back then the Travellers knew where they stood. They had their own way of life and they had their work which everyone needed. Nowadays, they arrive somewhere and park their caravans on waste land or even on the side of the road. Sometimes they generate a lot of rubbish and the camp becomes very unsightly. It's a very difficult situation. You know ... most people will say yes, of course the Travellers have to live somewhere, but at the end of the day they don't want Travellers anywhere near their house.

Interviewer: What do you think should be done to help?

Maeve: (*big sigh*) I think ... I think it's important to analyse the problem first. The Travellers can't live in society, and they can't live completely outside it any more. Efforts have been made to provide housing for them, but this doesn't really work very well because it's not natural for Travellers to live in a house. And, eventually, they will want to move on. I think you can make a comparison with the Sami people of Northern Europe, who can't live solely by being nomadic reindeer herdsman any more and who are also dependent on modern society ... to the extent that it has made their lives easier. I don't have an answer I'm afraid ... I wish I did. But any answer that there is will have to be some kind of compromise ... a compromise that will allow the Travellers to live partly in society and partly out of it.

Interviewer: Maeve, thank you very much for ... (*Fade*)

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Three

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 4

You will hear two friends, Frank and Jane, talking about the Channel Tunnel. For questions 23-28, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. Write F for Frank, J for Jane, or B for both, where they agree.

You now have thirty seconds in which to look at Part Four.

PAUSE 30 seconds

TONE

Frank: Did you enjoy your tour around France, Jane?

Jane: Yes, I did. It was very enjoyable. Things have changed since I went thirty years ago though. We used the motorways this time, but they were frightfully expensive. We came back on Eurostar, you know.

Frank: Mmm ... it's a bit like a production line, isn't it? When I use it, I always feel a bit like goods being transported from A to B.

Jane: Well, I was quite impressed, to tell you the truth, and we did save time. Once we were on the train it took us only 35 minutes, so I can see the value of using the Tunnel on a permanent basis if you have to travel to Paris on business. Still, I think I'd prefer to take the ferry any day, and be outside ... in the fresh air.

Frank: Mmm ... I'm not sure about that. The last time I travelled across the Channel, I was violently sick! But it was winter, I suppose.

Jane: I guess I'm just a bit claustrophobic. I get visions of getting trapped, or the walls caving in, or something like that. It is almost 30 miles long, after all.

Frank: Oh, come off it, Jane. That's a bit far-fetched. You've been watching too many disaster films. It's been running for almost ten years now, and nothing really serious has happened. A bit of a fire one time, some frozen rails occasionally, but nothing to speak of really. There's always the central service tunnel you could walk through to get home. That's a consoling thought, isn't it?

Jane: Thanks. I'll sleep all the better for knowing that, I'm sure. Seriously though, I realise that the extra tunnel makes things a bit safer, but when you're actually down there, you easily panic.

Frank: Well, you might but then...

Jane: Oh, Frank, be serious! Do you think fewer people use the ferries now the Chunnel is shunting so many cars in and out? I mean they can run hundreds of trains a day, so think how many passengers they can carry. It's phenomenal.

Frank: Yes, that is astounding. I suppose the sea traffic has dropped marginally, but through switching to high speed boats, the ferry companies have managed to survive and, of course, if you have the time, they are cheaper.

Jane: I heard that Napoleon had started building a tunnel back at the start of the nineteenth century. Is that right?

Frank: I don't think it was *that* early ... and we shouldn't credit *him* with everything ... I think some engineer around that time planned a similar tunnel. They actually dug quite a way in the 1880s ... but then stopped.

Jane: Why? Did the tunnel collapse or flood or something?

Frank: No, they were scared of an invasion, I think. It would have been asking for trouble.

Jane: Yes, I can see that, but the French *are* invading us now, if you ask me, with their eggs and apples and dairy produce. We've got enough of our own, without theirs too.

Frank: That's being a bit chauvinistic, don't you think? I'm sure we British send quite a lot of produce to them.

Jane: I suppose you're right. By the way, I heard they were thinking of making yet another much bigger tunnel to carry even more people.

Frank: That was the plan originally, but it's been shelved and for a good while to come, I'd say. The present tunnel cost twice as much as they'd estimated *and* it was two years late. It'll be a long time before that debt is repaid.

Jane: Well, if it took them a couple of hundred years to get the first tunnel built, I reckon we're pretty safe in saying we won't live to see the next one.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Four

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

PAUSE 4 minutes

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1 minute

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Practice Test 4 — Paper 4 Listening

This is the Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 4.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

TONE

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 1

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PAUSE 5 seconds

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: A few of those who phone in are probably attention-seeking rather than voicing a serious point of view, but it's rare enough not to present a real problem. For the vast majority of our listeners, I genuinely believe we are providing a forum where they can express their opinion and enter into dialogue with the various public figures who are guests on the show. It's a good opportunity for the man on the street to make himself heard—and the nature of the programme has led to some pretty heated discussions, I can say.

This is where I come in, acting out the part of referee as it were – leading and controlling the discussion so that it makes good listening and good entertainment. Each of these is equally important. People don't want to tune in and listen to a jumble of disjointed questions and answers. The discussions need to flow and connect, especially in the absence of any visual aid, which would otherwise allow facial expression to play a major role.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Two

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Interviewer: There seem to be two main schools of thought about sharks. There are those who think that hundreds of great whites are prowling off the shores just waiting for the chance to eat us, and then the others who think that far from being dangerous, sharks are in fact friendly creatures which like to be stroked. Let me put these opposing viewpoints to Mike Peters, oceanographer currently researching shark behaviour.

Oceanographer: Well, as strange as it may sound there is some truth in both notions. However, somewhere between the two would probably be more realistic. This is a species of such variety that any one statement to describe them as a whole is hard to pin down. True, all sharks can bite - just as all fish can. But, in fact very few will actually do so, as they are not really interested in attacking us. Nevertheless, it is wise to be wary of, let's say, tiger sharks – they are known to frequent shallow waters and will eat absolutely anything. On the other hand, I've heard of cases where zebra sharks are friendly to divers and have swum calmly with them for considerable lengths of time.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Two

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Three

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: Flying kites is a popular pastime, and certainly not new to us, with its origins in the Far East dating back at least 2,000 years. They were initially used to fish – bait was attached to the tail and the kite attracted the fish as the wind drew the bait across the water. Legend has it that a kite was also used to overthrow an evil emperor. By using one to measure the distance from his camp to the palace wall, General Han Hsin was able to dig a tunnel long enough to get him and his army inside the grounds for a surprise attack.

Kites have also been used to study weather patterns, and even Benjamin Franklin flew one in a thunderstorm – not to forecast the weather mind you, but he did prove that lightning and electricity have the same properties. Ouch! Kites have even assisted in the development of flight, as the basic principles of aerodynamics they display helped to pave the way for aeroplane design.

This versatile, yet so simple object will never lose its attraction, just as the sky and flight will never cease to fascinate.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Three

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Four

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Miriam: If we're going to start a family, I really think one of us will have to stay at home on a permanent basis for at least the first few years. The problem is who? I've asked Cathy and I'll get six months maternity leave, but then I'll have to go back full time – or resign, I suppose. I don't want to have to give up my career, and if I leave for a few years I'll have to start at the beginning again, you know what it's like ...

Stan: Hang on a minute Miriam, let's not rush into anything. Somebody's got to be here for a young family, but I think there are lots of ways of doing it. There's one guy at my place and he stays at home two days a week and works on his computer there. We just contact him by e-mail if we have any queries. I'm sure I could arrange something along the same lines.

Miriam: Well, it sounds really good but what about the other days?

Stan: Why don't you ask Cathy about job-sharing schemes, or the possibility of taking off a weekday and going in on Saturday ... Look, it'll work out. My mum's only down the road and she'll be over the moon if we ask her to help out.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Four

PAUSE 2 seconds

That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 2

You will hear a musician describing her experience of playing the viola. For questions 9-17, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part Two.

PAUSE 45 seconds

TONE

Woman: I first started playing at the age of eleven. My parents were not at all musical, but I had this wonderful music teacher who gave me lessons after school once a week. There was a viola in the music department for some peculiar reason, and although I actually wanted to play the violin I had no choice but to start with this. Well,

I have never looked back; my love affair, I suppose you could say, with this instrument started from the moment I picked it up. My teacher soon recognised in me a natural affinity for the viola and recommended me to a private school specialising in music.

My parents were very supportive of me right from the start - despite their mild surprise at the fact that a budding musician had suddenly appeared in their midst! Without them I would never have fulfilled my dreams. However romantic the idea of being a musician may have seemed to me at the time, they were fully aware of the practicalities of the situation; financially it was very difficult for them – but somehow they managed to find the fees for the school and buy me an extremely good viola which saw me through all my early training. They also made a point of taking me to as many concerts as possible, which inspired me and gave me this incredible love of performance.

The most moving experience I have ever had was when my dad retired and was given a golden handshake from his company – he'd worked for them for over forty years. Well, at a family reunion a short while afterwards he suddenly presented me with this enormous box – and inside was an original 1792 viola of the most exceptional quality... I just couldn't believe it. He had spent his entire retirement gift on me – well, this is my most prized possession. So you can see I really have quite exceptional parents as well ...

I started performing at the age of fourteen – mostly locally in young people's orchestras. But it wasn't until I had finished my training that I could work full time. Now, one of the major drawbacks of the work I do is that it's not always easy to find work and if you do, it's not always exactly what you want to be playing. I muddled along like this for two years and found the whole situation very frustrating. But five years ago I got my lucky break; while on tour in Austria I was offered the chance to play lead viola in a newly-founded chamber orchestra. I jumped at the opportunity, although there was a risk that the project wouldn't take off. But a year later we had made a name for ourselves, and now have toured most of Europe. We're hoping to move on to North America and Canada in the autumn, and tour there for the next couple of years. I think the attraction of our orchestra is two-fold. First of all, all the musicians were in similar situations to my own, and the feeling of liberation we all had on joining the orchestra surely accounts for our enthusiasm. Secondly, we all play period instruments and this really gives a beautiful mellow quality to our playing.

At the moment I am happy where I am, but I do have some long term plans taking shape in my head. I think what I would most like to do in the future would be to form my own quartet. On the other side of the coin, there is also the matter of family – at some point I would like to have children of my own – but this is a very demanding career which requires you to be constantly on the move, so I must admit this is very much on standby at present. Luckily, my husband is a fellow musician, so he is quite understanding on this matter!

Tapescripts

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Two again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Two

PAUSE 5 seconds

That is the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 3

You will hear an interview with Bret Wilkins, a computer programmer who works with the blind. For questions 18-22, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have one minute in which to look at Part Three.

PAUSE 1 minute

TONE

Presenter: The Royal National Institute for the Blind, or RNIB as it is more commonly known, has long been dedicated to helping those with sight problems. My guest today is Bret Wilkins, who is a computer programmer specialising in technology for the blind. Bret, how exactly can a computer assist someone with sight difficulties? The screen, after all, is a visual tool.

Bret: Well, in fact, computer technology has given the visually impaired a new freedom which was previously denied them. As I'm sure you know written script for the blind is called Braille...

Presenter: ... the system of raised bumps that allows blind people to read with their fingertips ...

Bret: ... a simple Braille keyboard can easily be connected to most computers and there are special web browsers available, like 'Jaws' or 'WindowEyes' for example, which turn text into speech.

Presenter: Ah, I see you mentioned the web – so someone with sight problems can now surf the Internet – assuming they have one of these programmes.

Bret: Theoretically, yes. But in practice we are faced with a number of problems. Many companies, when creating a website, fail to take into consideration the needs of the disabled user – for instance, graphics should have alternative text and links should have more than a simple 'click here' message, as blind people navigate using the keyboard tab keys rather than the mouse. Unfortunately this is often not the case, and the reason is usually one of ignorance rather than a desire to be difficult. My aim is to inform as many companies as possible of how to better design their sites and thus give disabled users improved access to the web.

Presenter: And have you met with co-operation?

Bret: Oh, yes. I think companies realise that it is in their best interest to reach as many people as possible, and the blind population are clients, the same as anyone else.

Presenter: You said earlier that computer technology has given blind people new freedom. Can you explain this more fully?

Bret: Yes. First of all, as far as the Internet is concerned, the sheer amount of information and services available to the blind is phenomenal – as it is for everyone, of course. But a blind person can now look up train times unaided, can shop online – just imagine how much easier shopping is... well, the list is endless. But it's not just the Internet that helps. In the past, the only reading material for the blind was in books – these of course are in Braille and are very bulky publications – so you can imagine that the digital format offered by computers has obvious space-saving advantages. Our job at the Institute is to ensure that as much material as possible is now converted into digital form, and thus help the blind and visually impaired live fulfilling lives as active members of their community.

Presenter: Bret Wilkins, thank you very much for joining me today.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Three

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 4

You'll hear two people, Martha and Philip, discussing various plans that have been put forward for urban development. For questions 23-28, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. Write M for Martha, P for Philip, or B for both, where they agree.

You now have thirty seconds in which to look at Part Four.

PAUSE 30 seconds

TONE

Interviewer: Today, we will be looking at some of the arguments surrounding urban design and urban planning. Martha Oldham, who is an architect, has agreed to come in to the studio to talk to us. And to start the ball rolling, we've got West TV's Philip Newell here. Philip, as a historian, what would you say about some of the plans we've heard for our towns and cities?

Philip: Well, if we're talking about plans, I'd have to say that every conceivable approach has been put forward. Of course, it's true to say that, with some of them, if they were adopted, I might be considering leaving the country! But ... we like freedom of speech in this country ... everyone should have the right to say what they think. With that in mind, I think some of the plans are appalling. The recent government drive to build more homes has gone to people's heads. I have actually seen designs for tower blocks modelled on the very ones built in the sixties that we are now busy tearing down. Seriously, if you look at some of the plans, the only difference is the colours and a few trimmings. If you saw them in black and white, and with one or two decorative features removed, you would say that they had been drawn up in around 1962. I would have thought that we'd learned our lessons from that period. At the other extreme, I have seen so-called 'Victorian Revival' designs which are totally wrong in terms of their historical accuracy. Not even close, I'm afraid.

Interviewer: Martha. Now you're an architect. Does anything of what Philip says ring true with you?

Martha: Absolutely. I've seen some of those designs too and, although it would be unprofessional of me to mention specific cases, I know what Philip means. The tower blocks of the sixties were a social disaster. The intentions were good, I'm sure, but you cannot put hundreds of people together in a run-down area without making certain provisions. So, yes, I agree with that. As for the revival of 'Victorian civic pride', which actually came from a speech by the Prime Minister, well, that seems to have been taken out of context a little. I don't think he ever advocated a revival of Victorian architecture. Certainly, as far as I understood it, he wanted people to be proud of their buildings, but I don't think it was ever suggested that they should be historically accurate.

Philip: Nor would it be desirable. Can you imagine people living in terraced housing with an outside toilet? No, my point was that the overall appearance of some of these designs should bear some resemblance to the way they're labelled.

Martha: Well, that is a subject close to my heart. Many of us in our profession are very concerned that the naming of projects is done conscientiously ... especially if they are housing projects because ... well ... put it this way ... a lot of hasty decisions concerning projects and designs may well be taken. Those making the decisions may easily be swayed by a nice-sounding name. A phrase like 'Victorian Revival' conjures up a nice nostalgic image to most people. If, as you say, there is little relationship between the product and the name, plans could be put into effect which would do serious harm – and those on the receiving end would be the unfortunate people who had to live in them. One thing is for sure; it won't be the politicians who live there. They will be far away in the countryside, unaffected by the consequences of their actions.

Philip: Perhaps I could ask you, Martha, whether you think the architect who works on civic buildings – I'm

moving away from housing here – do you think that, in drawing up plans for a single building, say, in London ... do you think that architects really consider the style of the surrounding buildings. I mean, I've heard it said that they do, but I get the impression that they use these projects as a showcase for their own talents, while paying very little regard to the big picture.

Martha: Well, I can't presume to speak for others in my profession. But I would say that's one of the priorities – to make it fit in – and I go to great lengths personally. Having said that, you have to accept that much of what we call 'blending in' is highly subjective. I mean, you might think that a modern design fits because it uses the same material, or is the same colour as the neighbouring buildings. I could argue that another building is more suitable because the proportions are roughly the same as other buildings in the area. Now a third person might say that neither is suitable. And for any number of reasons, we could all be right!

Interviewer: I'm going to have to step in here because it's time for a break. But stay with us and we'll continue this fascinating ... *(Fade)*

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Four

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

PAUSE 4 minutes

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1 minute

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Practice Test 5 – Paper 4 Listening

This is the Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 5.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

TONE

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 1

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PAUSE 5 seconds

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman: How long have you been a member of the Road Assistance Service, James?

Man: Well, I first became a member about five years ago, but I've only had to call them out three or four times.

Woman: Was it for anything serious?

Man: On one occasion, I remember, I couldn't get it to start in the morning. They came and jump-started it for me but then, of course, I still had to search around for a new battery. Another time, they changed a tyre, which I'd managed to get a puncture in.

Woman: Come on, don't tell me that you can't do that by yourself! Even I know how to do that.

Man: I don't doubt your ability for one moment, Sarah, but if it's pouring with rain and icy cold and you've paid for the service anyway, wouldn't you prefer to have it done for you?

Woman: I see your point. Do you have to wait a long time for a call-out?

Man: I've never waited more than twenty minutes, even when I got stranded once on the top of a hill miles away from anywhere. I was most impressed!

Woman: So am I ... Perhaps you could give me their particulars sometime.

Man: By all means ...

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Two

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Here we are outside the Brighton Pavilion. This was one of the summer palaces of the British Monarchs in past times, used by George IV and his niece too, Queen Victoria. The present extravagant style can be attributed to the nineteenth century architect John Nash. You will notice its Chinese style inside, but the exterior is Indian. Indeed, from here, you can see the gold domes, which remind us of the Taj Mahal.

When you enter the Pavilion, you'll be amazed by the lavish furnishings, brilliant colours and wonderful ceilings. You may have heard it criticised for its bad taste and gaudiness, but it certainly is an exotic gem from past history, our heritage from the British Monarchy. Unfortunately, Queen Victoria did not enjoy it for very long, as almost immediately cheap train tickets enabled thousands of visitors to make the journey there easily and her privacy was threatened.

It has obviously gone through various stages of disrepair and was once almost demolished. Naturally, some of its former elements no longer exist; for example, it once had an indoor riding room and tennis court, but these fell into disuse.

If you require a guided tour, you'll find help at the foyer on entering, and don't forget to visit the Pavilion shop with its fine gifts.

The coach will be leaving from this point at 3pm in order to visit the nearby Sea Life Centre. Try not to be late back.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Two

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Three

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: I was unlucky enough to be made redundant in my late 40s. It came as a great blow to me – though most of us in the company had known it was imminent for a long time. Yes, our profits had been going down because of the slump in the building industry, but we never thought it would come to the crunch, somehow. None of us were computer-literate, you see, and I hadn't had the foresight to take a course in it, so I expect some bright-eyed school-leavers have been given our jobs. I can't hold it against them, though. They're the ones with all the know-how nowadays, aren't they? I'm not complaining, as I've

been living comfortably on my redundancy pay all this year, but it can't go on for ever and I'm beginning to worry about the next fifteen years of my life till I retire. Lucky I'm not a family person like some of my colleagues. They're the ones who are really up against a serious problem.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Four

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Announcer: Good morning, everyone. On our breakfast programme, this wet Wednesday morning, you're going to hear from our guest speaker about the benefits of fish in our diet. Now, let's welcome, first of all, Mrs. Doreen Lawson, who works at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Good morning, Doreen.

Doreen: Good morning, Stanley...

Announcer: Doreen, I gather that everyone would benefit if advertisers boosted the idea of fish as a health food.

Doreen: Undoubtedly, yes, Stanley. The fishing industry has been waning for the last ten years what with limited stocks, constraints on fishing rights and rising costs. All this has had an impact on the consumer so that fresh fish is rather expensive nowadays.

Announcer: Do you think this is what puts people off buying it?

Doreen: Yes, it may be dear, I agree, but people should be made to know that its nutritional value is far superior to other things eaten today. It's good for the eyes, the brain, the heart and, anyway, it's extremely tasty. I think they're getting their money's worth.

Announcer: Well, most people are beginning to realise this, but it's a pity that children are still loath to touch fish because of the bones.

Doreen: Yes, but there's no need to torture them, as there is so much highly nutritious filleted fish around. Perhaps advertisers should bring consumers round to these products.

Announcer: I totally agree. Maybe the Scots have got the right idea as they even have fish for breakfast.

Doreen: Yes. Do you remember the advert, "Go to work on an egg"? Perhaps we could do something similar and say "Go to work on a fish"?

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Four

PAUSE 2 seconds

That is the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 2

You will hear somebody on the radio speaking about fleas and their habits. For questions 9-17, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part Two.

PAUSE 45 seconds

TONE

Man: There can be nothing less enjoyable about having a pet than the fact that it could host a family of fleas, and not only one either. These tiny insects can be difficult to spot on your cat or dog, as they rarely come out of hiding but live around the roots of your pet's hair. Unfortunately, fleas can be transferred from animals to humans very easily and they were probably responsible for the historic plagues in England in the seventeenth century. These offending insects were given a free passage by the rodents that arrived by ship from the Far East and in this way the fatal disease was transmitted.

Fleas are a dark brown colour and have three pairs of hind legs which have the strength and flexibility that any Olympic high or long-jumper would envy. Of course, people can really exaggerate how far, and especially how high, fleas can jump. For example, I read in an article the other day, that they can jump the equivalent height of the Empire State Building. In actual fact, their vertical record is seven inches and they have a horizontal leap of thirteen inches, which means a jump of 137 metres in human terms, which is quite enough for me.

Fleas actually bite us with their sucking mouthpart and leave a single hole, whereas ants and spiders leave two. I don't know about you, but if I'm bitten, I find the desire to scratch the resulting swelling so overwhelming I don't bother to examine the identity of the attacker too closely. What is more worrying about fleas is the number of eggs they lay every day. In a flea's lifetime, a total of six hundred can easily be reached. Naturally, some eggs will drop out of your pet onto the floor or carpet, but, unfortunately, their chances of survival are no less than the others, as the larvae, which hatch out within the next two weeks, can live on dead skin, feathers or even dust. It then takes another two weeks for the developing larvae to reach adulthood. If a newly emerged flea gets sucked up in your Hoover, the good news is that it'll probably die of starvation, but once an adult flea has had a blood meal, it can survive from two months to a year without feeding.

“Once bitten, twice shy” goes the English proverb, but it’s rather difficult to enforce this if you have the bad luck to get an infestation. If you have a dog or a cat, it’s very likely that they are the root cause of it. They are discerning creatures, though, like mosquitoes, and if they have the chance to choose, they seem to sense who has the sweetest blood and the most sensitive of us suffer again!

All kinds of remedies and prevention measures have been suggested, ranging from certain herbal extracts to chemical sprays that are guaranteed to kill your pet together with the fleas. The new gimmick promoted by vets and pet shops alike is the ‘single-drop’ treatment administered to the animal surreptitiously on the back of its head. The theory behind this is that it penetrates your pet’s skin, enters the bloodstream and gives an unpleasant taste to the blood. The makers of this expensive treatment claim immediate extermination of the offending fleas, but in my own experience, the fleas just decide that their food supply has lost its attraction and move on, or should I say, jump on to newer feeding grounds, which could well be you or me.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you’ll hear Part Two again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Two

PAUSE 5 seconds

That’s the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 3

You’ll hear part of a radio programme about Michael Rafter, a man who had an unusual experience. For questions 18-22, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have one minute in which to look at Part Three.

PAUSE 1 minute

TONE

Radio Host: Welcome to *It’s a Funny Thing*. My guest this evening is Michael Rafter from Kent, and he has quite an unusual experience to share with us. Michael, now I understand that you’re quite a seasoned traveller, but there was one particular journey even you were unprepared for. Am I right?

Michael: You most certainly are! To be honest, if it hadn’t happened to me, even I would find it hard to believe.

Radio Host: I’m sure the listeners are on tenterhooks. So, what exactly happened to you in September 1999?

Michael: Yes. Well, it was September 3rd to be precise when I set off on a round trip of Europe by train – I’d already done a similar trip around Scandinavia two years previously – anyway, this time I wanted to see Europe, and I have this thing about trains, ever since I was a kid actually, so I’m killing two birds with one stone on this sort of journey ...

Radio Host: Where did you go first?

Michael: Well, I went through the tunnel of course, but instead of going to France, as I had originally planned, I went to Brussels, which turned out to be really great. Anyway, during the first week of my trip everything went very smoothly, much to my relief because at one stage I thought I’d lost my traveller’s cheques only to discover they were actually in my backpack ...

Radio Host: So when did the problems start?

Michael: It was in Austria. I wanted to go through the Brenner Pass as I’d heard that it’s really breathtaking, so I was going to change at Vienna and take the train southbound for Rome, which left in the small hours.

Unfortunately – here it comes – unfortunately I got locked in the baggage compartment on the train to Vienna! I’d gone to get something out of my backpack. It was in there because they had told me it was too big to keep with me in the carriage. Anyway, as I tried to open the door to get out, the handle just came off in my hand. Well, I called out for a while and nobody came – it was right at the end of the last carriage and the train was practically empty, so I suppose nobody heard me. After a while I got fed up, so I decided I would wait until somebody found me when we pulled in at Vienna.

Radio Host: Which I assume they did.

Michael: Again, unfortunately not. You see, I had been travelling for two days without any proper sleep and I was really tired. So I curled up in a corner and dozed off. I woke up when I felt the train jolt to a halt, and the first thing that struck me as odd was the sunlight. I was due to arrive in Vienna at 11 pm, by the way. Then I noticed I was covered in a blanket, which I certainly didn’t recall ever seeing before, and then...

Radio Host: ... not more!

Michael: ... yes and then I saw that the door handle was intact – someone had fixed it!

Radio Host: You’re joking! Well, what happened next?

Michael: Of course, the staff at the station came in to unload the luggage and when they found me they were pretty surprised, to say the least. By this time I had realised that I was in Innsbruck ...

Radio Host: ... where?

Michael: Innsbruck – I could see it written on the platform signs outside, and I was beginning to put two and two together. I mean, obviously I must have slept through the stop at Vienna.

Radio Host: But what about the blanket and the door handle?

Michael: Well, this remains a mystery to this day. But that’s not all ... when I looked for my backpack, it had disappeared and it has never been found. The authorities at Vienna

couldn't find any of their staff who recalled having seen me, so I've no idea what happened. The only thing I can think is that somewhere in Austria there's a thief who likes to mend locks in his spare time and who was considerate enough to make sure I wouldn't catch a chill! (*they laugh*)

Radio Host: Unbelievable! That must have been difficult to explain to the stationmaster – how was his English?

Michael: Practically non-existent! But it didn't really matter as, believe it or not, my mother is Austrian and I can get by in the language. Actually, I consider myself lucky in a way, because, of all the places to get stranded without any luggage, Innsbruck is probably the most convenient for me as, not only am I familiar with Tyrolean dialects, but it's also my aunt's home town! (*more laughter*)

Radio Host: Incredible! Now Michael, tell me (*Fade*)

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Three

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 4

You will hear two Linguistics students, Julia and Peter, talking about the use of the apostrophe in English. For questions 23-28, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. Write J for Julia, P for Peter, or B for Both, where they agree.

You now have thirty seconds in which to look at Part Four.

PAUSE 30 seconds

TONE

Peter: It's true though, I think. Everywhere you look now you see an apostrophe where it shouldn't be. The most common mistake is in plurals ... you know ... like before the final 's' in 'tomatoes' ...

Julia: Yes, and 'potatoes' and 'avocados'. I mean, it seems to me as if the fruit and vegetable shops are the main offenders here, maybe the only offenders. And you see it in the fruit and vegetable sections in the supermarket too. I think there's something about fruit and vegetables that attracts the runaway apostrophe!

Peter: Oh, I think it's everywhere. And another thing I've seen a lot recently is an apostrophe in the plurals of dates ... oh you know ... like the nineteen-sixties ... one ... nine ... six ... zero ... apostrophe ... 's'. Terrible!

Julia: I've certainly seen that usage in books and texts from the early twentieth century and maybe earlier. I'm not really

sure why people think it's wrong ... maybe it's because of what we were just talking about ... 'tomatoes' and things. Or it could be that it hasn't become standardised ... writing the plural of dates without an apostrophe is correct, but it's also correct to write them with an apostrophe. That's certainly what the standard manuals say.

Peter: Mmmm? It's odd though ... when people are writing contractions, they don't generally make mistakes ... the apostrophe is usually in the right place there ... in novels and reported speech and things.

Julia: Well, maybe it's not so odd. Because it's what they've learnt to do in school, isn't it? And ... maybe even more importantly ... it's logical. In contractions, the apostrophe is replacing something, it makes sense, there's a reason for it being there. And because of this it's easy. I think that's the way people's minds must work.

Peter: What you do see, though, is 'i' ... 't' ... apostrophe ... 's' when it's a possessive 'its', not 'it's' short for 'it is'. For example ... mmmmm ... the cat didn't eat its dinner ... people sometimes might put an apostrophe in there, even though that's wrong. I can understand that though, because one of the main uses of the apostrophe is the possessive case ... John's book ... the cat's dinner ...

Julia: Mmm ... people don't do it with other possessive pronouns, do they? My, your, his, her ... but of course they don't have an 's' like the 's' in 'its'. 'Its' is the only possessive pronoun that looks like a noun in the plural ... and that's probably why people do it. Still ... if you think about it, it's a silly little thing really, the apostrophe. It's not really a lot of use ...

Peter: Well ... there is a reason for its existence, isn't there? As far as I remember ... it's there instead of a letter that is missing. In contractions, that's obvious. In the possessive, it's something to do with Old English, isn't it? Mmmmm ... I think the ending of the possessive case in Old English was '-es'. Over time, the 'e' was dropped and the apostrophe replaced it. So there is a good reason for its being there ...

Julia: I can't see it lasting forever, can you? I'd say it's an endangered species, really ... a little fiddly thing like that.

Peter: Mmmm ... the fact that people are now putting in apostrophes where they aren't needed, as well as where they are needed, seems to indicate that it serves some useful purpose ... that there's some kind of need for it. That's how languages change, isn't it? Over a long, long time, of course. Perhaps our great-, great-, great-grandchildren's teachers will be scolding them for not putting an apostrophe in 'tomatoes'!

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Four

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

PAUSE 4 minutes

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1 minute

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.

Practice Test 6 – Paper 4 Listening

This is the Certificate of Proficiency in English Listening Test. Test 6.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions.

At the start of each piece you'll hear this sound:

TONE

You'll hear each piece twice.

Remember, while you're listening, write your answers on the question paper. You'll have five minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 1

Now open your question paper and look at Part One.

PAUSE 5 seconds

You will hear four different extracts. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract One

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Marion: I'm off to collect my new specs from the optician's, Mum.

Mother: You'll be able to see all the dust when you get home then.

Marion: Well, I certainly hope my headaches will go. I never realised they were due to my eyes.

Mother: Yes, I'm afraid you've inherited your dad's problems. Poor thing – he's had to wear glasses for years.

Marion: Have you ever wondered what people with poor eyesight did in the past? People must have spent all their lives groping around for things they couldn't find.

Mother: Yes, but we make things worse nowadays by being glued to screens all day long or studying too hard.

Marion: I wouldn't say that's my problem! I wonder who invented glasses ...

Mother: I really don't know, but they were already producing glass in Roman times, so why not glasses?

Marion: I doubt it. Probably much later.

Mother: I remember reading an article about how bifocals came into being. Apparently, Benjamin Franklin got tired of switching from one pair of glasses to the other, so he had them cut in half and stuck together.

Marion: Ingenious! But it's no wonder most people go in for contact lenses now, especially the disposable type. They're so convenient.

Mother: You'd better be off or you'll be late for your appointment.

Marion: You're right ...see you later.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract One

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Two

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Man: It is two years since that remarkable woman, Mrs. Rosemary Brown, passed away at the age of 85 after a long illness. You may not have heard of her as she did not seek publicity. Nowadays, however, few people would resist the lure of fame if they had visitations from the past.

This is what happened to Rosemary. She was a spiritualist and was in touch with many famous composers from the past like Mozart, Schumann and Chopin, to name only a few. They dictated works to her that they had not finished in their lifetimes and Rosemary Brown recorded them for posterity, a surprising achievement in view of her poor musical education.

These compositions have now been analysed by well-known musicians and reveal surprising similarities to the actual works of the composers. In her autobiographical works, Rosemary recorded all the details of these strange meetings, some of which were held in public. She never became rich, so money was not the incentive for deception. Is it just possible then that she did have

mystic powers? Whatever the truth may be, she has bequeathed these musical works for future generations to enjoy too.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Two

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Three

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Interviewer: Today we are in Bilbao, a busy port in Northern Spain, and have with us a determined young Englishman from Essex. Well, Brian, you must be disappointed to have had to abort your attempt to sail to Africa by catamaran. Tell us about the problems you encountered on the way.

Brian: I guess I was just unlucky with the weather, although I can see now that there are basic problems trying to sail a catamaran in the open sea.

Interviewer: You were right in the eye of the storm, weren't you?

Brian: Yes, it seemed to break all of a sudden around me. The waves were tossing the boat in all directions. That's when the mast broke. Of course, I'd furlled the sails but the strain was just too much. It was horrendous.

Interviewer: You were lucky you didn't capsize.

Brian: These boats rarely turn over; they're like rafts, you see, but after three days without sleep, battling against the elements, I decided to quit.

Interviewer: Has it put you off sailing?

Brian: Not one bit! I shall redesign the boat and make sure the next one I make is sturdier.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Three

PAUSE 2 seconds

Extract Four

PAUSE 15 seconds

TONE

Woman: The National Health Service, which started after the Second World War, has lost much of its reputation for organisation and efficiency. In the past, an illness would take you to your local G.P. and maybe you would be referred to a hospital for specialist treatment. In the unfortunate event of an operation being necessary, there would be a small lapse of time before you could be admitted to hospital.

Nowadays, there are increasing numbers of senior citizens on the lists for treatment. Your local G.P. is now overworked and spends a minimum of time on each patient. A referral to your local hospital is inevitable and you are put on the list for surgery, which you may be lucky enough to undergo if you live that long. It is no wonder that people are flocking to the private sector where they are in and out with no hassle at all. It seems that everyone has something to gain from private medicine.

PAUSE 5 seconds

TONE

REPEAT Extract Four

PAUSE 2 seconds

That's the end of Part One.

Now turn to Part Two.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 2

You will hear a radio programme about community safety. For questions 9-17, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have forty-five seconds in which to look at Part Two.

PAUSE 45 seconds

TONE

Presenter: What is a neighbourhood watch scheme? Many of us assume it's the neighbours simply spying on one another in a poor excuse to intrude on privacy. Well I am assured that this is not the case and my guest today, Police Constable Tony Burrows, has kindly agreed to outline both the scheme and its benefits. Welcome Tony.

Tony: Hello. First, let me explain exactly what the aims of the neighbourhood watch scheme are. They were set up over twenty years ago and initially functioned on a voluntary basis with the police force and locals co-operating in the fight against civil disturbances and petty crime. Today, however, the scheme has developed into a more complex organisation involving not only voluntary groups, but local businesses, organisations and councils as well. The primary aim continues, of course, to be that of community safety, only now these groups work more closely together in order to achieve this. They agree on priorities for community safety issues and then draw up action plans on how to tackle local problems and concerns.

With this in mind two groups have been set up – Action groups and Reaction groups. Action groups are made up of people from the local community who represent

different organisations such as parish councils, retail associations or victim support groups, and they work together looking at problems affecting their area and try to see how these can be sorted out. Reaction groups co-operate directly with the police and look at specific areas – petty theft or assault, for example.

To be more specific, I will give two examples of action taken which are proving very effective. Firstly, closed circuit TV equipment has been in use in a number of areas over the last few months, and is being called quick deployable CCTV because, rather than being permanently installed, it is deployed in target areas on request. It can be set up and running within the hour and is easily secured to lamp posts. The purpose is to help in the fight against drugs, and it has also helped us crack down on theft from shops and vehicles. These are often drug-related crimes, as addicts are pressured to steal in order to fund their habit.

Secondly, the problem of young offenders is often particularly difficult to deal with, and in three areas a new approach is being taken, where youngsters who persistently offend are asked to consent to a ‘sociable behaviour pact’. These are voluntary written agreements between the offender and the police, their parents and their school. They have proved successful in encouraging children, young adults, and above all, parents, to be accountable for their behaviour. The goal is to improve the quality of life for the community as a whole by targeting problems such as graffiti, damage to property and abusive language.

Needless to say, the success of the neighbourhood watch scheme relies entirely on the willingness of a community to co-operate and work together. Critics of the scheme label it as encouraging vigilantes to take the law into their own hands, but in fact the opposite is true. The police work in close collaboration with the community and help to ensure a safer, crime-free lifestyle for everyone. The result has been an average 25% reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as – and this is equally important – a remarkable drop in the fear of crime. Communities that feel safer tend to have much lower crime rates as they create an atmosphere of trust and respect.

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Two again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Two

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Two.

Now turn to Part Three.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 3

You will hear an interview with Dr. Maurice Harmann, an expert on obesity. For questions 18-22, choose the answer (A, B, C or D), which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have one minute in which to look at Part Three.

PAUSE 1 minute

TONE

Interviewer: We have with us in the studio this morning Doctor Maurice Harmann, an expert on obesity and its causes. Doctor Harmann, welcome. Now, there seems to have been a lot of talk about obesity recently, in the media generally. Why is this?

Dr. Harmann: Well ... there are a number of reasons, I think. People are more concerned about their health and general physical well-being these days. They are more aware of their bodies ... what they do with them, what they put into them, what they look like. There have also been a number of campaigns to try to reduce heart disease ... recommending that people exercise regularly and eat the right sort of diet. We are more aware than ever before of the dangers of obesity. In the past, people used to laugh at grossly overweight people because they looked funny. They felt marginalised because of this and for many other reasons too, of course ... because they couldn't find clothes to fit them, because they couldn't make friends, because they couldn't lose weight ... oh, all kinds of things.

Interviewer: But, despite the change in our attitude to these people, I understand the problem itself is actually getting worse.

Dr Harmann: If you can believe the statistics that are being produced by various organisations, there has been, indeed, quite an increase in the number of obese people over the last, say, twenty years or so.

Interviewer: What would you say the cause of this is?

Dr Harmann: Certainly the rise in popularity of fast food has a lot to do with it. Think of it! It's not so long ago that fast food did not exist! I can certainly remember a culture without burgers and fries ...

Interviewer: So can I ... just!

Dr Harmann: Well ... today's children and teenagers can't. It is a fact that huge numbers of people of all ages eat in a fast food restaurant at least once a week. And restaurants with a take-away service are also extremely popular. I suppose a lot of it can be put down to a general reluctance to cook and a modern lifestyle, but ... the consequences can be very serious, I'm afraid. You see, this kind of food is very fattening ... as well as not being half as nutritious as home-cooked meals made from fresh ingredients.

Interviewer: So ... is all obesity a result of bad eating habits?

Dr Harmann: Mmmm ... a small percentage of people have problems that are hereditary ... this is usually some kind of gland trouble which can sometimes be put right. Other people have an eating disorder of some sort ... one

that makes them eat too much ... either on a regular basis or through periodic bingeing.

Interviewer: How is this different from eating too much fast food?

Dr Harmann: Well, an eating disorder is the result of some psychological problem. Put simply, a person might overeat because they are depressed, or worried or fed up. Comfort eating, it's sometimes called. I think it's not unusual to do this occasionally ... but on a regular basis, it constitutes a health problem.

Interviewer: I'd like to ask you, if I may, to tell us ... [Fade]

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Three again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Three

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Three.

Now turn to Part Four.

PAUSE 5 seconds

Part 4

You will hear two colleagues, Richard and Alice, talking about the press. For questions 23-28, decide whether the opinions are expressed by only one of the speakers, or whether the speakers agree. Write R for Richard, A for Alice, or B for both, where they agree.

You now have thirty seconds in which to look at Part Four.

PAUSE 30 seconds

TONE

Richard: I can't believe my favourite player of all time has been hauled up on drug charges. The press are having a field day of course – look here in the paper – any excuse to smear his name, just because he's such a good athlete they see it as an opportunity to get a big story. I don't think they even care if they've got the facts right or not, as long as it's front-page news.

Alice: It does seem like that, doesn't it? But surely they can't print false information, or they'll be up for libel. And this time there appears to be some truth in the report – I've read about it in the broadsheets and the facts are pretty much the same.

Richard: You're joking! Let me see... I can't believe it, it's front-page news here as well. That means it will be in the headlines on TV tonight, it's like a witch-hunt. And even if he's innocent – as I'm sure he is – all this negative press coverage will ruin his reputation.

Alice: What do you mean? If all his fans believe in him half as much as you do, then I don't think his good name is at risk. Just look at you, rallying to his support – it doesn't seem as if the press is swaying your opinion, so why should it affect the rest of us? Don't underestimate the intelligence of the reader ...

Richard: ... and don't underestimate the power of the press. They've been known to topple governments.

Alice: Well, there I would entirely agree with you – but I don't think this is really in the same league, do you? We're not talking about matters of national security here. Don't misunderstand me, but however interesting this story is, it's not going to affect our daily lives.

Richard: Oh yes, I realise that. I just really dislike the way the press can infringe on an individual's privacy, and the way they wait like vultures for any hint of impropriety and then, whoosh, they go for the kill ... It just seems that the spectacle is more important to them now than the truth. Any journalist with an ounce of decency these days is just not going to make it.

Alice: Oh, come on. There are some first-class journalists around, and their reporting is both thorough *and* objective in my opinion, and there's nothing sensational about it ...

Richard: Ah, yes – but they're the old school, and a dying breed. Name a respected journalist under the age of fifty, then! ... [pause] you see, the youngsters are just bloodhounds enjoying the hunt.

Alice: Maybe they simply need time to mature. It's quite logical, after all, that someone older would be a better reporter as they have more experience to draw on. I think you're just cross because your hero might not be 'Mr Perfect Athlete'.

Richard: Well, I do admit I feel a little disappointed. Maybe I am overreacting a bit – but I reserve the right to remain dubious, until proven wrong that is ... which I won't be ... *(they laugh)*

Alice: That's what I like to see, an open mind. I wonder why you didn't go in for journalism yourself; you'd be pretty good you know – well, after the age of fifty ... when you reach maturity ... *(laugh again)*

PAUSE 10 seconds

Now you'll hear Part Four again.

TONE

REPEAT Part Four

PAUSE 5 seconds

That's the end of Part Four.

There'll now be a pause of five minutes for you to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. Be sure to follow the numbering of all the questions. I'll remind you when there is one minute left, so that you're sure to finish in time.

PAUSE 4 minutes

You have one more minute left.

PAUSE 1 minute

That's the end of the test. Please stop now. Your supervisor will now collect all the question papers and answer sheets.