
INTERNATIONAL GCSE

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Listening Paper Transcript

Time allowed: 45 minutes
(including 5 minutes' reading time before the test)

FOR INVIGILATOR'S USE ONLY

The pauses are pre-recorded for this test.

Instructions

This is what you should do for each item.

- After the question number is announced, there will be a pause to allow you to read the instructions and questions.
- Listen carefully to the recording and read the questions again.
- Listen to the recording again and then answer the questions.
- When the next question is about to start you will hear a bleep.
- You may write at any time during the test.
- Answer the questions in **English**.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided. Do not write on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Write neatly and put down all the information you are asked to give.
- **You must not ask questions or interrupt during the test.**
- You now have 5 minutes to read through the question paper. You may make notes during this time. You may open your answer book now.
- The test starts now.

Once the recording has started, the Invigilator must not pause it at any time as all pauses, including the 5 minutes' reading time, are pre-recorded.

Questions and answers in **English**.

Task 1

- 1 **F1** I'm going to a classical music concert this evening. I don't think I'll enjoy it as I prefer pop music. My friends all enjoy rock music and are going to a festival in the summer. I have decided to go with them instead of going on a holiday.
- 2 **M1** I'm buying a new phone as I have had this one for four years and its battery is awful. The new phone has three cameras and a much better internet speed. My contract will last for two years which is better than my current deal.
- 3 **F2** The fashion museum, just across this square, will be our final destination after our bus tour this afternoon. The library is just there, next to the park. There is an exhibition on Victorian authors at 10.00 am so we must hurry to get there now before it starts.
- 4 **M2** The next career presentation will take place in room 43 starting at 5pm. If you are interested in a career in education then this will help you understand how to apply. Please note that the room can only sit 60 people.

Task 2

- 5 **M1** Do we have basketball after school?
M2 Yes, I can't wait! We've been playing so well this month and I really need the fresh air. Thank goodness we stopped going to debate club as I needed a break from so much talking!
- 6 **M1** It will be better having our lunch times free again. It is such a short lunch break that we never had time for the debate club and getting some food.
M2 I agree. We will get to the canteen earlier so we'll get the hot meals now before they sell out – it's great how good the food is for a school!
- 7 **M1** How is your revision going for the exams? Will you come to the revision session tomorrow?
M2 Yes as my revision could be better. I am writing a lot of notes at home but can't remember them. I'm researching online to find tips to improve my memory.
- 8 **M1** My history teacher is fantastic at those kinds of tips. She plans really good activities to help us memorise key dates rather than just have us re-read our notes. These types of lessons help and are fun.
M2 My history teacher is too strict to do anything like that. It really helps make lessons great when the teacher is friendly.

Task 3

- 9 F1** I am lucky that now, in my forties, I still have some of the same friends that I did when I was a child. We are very close and have grown up together so there is a lot of understanding between us all. It's been wonderful to see the people they have become as adults, what career paths they have chosen and be a part of their families.
- 10 F1** Of course, I have still made new friends during college and my own career – some of whom I am in touch with still. You come to realise that some friendships are only meant to last for a specific time of your life, whilst others are there for the duration and not to get too worried about that. As you get older, you learn that it is the quality of friendships and not quantity that matter.
- 11 F1** Nowadays, the way we carry out friendships are very different; social media and technology has changed the way we communicate with each other with equally positive and negative effects. I miss how natural it was to catch up on the phone with a friend, as messaging is more common nowadays. However, being able to video call friends who live abroad is lovely.
- 12 F1** Next year, it is a big birthday for me and so I am planning to invite all my friends to a party. Some of us haven't been face-to-face for over five years and so it will be a reunion for us and a chance to meet some of their children too. One friend is flying home from Australia, but we are keeping it a surprise for the rest of our friends!

Task 4

- 13 M2** Have you always lived in Chicago?
F2 Growing up, I lived in the countryside and though it was beautiful, I often felt quite isolated and a bit bored. My school friends lived more than thirty miles away and so it was hard to spend time with them. That's probably why I now live in Chicago as an adult. I moved there when I was twenty and have lived there for fifteen years now.
- 14 M2** Well you must like it there in the windy city! What has kept you there for so long?
F2 At first when I moved there, I thought I hated it! It certainly lives up to its nickname and it just felt so noisy, crowded and big. But I soon found my feet and learnt where the non-tourist spots were to see the "proper" Chicago that were less busy. For me, I just love the culture: the obvious choices like the museums but also its history and people. The culture fascinates me every day.
- 15 M2** How do you like to spend your free time there?
F2 Browsing shops then meeting friends for some food is what I do a lot of the time. Last weekend, however, my brother came to visit. We went to the river after we had brunch. It's a great part of the city. We were going to go to the art gallery but as it was so warm, we stayed outdoors and went to watch the Cubs play baseball before going to a rooftop barbecue.
- 16 M2** Sounds lovely. As you have lived there, how have you seen the city change?
F2 I suppose like every city, it's got taller! Some people complain about the new buildings, but I like the way they have changed the skyline and brought new business. Unlike other cities when this happens, we have seen an increase in the use of bicycles for getting around which is important for keeping pollution lower. The food has always been well-known, but the diversity of food now is brilliant.

Turn over ►

Task 5

- 17 M1** Two years ago, if you had asked if I would ever run a marathon, I would have laughed in your face. Just having to jog down the road to catch the bus often left me out of breath and I avoided the gym if I could. Fitness, and running especially, just really weren't important to me.
- 18 M1** That spring, I watched the London Marathon and got a bit inspired. So, I started to go back to the gym and use the treadmills. I realised I didn't like running indoors so by the next year when it got warmer, I began running to my local park three times a week. And now, just one week ago, I ran my first marathon and it was one of the highlights of my life.
- 19 M1** It was a long uphill battle to get me marathon ready. Routine is the key. If I had a day off from running after work, then I would lose my motivation or would feel the progress I was making getting worse. Being able to run more than ten miles was really hard and I never thought I would get there but practice and patience soon helped. I hurt my ankle at one point and couldn't run for two weeks and recovering from that was extremely hard, but I got there in the end.
- 20 M1** The day of the marathon was a mixture of emotions. I was so nervous but being around the other runners and the atmosphere helped with that. Everyone was cheering each other on, and the crowd were fantastic but I found their shouting sometimes distracting. In the future I will listen to music to help drown their shouts out as I have found it helps me keep my head in the game.
- 21 M1** I have already signed up for two more marathons and am getting sponsored this time to donate to charity. I have now set up a running club to help other people, who were like me a couple of years ago, find their love for running. I teach them how to get from couch to marathon just like I did and how if I can do it, anyone can. If any of you are interested in joining, then please have a look on my website.

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