

FINAL EXAM

LISTENING

Task 1

You will hear people talking in five different situations. For questions 1-5, choose the best answer a, b or c.

1. Listen to this woman apologising for being late. Why was she late?
 - a. There was an accident.
 - b. She took the wrong bus.
 - c. The bus broke down.
2. You are sitting in a travel office when you hear a man talking to the travel agent. Why is the man changing his flight?
 - a. The original flight was cancelled.
 - b. He is looking for a cheaper flight.
 - c. He has to return earlier than he thought.
3. You are sitting in a university cafeteria and overhear a man speaking. What does the man think about his boss's last decision?
 - a. He agrees with it.
 - b. He disagrees with it.
 - c. He has no opinion about it.
4. You are walking past a large hall when you hear a man talking. Who is the man talking to?
 - a. A group of actors.
 - b. An orchestra.
 - c. A group of singers.
5. Listen to this woman speaking about her schooldays. Who is she talking about?
 - a. A school teacher.
 - b. Her father
 - c. Another student

(___/10)

Task 2

You will hear five different people talking about holidays they had. For speakers 1-5, choose from the list A-F which kind of holiday each person had. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| a. a week on the beach | Speaker 1 |
| b. a cycling holiday | Speaker 2 |
| c. mountain climbing | Speaker 3 |
| d. a walking tour | Speaker 4 |
| e. a camping holiday | Speaker 5 |
| f. a boating holiday | |

(___/10)

READING

Task 1

Read the following newspaper article and answer the questions by choosing the right option. For questions 1-10 choose the best answer: A, B, C, or D. Give one answer only to each question. Read the text right through before choosing your answer.

Secrets of Taking Your Way to the Top

You could be one of those lucky people who seem to be naturally good at public speaking. It is unlikely that you were born with this ability. Great speakers are instinctive and inspired. They also prepare well, learn performance techniques and draw heavily on experience to develop their skills.

What passes for a natural ease and rapport with the audience is often down to technique – the speaker using learned skills so well that we can't see the 'seams'

Body Language

You can learn to speak effectively in public by going on courses and reading manuals. But there is no substitute for getting out and doing it. If you dislike speaking in public, then take every opportunity to do so – even if you only start off by asking questions at the PTA meeting.

When you speak in public, almost all the aspects that make up your total image come under scrutiny. Your posture, body language, facial expression, use of voice and appearance all matter.

The situation is often stressful, because the speaker is being observed and judged by others. Small quirks, like speaking too quietly or wriggling, which are not particularly noticeable in everyday communication, become intrusive and exaggerated in front of an audience.

Stereotypes

It is hardly surprising, then, that some of us feel it is easier to pretend to be somebody else when we are speaking in public. We assume a ‘public speaking image’ that has nothing to do with our real selves.

We sense that speaking in public is connected to acting and also we portray stereotypical roles like ‘the super-smooth sales person’, ‘the successful superwoman’. Unfortunately, if we don’t really feel like these types, then we will look as though we are striving for effect.

For instance, you could decide that you want to play the life and soul of the party when we speak, although in actuality, you are a rather quiet person who rarely uses humour. You read that humour works well in public speaking so you decide to tell a few jokes.

You look ill at ease when you do so and your timing leaves a lot to be desired. You talk misfires badly. You will not have been true to yourself and your audience will have been reluctant to trust you. You need to find your own style.

The most skilled actors use their own feelings and experiences to help them inhabit character. As public speaker, you have more scope than most actors – you have your own script, direction and interpretation to follow. You can even rearrange the set and choose the costume if you like.

The most successful speakers are obviously projecting an image but one that rings true. They project the best aspects of themselves – ‘edited highlight’. The serious quiet person will project serenity and consideration for others. The outrageous extravert will use humour and shock tactics. Speaking in public is a performance and one in which you present a heightened version of your personality.

To speak well, there needs to be a balance of impact between speaker, message and audience. If one of these elements overpowers the other two, say if the speaker is over-concerned to project personality, or the message is rammed home without due regard for the type of audience, or the speaker allows him or herself to be thrown by a noisy crowd – then the performance will suffer.

Image

Your image helps maintain the balance. If you get up to speak dressed like a Christmas tree, then your appearance will be overpowering. Delivering your message in an overstressed and, therefore, over-significant tone of voice, will encourage your audience to switch off. When you start to speak, if your body language and facial expression remind the audience of a frightened rabbit, then you won’t gain its confidence.

The biggest block to effective public speaking is attitude. If you think you can’t and you never will be able to, you won’t. Speaking in public is something anyone can learn to do. Be positive and accept setbacks as part of the learning process.

1. The author says that the best public speakers

- A. are professional actors.
- B. go on learning from the talks they give.
- C. feel naturally at ease with people.
- D. don’t need to plan their talks in advance

2. The author’s main advice to the beginners is to

- A. attend a course on public speaking
- B. ask good speakers for advice
- C. get as much practice as possible
- D. study other speakers’ performances

3. According to the article your appearance

- A. is the most important for public speeches
- B. should be neat and clean
- C. is only one part of the total
- D. should be checked completely before your performance

4. Some speakers pretend to be someone else because

- A. they feel less self-conscious.
- B. they don’t want to be recognized
- C. they’ve been advised to
- D. they enjoy acting

5. This approach(to pretend to be someone else) is not recommended because

- A. it will make the audience laugh.
- B. it is likely to look false.
- C. it can make the talk last too long.
- D. the audience will complain.

6. The idiom ‘to be the life and soul of the party’ means

- A. to be quiet and calm
- B. to be extravert and very social
- C. to be a religious person
- D. to be a regular party-goer

7. The best speakers

- A. use visual aids.
- B. tell stories and jokes.
- C. learn the script of their talks by heart.
- D. present their most positive characteristics.

8. The author warns against

- A. being too emphatic in what you say
- B. getting into arguments with the audience.
- C. making the audience feel nervous.
- D. wearing coloured clothing.

9. The author uses the expressions ‘a frightened rabbit’ in order to

- A. sound more suggestive
- B. warn the speaker against using ecological issues
- C. illustrate better facial expression
- D. provide the example of dress code

10. Overall, the author’s message is that public speaking is

- A. something few people can do.
- B. the most frightening thing you can do.
- C. a talent many people have naturally
- D. a skill that can be developed.

(___/10)

Task 2

You are going to read a text from which certain phrases have been removed. Choose from the options provided below the text which phrase fits each gap. There is one phrase you do not need.

CHANGES IN LIFE EXPECTANCY
Men will soon live longer than women

Men could be about to win the lifelong battle of the sexes – or at least draw even. Experts say that adult males will soon have the same life expectancy as females for the first time since records began.

By the time today’s 12-year-old boys reach 30, they can expect to live to a month or so over 87 – matching the lifespan of the girls **(1)**..... Younger boys in England and Wales might even outlive their female classmates, an adviser to the Office for National Statistics has predicted.

(2).....are the weaker sex in terms of life expectancy, with boys more likely than girls to perish in the womb and men dying earlier than women as adults. In Victorian times, the gap was relatively narrow but a steady increase in male smokers meant **(3)**..... by 1970 – the biggest gap since records began in 1841. Although the gap has since narrowed, other animal species show a similar discrepancy, and **(4)**..... that underlying genetic factors left men condemned to an earlier grave.

But Professor Leslie Mayhew, a statistician at City University, London, believes that the tide is turning. **(5)**..... the shift away from macho lifestyles towards the healthier approach more traditionally favoured by women was bringing with it the gift of longer life. Fewer men smoke, lung cancer rates have plummeted and heart attacks, while up to three times more common in men than in women, **(6)**.....

The professor told the Sunday Times: ‘There has been a huge decline in the numbers working in heavy industry; far fewer males smoke than before and there is much better treatment for heart disease, which tends to affect more males than females.’ Professor Mayhew’s research, to be published by City University’s Cass Business School, differs from the official forecast. **(7)**....., has worked out that a boy born in 2000 will, from the age of 30, have the same life expectancy as **(8)**.....

But the Office for National Statistics estimates there will still be a gap of three and a half years. It insisted yesterday that many factors must be taken into account when making long-term projections and it is happy with its data. Professor Mayhew’s

When the day finally arrives, it becomes (5) _____ to drive in the city because the streets are really crowded with local people, (6) _____ from other nearby towns and even some tourists. The whole town appears (7) _____ and chaotic. People dress up in (8) _____ costumes, young people stay out all night with their friends and it is quite normal to see people who are (9) _____ quiet and respectable dancing in the streets. For me, the firework displays are the most (10) _____ part.

POSSIBLE
VISIT
ORGANIZE
TRADITION
USUAL
IMPRESS

(___/10)

WRITING

Write an answer to one of the questions 1-3 in this part. Write your answer in 140-180 words in an appropriate style.

1. You have decided to enter a competition in response to the advertisement below:

YOUR CHANCE TO BUILD THE HOUSE OF YOUR DREAMS!
DESCRIBE THE HOUSE OF YOUR DREAMS, AND YOU MAY WIN UP TO HALF THE COST OF BUILDING IT.

Write your composition for the competition.

2. Should people be allowed to have cosmetic surgery before the age of eighteen – write an argumentative essay.

3. Write a film review about a film you would recommend people to buy on DVD.

(___/20)

ANSWER KEY

LISTENING

Task 1

1. A 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. A

Task 2

1. f 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b

READING

Task 1

1. b 2. c 3. c 4. a 5. b 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. d

Task 1

1. h 2. d 3. f 4. a 5. k 6. b 7. e 8. g 9. c 10. j

USE OF ENGLISH

Task 1

1. a 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. c 6. c 7. b 8. a 9. c 10. b

Task 2

1. exciting	6. visitors
2. arrangements	7. disorganized
3. activities	8. traditional
4. participants	9. usually
5. impossible	10. impressive

LISTENING SCRIPTS

Task 1

Extract 1

I'm terribly sorry I'm late. I don't know why this always happens to me. I'm never able to get anywhere on time. Even if I leave myself plenty of time, I'll do something wrong, like take the wrong bus. But anyway, this time it's really not my fault. There was a terribly long traffic jam on the motorway. We found out later that a car had overturned, though by the time we got there they'd cleared everything.

Extract 2

A: Hello. You left a message in my office saying that you needed to talk to me.

B: Oh, yes. Hello. I'm afraid the airline called and apparently there weren't enough people on the flight, and what they've done is, they're not doing the early flight and they've put the passengers from that flight onto the later flight, which gets you in at nine thirty.

A: But that's too late. I have to be at a meeting at nine.

B: Yes, I'm sorry, but that's what happens with cheap flights.

A: Is there no earlier flight than that?

B: Well, I can look for flights on other airlines, but I checked for someone else this morning and all the seats available were much more expensive.

A: Well, I'll have to take the later flight then, won't I?

Extract 3

You know what happened? I showed him the questions and he said, 'Can you add more questions so that the students have more choice?' So off I went and added two more questions, one for each topic. And then I go in there and we agree on the questions. And after half an hour he comes back to me and says, 'I've decided that they should only have to write three out of the six, two on one topic and one on the other.' Can you believe it? And frankly, I mean, he can do whatever he likes, but I couldn't tell him what I really thought, could I?

Extract 4

Right, that was very nice. I liked the way you did the beginning. But you all have to look up – don't forget that you're performing to an audience, and the audience want to see your eyes. The second point is that you've got to think of the meaning of what you're going. There are words here – they have meaning, and the meaning of the words is what gives the whole performance its meaning. If we can't understand the words, then we might as well just have the orchestra playing your line. So can we do it again, looking up, and with meaning?

Extract 5

Well, when I won the competition to go abroad as an exchange student, it was considered an honour and I thought he was being very supportive. And only later I learnt that he'd actually advised my parents against letting me go. He said that I was having trouble as it was, and I would have great difficulties making up for the material that I would miss. And he was right. But when I had problems later because of the time I'd been away – in fact I nearly failed one subject – he helped me a lot, he intervened and talked to the headmaster and they let me do the exams again.

Task 2

Speaker 1

Oh, it was absolutely wonderful! We started at Maidenhead and then we spent a whole week going through the most gorgeous countryside. There are some wonderful villages on the way, on both sides. Every night we'd sleep somewhere else. We'd get off and put up a tent in a field. It took us about four days, really, from Maidenhead to Lechlade and then three days back from Lechlade to Maidenhead because of the currents. You know, it takes longer when you're sailing upstream, against the current. And... oh... we went through some really wonderful unspoilt scenery on the way – very, very beautiful, very calm, very relaxing. It was one of the most wonderful holidays I've ever had.

Speaker 2

Well, the area is still relatively unspoilt, with beautiful mountains. What we did was, we left our car at one spot, at a youth hostel, and we walked from one youth hostel to the next, walking around the country from one place to another. There was always another youth hostel within walking distance. Although the area is on the whole mountainous, we didn't really actually have to climb any mountains because the routes are quite... well, let's put it this way – you don't want to and because I'm not really good at that, we didn't. So even for someone my age it was quite easy.

Speaker 3

Oh, I loved it. I really love the feeling of not having to do anything, just get up in the morning, go for a quick swim, then come back and have breakfast at the hotel, maybe go for a short walk, come back and lie in the sun a bit till lunch. and the wonderful thing is that there's no pollution. You don't get these terrible creatures in the water that you get in other places and you don't come back from your morning swim feeling all oily and greasy because the water's polluted. Wonderful place. Definitely recommended.

Speaker 4

You know, the scenery was really rewarding. I mean, I've been doing this for years now, and mostly it has been the physical achievement. I would train incredibly hard; places did not exist for themselves, they existed for the challenge, the battle with nature, and the technical expertise of handling the ropes and the equipment. It was really centered on myself – I am doing this. But this time it was different. I would get to the top and I would look down all round and think, 'Wow, what a marvellous view!'

Speaker 5

I was a bit worried at the beginning. It's true that I'd been keeping fit and jogging so that I would be able to do it. Most of the people in your group were much younger than me and I thought I wouldn't be able to keep with them. They would all be overtaking me and speeding way ahead. I had these terrible visions of having a flat tyre and having to repair it, of being left behind by everyone else, all alone. But in the end it turned out that we were all more or less at the same level and we really had a great time.