LanguageCert

General Test (Listening, Reading)

Test 3

Tapescript

R: Listening Part One

(2 seconds)

R: You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation.

(10 seconds)

R: Conversation One

(2 seconds)

F: Sales are up this month, have you seen?
M: Yes, it's great news, isn't it?
F: Perhaps the better weather is helping.

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation One

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation One]

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Two

(2 seconds)

M: How long have you worked here?
F: Just under six months.
M: Is it really that long? You'll probably be offered a permanent contract soon.

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Two

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Two]

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Three

(2 seconds)

M: I see Miguel arrived thirty minutes late again this morning.
F: I didn't actually notice, to be honest.
M: I wonder if the boss knows what's going on….

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Three

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Three]

(5 seconds)

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R: Conversation Four

(2 seconds)

F: The train's busy today. We were lucky to get seats.
M: Yes, some people are having to stand up.
F: There's a coffee shop on the train, I think – I really fancy a drink

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Four

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Four]

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Five

(2 seconds)

M: That's a really nice necklace – is it new?
F: Yeah, I was twenty-five yesterday – it was a present from my parents.
M: Oh, sorry – I didn't even wish you a happy birthday.

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Five

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Five]

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Six

(2 seconds)

F: Have you heard that Adam's decided to leave the club?
M: But he's one of our best players.
F: I tried convincing him not to, but I didn't get anywhere.

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Six

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Six]

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Seven

(2 seconds)

F: How did the job interview go?
M: Extremely well, I think, but there were apparently seven other candidates.
F: Well, I'm sure you've got as good a chance as any of them, if not better.

(5 seconds)

R: Conversation Seven

(2 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Seven]

(10 seconds)

R: That is the end of Part One.

R: Listening Part Two.

(2 seconds)

R: You will hear five conversations. Listen to the conversations and answer the questions. Choose the correct answer. You will hear each conversation twice.

(2 seconds)

R: Conversation One

(2 seconds)

R: You hear two colleagues talking about their new manager.

(15 seconds)

F: So, what do you think of the new manager?
M: Pretty good so far. I love the way she just lets us get on with our work without feeling the need to tell us what we should be doing all the time.
F: Me too.
M: She doesn't just give us answers to the problems we discuss in meetings, she lets us give our own opinions. Then she says why she likes or doesn't like our ideas. We'll see what happens when really difficult choices need to be made, but I imagine she'll be good at that too.
F: We'll see! What I do find a bit strange is how she ended up at an international bank when she's spent her whole career in the finance department of a large supermarket.
M: I suppose the skills you need aren't too different. It's all about making sure everything adds up and that you follow rules on tax and things.
F: I suppose so.

(10 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation One]

(2 seconds)

R: Conversation Two

(2 seconds)

R: You hear a student talking to a college librarian.

(15 seconds)

F: Can I help you?
M: I've just started my course recently, so I'm still getting used to everything…
F: Right…
M: Well, I finally found the bookshelves relating to my course, so I've got what I need for now, but it just seems so noisy in here. Most students seem to be discussing work together, so I wondered if there was an area for silent study anywhere, with or without computers, cos' I've no real need to get online.
F: Sure. You'll find what you're looking on the top floor.
M: Great – thanks. And just for future reference, can I get access to academic websites here? They're really expensive if you have to set up your own account.
F: Of course. Which ones are you looking for?
M: Well, I'm starting a project on ways of reducing plastic waste entering the oceans soon, so wanted to do some research into what's being done to help deal with the problem.
F: I can give you a list of websites that might help, along with the login details.
M: Thanks. I'm sure their sites have got good search facilities – most do.

(10 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Two]

(2 seconds)

R: Conversation Three

(2 seconds)

R: You hear two college students talking about presentations they're each preparing.

(15 seconds)

F: How's your presentation going?
M: Pretty well, but I need a hand with something.
F: Oh?
M: Yeah, I've got the content sorted – by chance, I found this website with an incredible amount of stuff on it, and all of it relates directly to the topic. The only thing is, I couldn't decide what to leave out, so I could use some help with choosing. I've made sure the grammar and vocabulary are up to standard, so we can just focus on what needs doing.
F: Sure, no problem.
M: Great, thanks! So, have you finished preparing yours?
F: Yeah, but I'm worried about actually giving the presentation. I've read that the best technique is to look directly at the audience, rather than trying to pretend they're not there, so I'm going to do that. But I have nightmares about not remembering the key points I want to make. If I can get through the main part of the presentation without missing anything out, I'll be happy, and won't care if people ask me challenging things about what I've said at the end.

(10 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Three]

(2 seconds)

R: Conversation Four

(2 seconds)

R: You hear two friends talking about building an electric guitar.

(15 seconds)

M: I can't wait to get going on this guitar…
F: Me neither, but we can't even buy the wood until we know the shape and thickness of the instrument. We don't want to spend far more than we need on a huge block of extremely expensive tropical hardwood, only then to decide we'd like a nice slim, small-bodied guitar which only uses half of it.
M: I still think we should just copy a classic one from the nineteen-sixties.
F: Well, I'm for originality rather than taking that approach. Anyway, we'll need to decide soon.
M: I know. How hard do you think it'll be to put together?
F: I've made a fair amount of furniture in the past, so I think getting the wood into the form we want should be reasonably straightforward. It's adding the colour afterwards that's giving me sleepless nights. I've heard is close to impossible to get it smooth. There's a ton of advice online about attaching the volume controls and so on to each other, so we needn't get too stressed out about that.
M: Right.

(10 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Four]

(2 seconds)

R: Conversation Five

(2 seconds)

R: You hear two colleagues talking about some online management training they've just done.

(15 seconds)

F: I got lots from that training on managing people.
M: Me too, although I'm a bit of a traditionalist, so I had my doubts about doing a course online through an app.

F: Really?

M: Yeah, I mean, it made sense that we'd be handing in all the coursework via the internet – that's not so different to the secure software systems we have here for transferring confidential files between offices and departments. But we're social animals that need to physically be with other people, so I thought the people on the course would just sit there staring silently at each other - that couldn't have been further from the truth.

F: That's right. The course was really useful in showing me I'm not quite as good at people management as I thought. I have a tendency to assume guilt and direct blame too readily when employees have messed up, without finding out the true reasons behind their actions. I'm sure I'd be far less harsh on them if I did, and there wouldn't be so much tension created as a result – as they pointed out on the course.

M: Yeah. That bit was good.

(10 seconds)

[REPEAT Conversation Five]

(2 seconds.)

R: That is the end of Part Two.

R: Listening Part Three.

(2 seconds)

R: You hear a presentation about an environmental organisation called the Clean River Group.

(2 seconds)

R: Complete the information on the notepad. Write short answers of one to three words. You will hear the presentation twice. You have thirty seconds to look at the notepad.

(30 seconds)

[beep]

F: Hi everyone, my name's Naomi Gallagher and I represent a local charitable organisation called the Clean River Group. I'm hoping some of you will want to become involved in the work of the group after my presentation today.

The group was set up in 1988, not by an environmental scientist, as you perhaps might imagine, but by a hairdresser, who'd become fed up of seeing piles of rubbish by the local river as he drove to and from his salon.

The group has many different aims. The primary one, as you'd probably guess, is collecting any rubbish from the river itself and from the land alongside it. Anything natural close to the water, such as dead leaves, is left where it's found, with the exception of fallen trees, which can block the flow of the river and contribute to flooding. We call in professional help, if needs be, to get rid of them.

We also aim to provide services to several local institutions, passing on important data about the river and the local environment to them. Any rare animal species we happen to notice are photographed if possible and details sent to the zoology department of the local university, while the council is informed immediately about any pollution we spot coming down the river.

So how can you all get involved? Well, the easiest way is to join one of our river clean-up sessions – they're great fun and a good way to meet new people. These used to take place once a month, but thanks to the large number of volunteers we're getting these days, there's now just two weeks between each one, so if you've just missed a session, you won't have long to wait before the next one.

At the clean-up sessions, snacks to keep our energy levels up are provided by a local supermarket that sponsors our work, and there's always plenty of drinking water, which we bring in our van to wherever we're working. We ask volunteers to come with their own gardening gloves, and those specifically rather than any other sort. They're expensive and we need to keep our costs down, so that's why we don't provide them.

We find and pick up a huge amount, and a huge range, of litter. People sometimes ask what kinds of litter we find most often. Well, plastic bags are high on the list, as you'd probably imagine but paper cups are actually at the top, just above drinks cans. Numbers of plastic bottles are actually on the decline, thanks to many people now preferring to carry refillable ones.

We're always looking to team up with other charities if we can help each other in any way. In recent times, for example, we've formed links with one that increases fish populations in areas of fresh water where there are very few. We're hoping to announce formal ties with a body called RiverAid soon, which tests water quality. The data it gathers is then used in its many campaigns to fight for cleaner river systems.

(10 seconds)

[REPEAT Part 3]

(10 seconds.)

R: That is the end of Part Three.

R: Listening Part Four.

(2 seconds)

R: You will hear a podcast discussion on the subject of urban living. You will hear the discussion twice.

(2 seconds)

R: Choose the correct answers. You have one minute to read through the questions below.

(1 minute)

[beep]

F: Welcome to this week's podcast with me, Violetta Kallis. With me today I have David Bushell, an expert in city planning. David, welcome.

M: Hi.

F: With around a million people estimated to be moving into cities each week globally, can there ever be any hope of housing them all, David?

M: Whether people like skyscrapers or not, as planners we should use the advances we've made in construction techniques to build even higher upwards – we just don't have the space to continue going outwards. Additionally, in many of the cities that I'm familiar with, a large proportion of apartments are intended for between one and six people. Creating some which can accommodate ten to fifteen friends, for example, would be a much better use of space, but there are currently very few of those.

F: Hmm, interesting point. Increasing the space allotted to parks and gardens is often seen as a must in city planning, but existing ones can hardly be made bigger as they already have buildings all around them.

M: That's right, but there are means of joining them all together using things like soil beds for plants and small trees that run down the sides of city streets.

F: Which increases their size overall without needing to expand each individual park – clever! And what I think's also worth considering is getting architects to integrate window boxes and roof gardens into their plans for buildings.

M: Yes, and getting the people who live there involved in looking after them.

F: Also the city's buses, trains and trams and so on have to be taken into account too.

M: Of course. Take the city where I live, for example. If you work in the financial quarter or main shopping district, you have regular underground trains, trams and buses to get you there, most of which are practically new. The suburbs, though, especially the newer ones, are nowhere near train stations. And buses on the one or two routes through them might come every ten minutes or so, but there's unlikely going to be a stop within a short walk of where you live.

F: So not ideal then.

M: No, far from it. Another thorny issue is getting rid of all the rubbish produced in cities.

F: It is. I'd like to see more investment in green technology. That would allow money to be made from it. Once that's in place, entrepreneurs will take over and what's currently a headache is converted into something hugely positive. I mean, every home in the city could be heated and supplied with electricity that's generated through the controlled burning of waste, scrubbing out any harmful gases, of course. Residents' utility bills go down too, so everyone's happy.

M: Nice idea! Actually, I read a really interesting article about South Korea the other day, - you know, about the capital Seoul.

F: Oh yeah?

M: Like most of the world's big cities, Seoul's grown enormously in recent years.

F: I guess so.

M: But the authorities have taken a highly active and integrated role in that, making sure that any progress takes nature into account, promotes the shared use of public and private resources, repurposes disused buildings effectively, and so on. It's an approach that metropolitan areas

elsewhere would do well to imitate. It's shot up to near the top of the list of the best cities to live in worldwide.

F: That's amazing.

M: So, what are your thoughts on de-centralising cities?

F: The idea of having a set of centres spread across a metropolitan area will certainly help to divide up wealth and access to opportunities amongst inhabitants more fairly. It'd be fascinating to explore local people's opinions – perhaps research needs to be done in this area? It might well force cities to spread into surrounding farmland, though, and we need all the space we can get to grow crops.

M: True.

(5 seconds)

[beep]

[REPEAT Part Four]

(10 seconds.)

R: That is the end of Part Four.