

IELTS
TEST 1

LISTENING Section 1

▶ Questions 1–7

Step 1

- 1 A 2 A 3 A 4 B (zipcode) or D (postcode)
5 A or D 6 A 7 B

Step 2 (Test Questions 1–7)

It will be assumed that you know to use capital letters to begin names of people and places.

- 1 Answer: Martin**
Note The first name is not spelt out as it is a reasonably common name. It is mentioned earlier in the conversation also.
- 2 Answer: Hartley**
Note The guest's surname is spelt out because it is not common. It is also mentioned earlier in the conversation and the distinction between *t* and *d* is made clear.
- 3 Answer: Carlisle Way**
Note The first part of the street name is spelt out, and repeated, because you would not be expected to know it. The receptionist helps you by asking for the spelling and the guest points out that the *S* is not pronounced. The second part of the street name is not spelt out as you should know it.
- 4 Answer: LW4 6RU**
Note The post code is given clearly. In some recordings there may be a distracter for example someone gets a letter or number wrong and the speaker corrects him or her.
- 5 Answer: hartleynitram**
Note Email addresses are long so you are only required to write part of the address. You must make sure you write only the characters that are missing from the notes. The name is repeated and explained, and you are told that it is all one word. Email addresses are usually written in lower case, but the speaker clarifies that to make sure you do not use capital letters.
- 6 Answer: passport**
Note The term *ID type* is not actually heard but you can understand that the receptionist wants the passport for this purpose. Earlier in the conversation, the receptionist says that she will need a passport number as a form of ID.
- 7 Answer: 16**
Note Short numbers like this will not usually be repeated. It is common to check that you can distinguish between numbers that sound very similar – 13 and 30, 14 and 40 and so on. The fact that the room is on the first floor might help you decide that it is 16 rather than 60 if you are in doubt.

▶ Questions 8–10

Step 3

C is correct because it is *just before* the museum if you come from the airport. D is *just after* the museum if you come from this direction.

Step 4 (Test Questions 8–10)

- 8 Answer: C**
Note See answer to Step 3 above. The guest thinks that he passed the museum earlier but the receptionist corrects him and at the same time provides the answer for question 9.
- 9 Answer: A**
Note The guest gives the location of the gallery: 'just after we went through that big square you mentioned' but you must listen carefully as he thinks that was the museum. The receptionist clarifies by saying: 'That's actually an art gallery'.
- 10 Answer: G**
Note The guest makes clear that you are to start listening for the location of the conference centre. You hear the receptionist say: 'Just cross over the road and go straight down ...' so you know that you are to follow the directions and choose between F, G and H. You are looking at the map upside down and you need to recognise which way is left and which way is right. The receptionist says: '...you just have to go right ...' and option G is the only option on the right.

LISTENING Section 2

▶ Questions 11–14

Step 1

Allotment will almost certainly be an unfamiliar word, but it comes directly before *gardening* so you can deduce that it might be a type of gardening. The word is explained at the start of the recording.

Reading the notes will help you to understand that:

- allotment gardens are bigger than conventional gardens and people can grow more.
- allotments provide social interaction and exercise.
- people must pay to have an allotment.
- allotments have an environmental benefit.

All answers here will be nouns. Many gaps in a note completion task will require nouns but other parts of speech are possible.

Step 2 (Test Questions 11–14)

- 11 Answer: social backgrounds**
Note See guidance given in Step 3
- 12 Answer: gym**
Note See guidance given in Step 3
- 13 Answer: green space**
Note The notes are worded more simply and concisely than you hear on the recording. Active language becomes passive in the notes. 'Urban areas' paraphrases 'clogged up towns and cities' and 'wildlife' paraphrases 'wild plants, birds, insects and occasionally bigger animals.'
- 14 Answer: pollution**
Note The underlined part of the audio script below leads you towards the answer which is provided at the end of the sentence. 'What's more, locally grown food doesn't have to be transported long distances, and that helps to reduce road traffic and hence **pollution**.'

▶ Questions 15–17

Step 1

benefit / bonus / perk

Step 3 (Test Questions 15–17)

15 Answer: superior flavour

16 Answer: range

17 Answer: organic

Note Study the audio script below. Notice the words and phrases which paraphrase *advantage*. Notice how the underlined sentences lead you towards answers or reinforce answers.

'So, why is 'grow your own' so good? Well, to start with there's the superior flavour. Food you've grown yourself tastes infinitely better than anything bought in the supermarket because it will be super-fresh. Another point in its favour is the **range**. These days, gardeners are growing an amazing variety of vegetables on their allotments. *Finally* there's the bonus of knowing that the produce you've grown is organic. You know that what you're eating wasn't grown on an industrial scale farm or sprayed with large amounts of pesticides.

▶ Questions 18–20

Step 2

Yes – item G, a vegetable bed, is the answer to the first question.

Step 3 (Test Questions 18–20)

18 Answer: G

Note The speaker mentions both *flower beds* and *vegetable beds* but makes clear that there are two flower beds and that the vegetable bed (opposite) is larger.

19 Answer: C

Note There is a low glass house in the vegetable bed but you can ignore that as it is not given a letter. The speaker says that some allotments have a larger glass house and then provides the answer by saying: 'Here you can see one of those at the front near the gate'.

20 Answer: A

Note The compost bin is shaped like a pond and the speaker talks about ponds. You must be careful not to be led into thinking that A is a pond.

LISTENING Section 3

▶ Questions 21–24

Step 1

Course and *study* are key words that help you know something about the topic. *Be afraid of* in the final question suggests that the speakers will talk about plans or future events. Questions 21 and 23 require the names of courses. Question 22 requires the name of a city or town.

Step 2 (Test Questions 21–24)

21 Answer: illustration

Note See guidance given in Step 2. Note that *illustration* is a word that could easily be misspelled.

22 Answer: Birmingham

Note See guidance given in Step 2. Note that you will be expected to know the spelling of *major cities*.

23 Answer: foundation

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

24 Answer: rejection

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

Step 3

Question 24

- 1 a *fear of* and *scared of* paraphrase *be afraid of*.
- 2 *Being rejected* is not a correct answer because the instruction is to use only one word.

▶ Questions 25–30

Step 2

- 1 Tutor: 'For every artist making a living, there are twenty living on the breadline'.
- 2 Mark: 'Apart from the actual fees, there are all the living expenses. Students are running up at least a £30,000 debt ...'
- 3 Lily: 'this studio ... I take it that'll be free, then? If you're contemplating working in Paris or Prague, won't that cost practically the same over three years?'
- 4 No, he doesn't.

Step 3 (Test Questions 26–30)

25 Answer: C

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

26 Answer: B

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

27 Answer: C

Note The language in the question is paraphrased in three ways: 'Art schools put on end of year exhibitions and influential people are regularly coming in.... Your work is showcased in a way...'

28 Answer: A

Note Mark introduces the point he will make: 'I often feel almost guilty when I tell people I'm studying art' and then says the line that provides the answer: 'I see this look on their face, as though they think I should be doing something more useful.'

29 Answer: C

Note The tutor paraphrases the language in the question: '... being at art school exposes you to critical appraisal. Perhaps the most essential function of further education is the constant feedback and constructive criticism.'

30 Answer: B

Note Lily introduces the point she will make: 'Yes, we all know artists who paint as a hobby' and then says the line that provides the answer: 'They think they're experts and wonder why other people haven't recognised their talents.'

LISTENING Section 4

► Questions 31–35

Step 1

Laughter is the noun from the verb *laugh*. *Therapy* will probably be an unfamiliar word but *psychological* coming directly before it should help. Reading the summary will help you understand that *therapy* means something similar to *treatment* and that laughter is not usually associated with psychological therapy.

Step 3 (Test Questions 31–35)

31 Answer: serious

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

32 Answer: humour

Note The lecturer asks, '... how is it that laughter can be such a vital part of the therapy process?' and then provides the answer: 'It's normally identified with humour ...' The phrase 'identified with' paraphrases 'related to' in the summary.

33 Answer: healing process

Note The answer is given: 'Perhaps this is why so many people in the medical world feel that laughter's frequently misunderstood and undervalued as a cathartic healing process.' Active language rephrased as passive language and vice versa is very common in the listening test.

34 Answer: response

Note The answer is given: '... process that releases emotional pain, it follows that stress, anxiety and tension may prompt the same response.' 'Be triggered' in the summary paraphrases 'prompt' in the lecture. 'Negative feelings' in the summary condenses 'stress, anxiety and tension' in the lecture.

35 Answer: be shocked

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

► Questions 36–40

Step 1

Question 36

The lecturer mentions the options in this order.

1 B 2 C 3 A

Step 2

Question 36

Option A

- 1 '... the body will keep discharging pain cathartically until there's no longer a need.'
- 2 yes 3 something will go on for however long is necessary

Option B

- 1 'It's specific to the release of anger, fear and boredom.'
- 2 yes
- 3 yes

Option C

- 1 'The amount of pain the body releases during a single burst of laughter is immeasurable ...'
- 2 yes
- 3 immeasurable
- 4 no

The correct option is B.

Step 3

Question 37

- 1 'during our early years'
- 2 that it is something to avoid
- 3 People have more respect for other people who do not express strong emotions.
- 4 No – it means the opposite.
- 5 'prolongs'
- 6 something else – it is NOT losing self-control that can make negative feelings last longer.

The correct option is A.

Step 4 (Test Questions 36–40)

36 Answer: B

Note See guidance given in Step 2.

37 Answer: A

Note See guidance given in Step 3.

38 Answer: C

Note The lecturer suggests A when she says that 'emotions are stored in the body rather than the mind'. She also suggest option B when she says that: 'Laughter is probably the least threatening cathartic process'. The correct answer is C because she says that laughing is 'a stepping stone to other forms of emotional release' NOT that laughing replaces them.

39 Answer: B

Note The answer is given: 'Traditionally, mental health practitioners have viewed laughter as a way of hiding painful emotion. In contrast, cathartic psychotherapy understands that laughter releases emotion.' The view described in the sentence challenges the view described in the first. A is incorrect – the lecturer doesn't say that the medical professions should encourage patients to understand the seriousness of their conditions. Option C is incorrect – the lecturer's overall message is that doctors should encourage patients to laugh.

40 Answer: C

Note The lecturer emphasises that laughter can change the way people see things; not their circumstances. The key line is: 'It enables them to take a different view, a view from which terrible misfortune can seem so much more bearable.' Later the line 'Life's most tragic events often have an essence of absurdity, and this can be the trigger point for laughter' reinforces the point. Be careful that you don't choose B as your answer because you hear *control* – the lecturer talk about what people cannot control; not what they can.