



هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب
Education & Training Quality Authority

English – Grade 12

Listening

Practice Items

- Sample of Practice Items -

Part 1

You will hear a series of four short extracts.

For each extract there are two questions.

Choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Click on the speaker icon to listen to the recording. You may listen to it more than once.

Example

You hear a man talking about winning a competition.

0 What kind of child was the speaker?

- A** He was jealous.
- B** He was lonely.
- C** He was shy.

Who inspired the speaker to develop his talent?

- A** his father
- B** his teacher
- C** his friend

– Sample of Practice Items –

Extract 1

You hear a man talking about a holiday adventure in Botswana.

1 What did the man find surprising about hippos?

- A their amazing speed
- B their scary sweat
- C their strange sleep habits

2 The hippo became angry because it thought that

- A its baby was threatened.
- B its home was threatened.
- C its life was threatened.

Extract 2 

You hear a radio presenter talking about a man called Paul Joan out of chocolate.

3 Paul is different from other chocolate artists because of

- A his amazing pace in creating chocolate sculptures.
- B his special skill in making chocolate objects.
- C his extensive use of luxury chocolate.

4 How does Paul feel about his chocolate events?

- A He is satisfied with his guests' reaction.
- B He is interested to earn more money.
- C He is keen to attract a bigger audience.

- Sample of Practice Items -

Extract 3

You hear a headmistress talking about the advantages of uniforms.

5 Parents prefer uniforms which help students to

- A get used to dressing formally for work.
- B be relaxed when they are at school.
- C express themselves as individuals.

6 What is the main advantage of wearing a school uniform?

- A It improves students' security.
- B It strengthens students' identity.
- C It develops students' pride.

Extract 4

You hear a man talking about going back to college.

7 Why did the man decide to go back to college?

- A to get a new job
- B to improve a work skill
- C to earn a deserved promotion

8 What is the main difficulty the man thinks he will face?

- A not seeing his family very often
- B not being able to afford his studies
- C not going to have much free time

- Sample of Practice Items -

Extract 5

You hear a young football player talking on the phone about a football match.

9 Who is the speaker talking to?

- A** his father
- B** his coach
- C** his friend

10 What happened to the speaker during the match?

- A** He scored the winning goal in the match.
- B** He was injured in the first half of the match.
- C** He was taken off before the end of the match.

Extract 6

You hear a young man talking about his experience of going to university.

11 What is the speaker talking about?

- A** explaining why he didn't complete his university studies
- B** remembering his difficult experience at university
- C** complaining about people's treatment of him at university

12 How does the speaker feel about his experience at university?

- A** relieved that time in his life is over
- B** sorry he didn't make the most of his time there
- C** pleased that his lectures were interesting

- Sample of Practice Items -

Extract 7

You hear a woman speaking on the radio about being famous.

13 What is the woman famous for?

- A** writing books
- B** acting in films
- C** taking photographs

14 How does she feel about being famous now?

- A** excited about the opportunities it gives her
- B** irritated by the attention she receives
- C** worried about the impact on her family

Extract 8

You hear a student talking about being a volunteer.

15 What do we learn about the speaker?

- A** She thinks being a volunteer is useless.
- B** She wants to be a volunteer with her friends.
- C** She is going to be a volunteer soon.

16 According to the speaker, why should everyone consider being a volunteer?

- A** It teaches people to be independent.
- B** It's a good way to see the world.
- C** It helps students with their schoolwork.

- Mark scheme -

Part 1

Question Number	Answer	Mark
1	C	1
2	B	1
3	A	1
4	A	1
5	B	1
6	A	1
7	B	1
8	C	1
9	C	1
10	A	1
11	B	1
12	B	1
13	A	1
14	C	1
15	C	1
16	A	1

Part 1

You will hear a series of four short extracts.

For each extract there are two questions.

Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

Before we start, here is an example.

I won 'Country's Best Musician'. It's like a dream. It takes me back to when I was a boy. I never had brothers or sisters so I was always with other kids playing musical instruments. I wanted to be like the other kids easily performing in front of everyone and join them. But because I was a kid who never wanted anyone to laugh at me, I could only watch. When I was 9, my father bought me a keyboard for my birthday. I played it daily. My music teacher was my guide, I really looked up to him, and he showed me how to be creative with my music. And I must thank my best friend for making me enter the show. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here. [fade]

The speaker was a shy child, so there is a circle around the letter C.

The speaker's teacher inspired him to develop his talent, so there is a circle around the letter B.

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully.

Extract 1

I've always thought of hippos as ugly animals running at great speed with their big bodies and short legs, and I've heard stories that they sweat blood, but until we visited Botswana, I'd never realised they could sleep underwater. We saw a baby hippo sunbathing by the river. Mike, our guide, drove closer to the animal so we could take some photos. Suddenly, we saw a huge hippo crashing angrily past our minibus. It then dived into the water and was gone. We all know they'll attack if they feel threatened and you would have thought it was the mother hippo

protecting its little one. However, Mike told us it was in fact a male hippo acting nervously because we got between him and the water where he lives.

Extract 2

Paul Joan is well known as a chocolate artist of genius. He uses his talent and easily creates unusual life-size objects like chocolate bicycles or robots. He uses generous amounts of the most expensive chocolate. He can quickly complete his outstanding chocolate artwork in less than 30 minutes, which makes him the only speed-sculpting chocolate artist in his country. Because of his passion, he now earns thousands of dollars and attracts huge crowds to his chocolate tastings and sculpture events. Paul has been approached by many television programme producers offering to take his profession to a wider audience but he isn't a man of high ambitions. He is perfectly happy just to see his guests admiring his creations down to the last delicious bite.

Extract 3

Most parents believe that uniforms are about standardizing things rather than encouraging students to develop their own styles and look different from each other. But parents think it's more important to have comfortable clothes which allow their children to concentrate on studies. Parents doubt that wearing a uniform prepares students for what they need to wear when they start work, because young people tend to break the rules by wearing their own accessories. For many students wearing a uniform is a badge of pride of belonging to the school. For others, it's a source of identity in the community. However, more than anything, requiring uniforms increases the school security as anyone trying to enter the school who's not a student is easy to spot.

Extract 4

I was thinking of going back to college and starting on an evening and weekends professional development course. Then, as everybody expected, I got a different post. My company offered me a higher position as a personnel manager in their new London branch. So now I'm going to take a course in time management which I have little experience of. I'm really looking forward to it and I hope to learn a lot. I have already arranged for a small loan to pay for my studies. Though my family support me and I'm sure will tolerate my being away from them most of the

time, I'm not sure if I can cope with the schedule of all the lectures and homework and not having time to myself.

Extract 5

The game went very well. We won! But we definitely missed having you out there playing with us on the field; it was a tough match. The other team scored the first two goals, and by half-time, the score was tied at two each. The second half was rough, especially since our new player got hurt. He didn't start the second half. He was playing really well, not as good as you, of course! Our trainer got quite upset, but I managed to put the ball in the net just before the final whistle, so we ended up beating them, which was awesome. Dad was a bit nervous, waving his arms and shouting, but he was excited. Anyway, I have to go now. Training is next Tuesday night. See you then!

Extract 6

At the beginning, I was pretty shy. I knew I'd have to make an effort during those first few weeks, but I just assumed I'd meet people and things would work out. Then, as time went on, I started to feel like it was me against everyone else. I even considered not finishing my degree. Looking back, I realise it all depends on what you make of the opportunity. I was happy that I went to every lecture, but I'd really recommend getting involved in social activities or clubs that interest you. So you'll meet more people that way. I wish someone had given me that advice sooner. I'm happy now and have a job I enjoy. If I could do it all over again, though, I'd definitely deal with things differently.

Extract 7

You know, fame is interesting because as a child, I really wanted it. My fantasy was always to be a movie star who is recognised and admired by everyone. I imagined myself driving around in expensive cars with cameramen all around me and mixing with all the important people in the entertainment industry. Also, it's great when someone you don't even know comes up to you and tells you they enjoyed reading your novel. It used to give me a little boost and made me feel appreciated. But honestly, I never really thought about the tough parts of fame, like having your home surrounded by journalists. That's just something I've come to accept. I never dreamt that it would sometimes have a negative effect on my kids. I have to admit that does concern me.

Extract 8

My friends often wonder why I'm interested in being a volunteer. They ask what the point is of working for free or if you're only getting a minimum payment. But I think differently. For me, being a volunteer can open up a whole world of opportunity. It's not just about money; it's about gaining valuable experience and making a difference. I feel it's important to get out there and actually do something worthwhile, something that truly matters to me. While I am excited about visiting new places this summer, I know that being a volunteer will help me when I apply for jobs in the future. Honestly, it should be compulsory after finishing school. As a volunteer, you really need to learn how to look after and rely on yourself to succeed in life.

Part 2 

Sample 1

Questions 17 – 22

You will hear an interview with Owen Jenkins who became rich from a childhood invention.

Choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Click on the speaker icon to listen to the recording. You may listen to it more than once.

Example

0 When Owen Jenkins was a child, he was

- A** an owner of a profitable company.
- B** a student at the same school as the audience.
- C** a member of a sports team.

17 What encouraged Owen to come up with his invention?

- A** He wanted to observe sea animals better.
- B** He wanted to study the sounds of sea life better.
- C** He wanted to communicate underwater better.

18 How did Owen feel about starting a business?

- A** relieved that his official papers would be organised
- B** confident that his invention would be a success
- C** nervous that his school work would suffer

– Sample of Practice Items –

19 Which of Owen's latest inventions was the most successful?

- A** Splash-Goal
- B** Scooba-Doober
- C** Floaty-Boaty

20 Owen was embarrassed when he

- A** gave a presentation on a block.
- B** spoke to journalists at school.
- C** had to cancel sports activities.

21 In 2001, Owen's company was worth

- A** \$ 8 million.
- B** \$10 million.
- C** \$12 million.

22 What will Owen do after his break?

- A** start a new company
- B** complete a book about himself
- C** sponsor a youth programme

[6 marks]

- Mark Scheme -

Part 2

Sample 1

Questions 17 – 22

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
17	C	1	
18	B	1	
19	C	1	
20	A	1	
21	A	1	
22	B	1	6

Part 2

Sample 1

Questions 17 – 22

You will hear an interview with Owen Jenkins who became rich from a childhood invention.

Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

Before we start, here is an example.

Interviewer: Good evening and welcome to our weekly programme ‘Promising Steps’. Today our guest is Owen Jenkins, who, at a young age, has achieved a lot! Hi Owen, please tell us about yourself.

Owen: Hello, thank you for having me! I’m from Miami, and I was a student at a school, just like yours. In many ways, I was a typical, young boy, and a fan of my school’s baseball team. On the other hand, I became an inventor and used to be president of a company boasting half-a-million dollars annually.

Owen says that he was an owner of a profitable company when he was a child, so there is a circle around the letter A.

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully.

Interviewer: Good evening and welcome to our weekly programme ‘Promising Steps’. Today our guest is Owen Jenkins, who, at a young age, has achieved a lot! Hi Owen, please tell us about yourself.

Owen: Hello, thank you for having me! I’m from Miami, and I was a student at a school, just like yours. In many ways, I was a typical, young boy, and a fan of my school’s baseball team. On the other hand, I became an inventor and used to be president of a company boasting half-a-million dollars annually.

- Tapescript -

Interviewer: Wow! So you are a real millionaire? Please, tell us how did you become an inventor?

Owen: When I was 11, I went on holiday to Bermuda. I was diving underwater with my father, and was amazed by the underwater noises. I was excited to see the colours of the fish and the turtles swimming by and I wanted to tell my father about it but I couldn't. I became irritated, because we both had to come up to the surface. THAT gave me the idea for my invention 'Fishie-Talkie', a toy allowing people to talk to each other underwater.

Interviewer: And to start your business, how did that affect your life?

Owen: Well, my mother had concerns that my grades would drop at school. This was because I had to be absent while my father and I flew to Chicago to present my 'Fishie-Talkie' to a well-known toy store. This resulted in my toy being bought and placed in every branch worldwide. More than anything, I just knew that 'Fishie-Talkie' was a winner. My father felt comfortable that he could deal with the legal documents despite my worries.

Interviewer: That's an understandable concern. And, of course, you had other inventions?

Owen: Yes, three more – and all very popular. 'Scooba-Doober' allowed divers to see underwater and above water at the same time, this was quite popular. A toy store bought thousands of my 'Floaty-Boaty', a bouncy float with water gun paddles, and it won the "best-selling" award. My underwater hockey game named 'Splash-Goal' had about 45 agents fighting to buy it.

Interviewer: Of course, this made you a star. How did you cope with the media attention?

Owen: Yeah. I had some uncomfortable moments. Annoying reporters kept arriving at school asking for interviews which then appeared in international

- Tapescript -

newspapers. But once, when I gave a speech at a charity event, I had to stand on a step, so the audience could see me, which made me feel shy. And there were times when I couldn't attend baseball matches because of events, and this upset me.

Interviewer: And then in 2001 you sold your company. If you don't mind me asking Owen, how much did you get for it?

Owen: No, I don't mind, over the years I earned a total of \$10 million in salary. I couldn't afford to devote more time to my company because of school. So, in 2001, I decided to sell it. I received a good offer from a toy store which had an annual income of \$12 million. I had to skip an exam at school but I signed a deal with them for \$8 million. I was sad to let it go, but it just kind of got too big for me.

Interviewer: What a story for someone so young! What are your plans for the future?

Owen: I'm currently taking a break. I have a dozen more ideas and may launch another business. Also, I might open a center to financially support young inventors, but that will all have to wait until after I've finished writing the story of my life.

Part 2 

Sample 2

Questions 17 – 22

You will hear part of an interview with a celebrity chef, Nick Dobbs, discussing his career.

Choose the correct answer **A**, **B** or **C**.

Click on the speaker icon to listen to the recording. You may listen to it more than once.

Example

0 The chef's cooking career began by

- A** cooking on school trips.
- B** working in the army.
- C** learning from his mom.

17 Chef Nick thinks that due to their impact on people, chefs are considered

- A** craftsmen.
- B** scientists.
- C** coaches.

18 According to the chef, what is the essential cooking resource?

- A** a cookbook
- B** the brain
- C** your knife

- Sample of Practice Items -

19 The chef believes that cooking has become simple by

- A** using different cooking methods
- B** using advanced kitchen equipment
- C** using technology for multiple tasks

20 By working in different countries, the chef realised

- A** the importance of winning international competitions.
- B** the impact of travel on discovering various flavours.
- C** the reputation of a chef is based on their latest dish.

21 What does the chef consider to be his highest achievement?

- A** establishing the country's best cooking centre
- B** creating a famous and well-known dish.
- C** helping to promote his trainees.

22 In Chef Nick's opinion, graduates looking for a job in the cooking industry should

- A** have past work experience
- B** begin creating contacts from day one
- C** keep a good attitude and obey workplace rules

[6 marks]

- Mark scheme -

Part 2

Sample 2

Questions 17 – 22

Question Number	Answer	Mark	Total Marks
17	A	1	
18	B	1	
19	C	1	
20	C	1	
21	A	1	
22	B	1	6

Part 2

Sample 2

Questions 17 – 22

You will hear part of an interview with a celebrity chef, Nick Dobbs, discussing his career.

Choose the correct answer A, B or C.

Before we start, here is an example.

Interviewer: One of the common beliefs about chefs is that they won't share their secrets. Tonight, let's explore the world of cookery with Chef Nick Dobbs. So, Chef, please give us a brief outline of your career. Where did it all start?

Chef: I've been cooking now for over 30 years. I learned a lot by watching my Mum, she was a great cook. When I was 10 years old, I started to go away on school trips, and I was always the chosen cook. I left school when I was 16 years old, and the best option was to join the army as a cook because back then, there weren't many cooking schools.

The chef's cooking career began by working in the army, so there is a circle around the letter B.

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully.

Interviewer: One of the common beliefs about chefs is that they won't share their secrets. Tonight, let's explore the world of cookery with Chef Nick Dobbs. So, Chef, please give us a brief outline of your career. Where did it all start?

- Tapescript -

Chef: I've been cooking now for over 30 years. I learned a lot by watching my Mum, she was a great cook. When I was 10 years old, I started to go away on school trips, and I was always the chosen cook. I left school when I was 16 years old, and the best option was to join the army as a cook because back then, there weren't many cooking schools.

Interviewer: It may seem like a strange question, but what is the chef's role in our lives? I know it's much more than just cooking.

Chef: You're right! You have to be an accountant, a manager and a teacher. And, especially when you are baking bread, a scientist. You should also be a coach for those who may follow in your footsteps. We are craftsmen who affect people's lives, health and well-being and we should always be aware of that.

Interviewer: Interesting! Now, what would you say is the most important tool in the kitchen?

Chef: Most chefs have a favourite knife. I believe your brain is the most important. You have to mentally figure out the sequence of events in setting up a meal service without using notes and cookbooks.

Interviewer: Tell me chef, what do you think has made life in the modern kitchen easier?

Chef: Obviously, modern cooking devices have helped chefs achieve high-quality results and save time. Plus, new cooking techniques continue to emerge, allowing us to experiment and discover what we can do. However, computers have made our lives in the kitchen much easier. You can easily change and print menus, quickly calculate food costs, keep records, and find recipes faster.

Interviewer: I see that you've worked in many countries. Has this helped the way you cook?

- Tapescript -

Chef: Definitely, travel has influenced my cooking techniques in international cuisine and helped me identify many different flavours. I have worked all over Asia and Europe and won many medals from competitions. The thing that all chefs need to realise is that you are only as good as your last meal. Medals are great for pride and industry recognition, but there is more to our trade than competitions.

Interviewer: Indeed! So, what is your greatest success as a chef?

Chef: I have been blessed with doing many wonderful things in my career. I gradually progressed in many positions as an executive chef, a food and beverage director, and a corporate vice president. Inventing an internationally recognised dish was an important breakthrough. But actually, it was starting and developing the finest cooking centre in the country. And I'm proud to say that our graduates have gone on to have successful careers all over the world.

Interviewer: Wow! You certainly have. So, what advice can you give to graduates searching for work?

Chef: Well, they need to become familiar with the restaurant's menu items before their interview. And of course, having a positive approach, sticking to work ethics, and being professional goes without saying. Also, jobs for graduates will vary, based on whether they have worked in restaurants before coming to school. I think the best method to get a job in our business is through networking, and a student should start doing so from the first day of class. Your instructors and colleagues may be able to help you in the future.....(fade)
