



## Section A

Read the following article giving advice on *Listening Skills* and answer questions 1 to 10. Identify which paragraphs (A–H) contain the information listed in questions 1 to 10 by marking a cross (☒) for the correct answer. Paragraphs may be used more than once or not at all. If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new answer with a cross (☒).

## Listening Skills

- A** Face the speaker. Sit up straight or lean forward slightly to show through body language that you are paying attention. This means that you should keep still and not be restless. In this way you are demonstrating your interest in what the speaker is saying.
- B** Maintain eye contact. It is important to make a connection with the person you are talking to. However, you should avoid looking at the person for too long as this could cause discomfort to both of you.
- C** Minimise external distractions. When your conversation partner is speaking do not allow your focus to wander, for instance by looking out of the window, listening to what is on the radio or whatever else might be happening in the room.
- D** Respond appropriately to show that you are listening. You can do this by nodding, smiling and using other facial expressions. Encouraging the speaker to continue with small verbal comments such as “hmm” or “Really!” is also a good technique.
- E** Concentrate on what the speaker is saying. It is easy to lose focus if you think you know what the person is going to say next. You might be wrong. Also try not to think about what you are going to say next. If you have got any questions wait until the speaker has finished. Sometimes it is a good idea to repeat in your own words what has been said to make sure you have got the message correctly. For example, you might say, “When you said that no two zebras are alike, did you mean that the stripes are different on each one?”
- F** Take note of the speaker’s body language. Look out for facial expressions such as a smile or a frown. Pay attention to the person’s body posture to see whether it is relaxed or tense. This can tell you something about the person’s mood. Non-verbal messages can be just as important as words, sometimes even more so.
- G** Keep an open mind. Try not to make assumptions about what the speaker is thinking. Wait until the speaker has finished before deciding whether you agree or disagree. It is not a good idea to interrupt the speaker mid-sentence. This will often lead to frustration on the part of the speaker as it can easily distract from the main points being made. It is also impolite.
- H** Listen for the main ideas. These are the most important points the speaker wants to convey. They may be mentioned at the start of the talk and repeated a number of times. Pay special attention to phrases such as “The thing to remember is...” or “What I mean to say is...”.



**Questions 1–10**

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1. Try to identify key points.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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2. Be aware of other signs as well as words.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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3. Re-phrase if necessary to be certain you have understood.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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4. Allow the speaker to finish before commenting.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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5. React to what is being said.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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6. Try not to move about.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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7. Do not stare at the speaker.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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8. Do not predict what someone is going to say.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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9. Take note of repetitions.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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10. Avoid glancing at the television, for example.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
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(Total 10 marks)

Section A

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## Section B

Read the article below about The London Eye and answer questions 11–25.

### The London Eye

The London Eye – the giant observation wheel – became operational in January 2000. Standing proud in London’s Jubilee Gardens on the South Bank of the River Thames, the London Eye was a focal point for the nation’s celebration of the millennium and a metaphor for the turning of the century. At a height of 135 metres and weighing 1600 tonnes the wheel is the largest of its kind ever to be built. It is a landmark and one of London’s iconic sights.

The architects of the London Eye are husband and wife team, Julia Barfield and David Marks, winners of a competition for ideas to mark the millennium. Their design was considered to be the most imaginative project conceived. They wanted to present not just a monument, but something celebratory, that people could participate in and enjoy. David researched and developed the idea for a giant observation wheel, while Julia found the ideal site by drawing a circle round London and finding the dead centre, Jubilee Gardens.

Since opening it has become a magnet for tourists attracting an average of 3.75 million customers per year all looking to get great panoramic views of London. On a clear day one can see for up to 25 miles. Attached to the wheel are 32 glass capsules each carrying a maximum of 25 people comfortably. Because the capsules are on the wheel’s exterior, the views are unobstructed. As an excited American visitor enthused, “An excellent attraction. Wonderful views!”.

When travelling on the London Eye, well-known landmarks and buildings of central London are spread out in a great panorama; buildings such as the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben can be seen from the vantage point offered by this giant wheel. Another appreciative customer, this time from France, added, “The London Eye is an excellent tourist attraction which gives an unforgettable experience of London city, its skyline and architecture... the experience is well worth the money”.

It takes 30 minutes to complete a full revolution and the ride is so smooth there is no sensation of movement. Surprisingly, the Eye doesn’t actually stop to allow passengers to board or alight, its movement being sufficiently slow to allow for the unloading and loading of the capsules without coming to a halt.

The London Eye is open from 10am–8pm daily between October and May and from 10am–9pm between June and September. Tickets can be bought on the day but are slightly cheaper if pre-booked. Also, the London Eye website gives full details of adult, child and discounted tickets. The ticket office is located in the County Hall building right next to the Eye, which is where pre-booked tickets can be collected. Transport links make the Eye easily accessible, the nearest tube stations being Waterloo and Westminster.

In a book about the project, famous architect Sir Richard Rogers wrote of the London Eye, “The Eye has done for London what the Eiffel Tower did for Paris, which is to give it a symbol and to let people climb above the city and look back down on it. Not just specialists or rich people, but everybody. That’s the beauty of it: it is public and accessible, and it is in a great position at the heart of London”.



**Questions 11–18**

Look at the statements below. Decide whether they are **TRUE**, **FALSE** or **NOT GIVEN**.

Mark a cross (☒) for the correct answers. If you change your mind, put a line through the box (☒) and then indicate your new answer with a cross (☒).

	True	False	Not Given
11. The London Eye represents the passing of time.	☒	☒	☒
12. The Eye is made from reinforced steel.	☒	☒	☒
13. David Marks chose where to put the wheel.	☒	☒	☒
14. In fine weather the view stretches for over 25 miles.	☒	☒	☒
15. The London Eye moves continuously.	☒	☒	☒
16. The Eye closes at 8 o'clock every evening.	☒	☒	☒
17. Everybody pays the same entry price.	☒	☒	☒
18. The London Eye has gained praise from Sir Richard Rogers.	☒	☒	☒

**Questions 19–25**

Complete the following sentences. Write no more than **TWO** words taken from the text.

19. The London Eye is the ..... observation wheel ever constructed.
20. The architects' ..... was judged to be the most creative and original.
21. The glass pods are on the ..... of the wheel allowing passengers a clear view.
22. The Eye provides a ..... from which to see London's famous buildings.
23. Passengers are unaware of any ..... because the journey is very smooth.
24. The ..... is where the ticket office can be found.
25. Sir Richard Rogers compares the London Eye to the .....

**(Total 15 marks)**

Leave blank

Section B



**Section C****Read the article below on Holidays in space and answer questions 26–40.****Holidays in space**

Imagine an ultra expensive holiday with nothing to do but stare into space. Though that prospect may do little to lure you to rush out and book, the World Tourism Organisation predicts it will soon be a popular choice and that space travel will be commonplace by 2020 – low orbit trips may even take off within three years. And as companies compete with each other to build crafts to take adventurous tourists there first, an international design firm is concentrating on building a place for them to stay.

Architects Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo (WAT&G), creators of the Legoland Theme Park, are hoping to solve the outer space hotel dilemma. Still in its conceptual stage, the space hotel will be like a spinning bicycle wheel with spokes that will simulate normal earth gravity in some parts and have zero gravity in others, allowing for weightless sport and entertainment. Howard Wolff, vice president of WAT&G, expects to have the space resort up and running by 2017. “A flight up to the resort will be quicker than flying from Hong Kong to Singapore”, he told Reuters. Passengers will be able to take excursions to the Moon, space-walking on what has been described as the most fashionable resort in the solar system.

To keep costs down, the resort will be built mainly from orbiting space junk, such as discarded fuel tanks from space shuttle missions. The main body of the hotel will be created by linking the pieces of junk together in a circle. Because this junk has already been launched into space, there will be no expense in getting the materials out there.

For the starry-eyed tourist however, the biggest barrier to this type of holiday will be the cost. “We’re aware that cost will be a factor and initially it will be restricted to wealthy travellers, but people are already queuing up for sub-orbital trips at \$100,000 a go”, said Wolff. The difficulty is that until there is public demand for space travel, costs will never come down.

However, Wolff is counting on the attractions such holidays offer – the chance to experience weightlessness and view planet Earth from space – as being “a truly life-transforming experience”.

Almost anything you can do on Earth you can do in space in a totally new way. Two dimensions become three. Objects behave differently in space so the laws of physics take on interesting twists when it comes to doing something as simple as going to bed. People are developing sleeping bags with straps to combat the lack of gravity. It may seem strange but the point is to strike a balance between an out-of-this-world experience and providing some creature comforts that travellers have come to expect in other destination resorts.



Buzz Aldrin, former U.S. astronaut and the second man to step on the moon, is a consultant to the scheme. Aldrin has made sure the design includes a refuge for those passengers expected to suffer from 'space sickness'. Other downsides include Space Adaptation Syndrome – when blood flows into the chest and face, bloating the upper body – unpleasant and hardly ideal for holiday photos. Then there is the effect of the spinning, called the Coriolis effect, which creates nausea caused by fluid in the ears. So being in a rotating hotel might feel like sitting on a big wheel in a fairground for a week. Aldrin insists however, that the trip is definitely worth taking. "The view from space is like having a globe on your desk – it's a broadening experience", he says.

WAT&G is only one of a growing number of companies pouring money into these projects, hoping to make space tourism more comfortable, more accessible and eventually profitable. A Seattle consortium for example, has already begun booking seats for \$98,000 each on space flights aboard a yet-to-be-built 'Space Cruiser' and a Japanese company has made blueprints for an orbiting space hotel.

Competition stepped up a gear a few years ago with the launch of the X-Prize. An American based non-profit foundation is offering \$10 million to the first company to launch a re-usable rocket vehicle that makes two consecutive trips to 100 km above Earth with at least three civilians on board. Officially classified as space, this distance of 100 km affords a spectacular view of the Earth.



**Questions 26–40**

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**Complete the following sentences. Write no more than THREE words taken from the text.**

- 26. The ..... has forecast that it will be common to have holidays in space in the near future.
- 27. A company of ..... is concentrating on developing hotel accommodation.
- 28. Developers plan to create a resort that contains areas of differing  
.....
- 29. Tourists will stay in the space hotel and take trips to the  
.....
- 30. Junk from ..... will be used to construct the hotel.
- 31. At first only ..... will probably be able to go.
- 32. Prices will remain high until ..... increases.
- 33. Seeing Earth from outer space would be a ..... event according to Wolff.
- 34. Special ..... are being designed for the space hotel.
- 35. The challenge is to maintain a ..... between the experiences offered and customer expectations.
- 36. Buzz Aldrin has insisted on a ..... for tourists who feel unwell.
- 37. One possible disadvantage to travellers is ..... , that affects the ears.
- 38. A business in Japan has made plans for a ..... for holidays in space.
- 39. The offer of a multi-million dollar reward has led to increased  
.....
- 40. The X-Prize will be won by a company which can send a  
..... into space.

**(Total 15 marks)**

Section C

**TOTAL FOR READING: 40 MARKS**





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**Section E**

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You have just received this e-mail from a friend inviting you to stay during the school holidays.

To:

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject:

Hi,

My parents have said I can invite a friend to stay during the school holidays and I would really like it to be you. I was wondering what we could do together. Have you got any ideas? What sort of things do you like eating and is there anything you particularly don't like?

Can you get back to me soon so we can make some plans.

Reply to this email, answering all the points raised.  
You should write between **100 and 150 words**.

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You are doing a project on successful business people. Read the text below about Sir Richard Branson and write a summary for your teacher.

Your summary must include:

- an account of his personal life
- Virgin Atlantic Airways.

**Sir Richard Branson**

Richard Branson was born in 1950 and at the age of 17, while at Stowe – a famous English public school – started a student advisory service. Three years later, he founded the Virgin mail-order record company and shortly afterwards opened a record shop on Oxford Street, London's main shopping area.

Branson is the eldest of four siblings. He has two sisters, Lindi and Vanessa. His brother, Ted, followed in his father's footsteps and became a barrister. Branson had poor academic records which contrasted with excellent performance in sports, especially swimming.

He married Joan Templeman in 1989 and they have two children, Holly and Sam. Richard and Joan were married on Necker Island, a 74-acre island in the British Virgin Islands which Branson owns. He also owns land on the Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda.

In 1972 he built a recording studio in Oxfordshire, where Mike Oldfield recorded his five-million selling album "Tubular Bells". This was to provide the catalyst for Virgin Records that went on to sign major names such as The Rolling Stones and Janet Jackson. By the early 1980s, Virgin Records was one of the top six record companies in the world.

Then, in 1984, Branson got a phone call out of the blue suggesting the creation of a jumbo jet passenger service between London and New York. He liked the idea, much to the horror of his fellow directors who thought him crazy. Undeterred, he announced to the world that Virgin Atlantic Airways would begin operating within three months. At this point, a lot of other people agreed that he was crazy.

An aircraft was found, staff were hired, licences granted and, thanks in no small part to Branson's infectious enthusiasm, on June 22 1984, an aircraft packed with friends, celebrities and the media set off for Newark, New Jersey. A phenomenon was born. Since then, Virgin Atlantic has become the second largest long-haul international airline operating services out of London's Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. Today Virgin Atlantic flies to 21 destinations all over the world – from Shanghai to the Caribbean and to the USA.

In 1992 Branson sold his Virgin record company to Thorn EMI and invested the profits in Virgin Atlantic, improving an already great service even further. However, he still has a big role in the entertainment industry through the international Megastores, the V2 record label and interests in night-clubs, book and software publishing, film and video editing and hotels.





