



# IELTS Mock Test 2023

## February

### Listening Practice Test 2

## HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the listening audio

1. Open this URL <https://link.intergreat.com/nE5Mz> on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



## Questions 1-10

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

**Example:** The library re-opened last \_\_\_ **month** \_\_\_. The library now has

a seating area with magazines

an expanded section for books on 1 \_\_\_\_\_

a new section on local 2 \_\_\_\_\_

a community room for meetings (also possible to 3 \_\_\_\_\_ there)

a new section of books for 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### For younger children

the next Science Club meeting: experiments using things from your 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Reading Challenge: read six books during the holidays

### For adults

this Friday: a local author talks about a novel based on a real 6 \_\_\_\_\_

IT support is available on Tuesdays - no 7 \_\_\_\_\_ is necessary

free check of blood 8 \_\_\_\_\_ and cholesterol levels (over 60s only)

### Other information

the library shop sells wall-charts, cards and 9 \_\_\_\_\_

evenings and weekends: free 10 \_\_\_\_\_ is available

## Questions 11-12

Choose **TWO** letters, A-E.

Which **TWO** age groups are taking increasing numbers of holidays with BC Travel?

- A  16-30 years
- B  31-42 years
- C  43-54 years
- D  55-64 years
- E  over 65 years

## Questions 13-14

Choose **TWO** letters, A-E.

Which **TWO** are the main reasons given for the popularity of activity holidays?

- A  Clients make new friends.
- B  Clients learn a useful skill.

- C Clients learn about a different culture.
- D Clients are excited by the risk involved.
- E Clients find them good value for money.

### Questions 15-17

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

15 How does BC Travel plan to expand the painting holidays?

- A by adding to the number of locations
- B by increasing the range of levels
- C by employing more teachers

16 Why are BC Travel’s cooking holidays unusual?

- A They only use organic foods.
- B They have an international focus.
- C They mainly involve vegetarian dishes.

17 What does the speaker say about the photography holidays?

- A Clients receive individual tuition.
- B The tutors are also trained guides.
- C Advice is given on selling photographs.

### Questions 18-20

Complete the table below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

#### Fitness Holidays

Location	Main focus	Other comments
Ireland and Italy	general fitness	personally designed programme also reduces 18 <input type="text"/>

Greece	19 _____ control	includes exercise on the beach
Morocco	mountain biking	wide variety of levels one holiday that is specially designed for 20 _____

## Questions 21-26

Complete the flow-chart below.

Choose **SIX** answers and write the correct letter, A-H, next to Questions 21-26.

A	patterns
B	names
C	sources
D	questions
E	employees
F	solutions
G	headings
H	officials

## STAGES IN DOING A TOURISM CASE STUDY

## RESEARCH

Locate and read relevant articles, noting key information and also 21    
Identify a problem or need

Select interviewees - these may be site 22  , visitors or city  
23  

Prepare and carry out interviews. If possible, collect statistics.

Check whether 24   of interviewees can be used

## ANALYSIS

Select relevant information and try to identify 25  

Decide on the best form of visuals

## WRITING THE CASE STUDY

Give some background before writing the main sections

Do NOT end with 26  

## Questions 27-30

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

### The Horton Castle site

27 Natalie and Dave agree one reason why so few people visit Horton Castle is that

- A the publicity is poor.
- B it is difficult to get to.
- C there is little there of interest.

28 Natalie and Dave agree that the greatest problem with a visitor centre could be

- A covering the investment costs.
- B finding a big enough space for it.
- C dealing with planning restrictions.

29 What does Dave say about conditions in the town of Horton?

- A There is a lot of unemployment.

- B**  There are few people of working age.
- C**  There are opportunities for skilled workers.

30 According to Natalie, one way to prevent damage to the castle site would be to

- A**  insist visitors have a guide.
- B**  make visitors keep to the paths.
- C**  limit visitor numbers.

## Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer.

### The effects of environmental change on birds

#### Mercury (Hg)

Highly toxic

Released into the atmosphere from coal

In water it may be consumed by fish

It has also recently been found to affect birds which feed on 31 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Research on effects of mercury on birds

##### Claire Varian-Ramos is investigating

the effects on birds' 32 \_\_\_\_\_ or mental processes, e.g. memory

the effects on bird song (usually learned from a bird's 33 \_\_\_\_\_ )

#### Findings

songs learned by birds exposed to mercury are less 34 \_\_\_\_\_

this may have a negative effect on birds' 35 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Lab-based studies

allow more 36 \_\_\_\_\_ for the experimenter

#### Implications for humans

Migrating birds such as 37 \_\_\_\_\_ containing mercury may be eaten by humans

Mercury also causes problems in learning 38 \_\_\_\_\_

Mercury in a mother's body from 39 \_\_\_\_\_ may affect the unborn child

New regulations for mercury emissions will affect everyone's energy 40 \_\_\_\_\_



## Solution:

### Part 1: Question 1 - 10

- |   |                     |    |           |
|---|---------------------|----|-----------|
| 1 | travel/travel(l)ing | 2  | history   |
| 3 | study               | 4  | teenagers |
| 5 | kitchen             | 6  | crime     |
| 7 | appointment/booking | 8  | sugar     |
| 9 | stamps              | 10 | parking   |

### Part 2: Question 11 - 20

- |                 |        |                 |          |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------|----------|
| $\frac{11}{12}$ | D,E    | $\frac{13}{14}$ | A,C      |
| 15              | C      | 16              | B        |
| 17              | A      | 18              | stress   |
| 19              | weight | 20              | families |

### Part 3: Question 21 - 30

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 21 | C | 22 | E |
| 23 | H | 24 | B |
| 25 | A | 26 | F |

27 A

29 B

**Part 4: Question 31 - 40**

31 insects

33 father

35 reproduction/breeding

37 duck(s)

39 food

28 C

30 B

32 behaviour/behavior

34 complex/complicated

36 control

38 language

40 cost(s)

## Part 1

You will hear a man telephoning a friend to find out about their local Public Library. First, you have some time to look at questions 1 to 4. You will see that there is an example that has been done for you. On this occasion only the conversation relating to this will be played first.

Susie: Hello?

Paul: Hi, Susie, it's Paul here. How are you? Enjoying your new job? You're working at the library, aren't you?

Susie: Yes, I started when the library reopened a **Example month** ago. It's great.

The woman says that the library reopened a month ago. So month has been written in the space. Now we shall begin, you should answer the questions as you listen because you will not hear the recording a second time. Listen carefully and answer questions 1 to 4.

Susie: Hello?

Paul: Hi, Susie, it's Paul here. How are you? Enjoying your new job? You're working at the library, aren't you?

Susie: Yes, I started when the library reopened a month ago. It's great.

Paul: Actually, Carol and I have been meaning to join for a while.

Susie: Oh, you should. It doesn't cost anything, and the new library has all sorts of facilities. It's not just a place where you borrow books. For instance, there's an area with comfortable seats where you can sit and read the magazines they have there. Some people spend the whole morning there.

Paul: Mmm. Wish I had that amount of time to spend!

Susie: Yes, you must be pretty busy at present, with the children and everything?

Paul: We are..., yes. But we're hoping to get away this summer. We're thinking of going to Greece.

Susie: Well, we've got a much larger section of the library devoted to **Q1 travel** books now. So you should come and have a look. I can't remember if there's anything specifically on Greece, but I should think so.

Paul: OK. Now Carol's organising a project for the history class she teaches at school. It's about life in the town a hundred years ago. Do you have anything that might be useful?

Susie: Yes. Actually, we've now got a new section with materials on the **Q2 history** of the town and surrounding region.

Paul: Right. I'll tell her. You can't always find that sort of thing on the internet. Now in the old library there used to be a separate room with reference books. It was a really nice quiet room.

Susie: Yes we've put those books in the main part of the library now, but we do have a room called the community room, it can be hired out for meetings. But at other times people can use it to **Q3 study**.

Paul: I might use that. It's hard to find anywhere quiet at home sometimes.

Susie: I can't remember how old your son and daughter... We've introduced a special section of fiction written specially for **Q4 teenagers**. But they might be a bit young for that?

Paul: Yes, they would be.

*Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you have some time to look at questions 5 to 10. Now listen and answer questions 5 to 10.*

Susie: Well we do have lots of activities for younger children.

Paul: Yes?

Susie: For example, we have a Science club. At the next meeting, they're going to be doing experiments with stuff that everyone has in the **Q5 kitchen**- sugar and flour and so on.

Paul: They might be interested, yes.

Susie: And, we have a competition for children called Reading Challenge. That doesn't begin until after the end of term. They have to read six books and they get a certificate if they manage it.

Paul: So that gives them something to do while they're on holiday, instead of getting bored.

Susie: That's the idea. And their special activities for adults, too. On Friday, we have a local author called Tanya Streep who's going to be talking about her new novel. It's called "Catch the mouse" and she based the story on a **Q6 crime** that actually took place here years ago.

Paul: Right. We're not free on Friday, but I'll look out for the book.

Susie: Now this probably isn't for you. But we do have IT support available for members. We get quite a few older people coming along who are wanting to get up to speed with computer technology. It's on Tuesday mornings- they don't need to make an **Q7 appointment** or anything, they just turn up.

Paul: Well, my mother might be interested, I'll let her know.

Susie: OK. And there's another service which you wouldn't expect from a library which is a free medical check-up. The hospital arranges for someone to come along and measure the level of **Q8 sugar** in your blood, and they check cholesterol levels at the same time.

Paul: Really?

Susie: Yes, but that's only for the over 60s, so you wouldn't qualify.

Paul: OK. Well, I'll tell my mother she might be interested.

Susie: What other information.... Well, we do have a little shop with things like wall charts and greetings cards, and also **Q9 stamps** so you can post the cards straight away, which is really useful.

Paul: Yeah. Well I'll bring the children round at the weekend and we'll join. Oh, one more thing, I'll be bringing the car, is there **Q10 parking** available?

Susie: Yes. And it's free in the evening and at weekends.

Paul: Perfect. Well thanks, Susie see you...

*That is the end of Part one, you now have half a minute to check your answers. You now turn to Part 2.*

## Part 2

*You will hear part of a training session for new employees at a large travel company. First you have some time to look at questions 11 to 17. Now listen carefully and answer questions 11 to 17.*

In this session in your training day we're going to look at some of the more specialized holidays we offer at BC travel now, the travel business is very competitive and it's important to be aware of how the markets changing and developing. In terms of age groups, **Q11 the over 65s** are an important market, and one that's increasing steadily year-on-year. The fewest holidays are taken by the 31 to 42-year-olds, and that figure shows no sign of rising. The biggest market at present is still the youngest group, the 16 to 30s, but this groups also seen the biggest drop over the last few years, whereas there's a noticeable growth in the number of holidays taken by the **Q12 55 to 64-year-olds**. As far as the 43 to 54-year-olds are concerned, bookings there are steady, but I have to say we haven't seen the increase we expected.

One trend we're noticing with nearly all age groups is the growing popularity of holidays in which clients do some kind of specialized activity. I'm not talking here about adventure holidays, where clients take part in high-risk activities like whitewater rafting just for the thrill of it. **Q13 Activity holidays usually involve rather less high-risk sports, or things like art and music.** **Q14 They're not necessarily cheaper than ordinary holidays, often the opposite, in fact.** But they do often take place outside the main tourist centers, which gives an opportunity for clients to find out more about the local people and customs, and many say this is one of the most positive features of these holidays. Of course, they offer the chance to develop a new skill or talent, but clients often say that more than this, it's the chance to create lasting relationships with other like-minded people that's the main draw.

Let me give you some examples of BC travel activity holidays. Our painting holidays take place in four different centers in France and Italy and they're very popular with clients of all abilities from beginners onwards. **Q15** We've got an excellent team of artists to lead the classes- some of them have been with us from the start, and five additional ones will be joining us this year so that we can offer a greater number of classes in each Center.

**Q16** As far as cooking holidays are concerned I know a lot of agents offer holidays where clients cook recipes related to one particular country usually the one they're staying in. But we focus on dishes from a great many different ones. Apart from that, you'll find the usual emphasis on good quality, organic ingredients- that's more or less a given nowadays- and there are generally some meat- free recipes included.

Our photography holidays take place in a wide range of countries from Iceland to Vietnam, and clients have the opportunity to see some stunning scenery. Groups are small, no more than eight. **Q17** So clients can have one-on-one tuition during the holiday. And excursions are arranged with fully- trained guides. At the end of each holiday an exhibition is held of the photographs taken so that clients can see one another's work and receive valuable feedback from the tutor.

*Before you hear the rest of the training session you have some time to look at questions 18 to 20. Now listen and answer questions 18 to 20.*

Finally, let me tell you about our. Fitness holidays in Ireland and Italy we run one-week general fitness classes for all ages and levels of fitness. Clients start the course with a consultation with a trainer, and together they draw an individual programmer. As well as improving general fitness, clients find that they end up losing much of the **Q18** stress they've built up in their daily lives.

In Greece, we have a two-week holiday for clients who want to do something about their **Q19** weight. This has all the features you'd expect, like a personalized diet program. But one of its most popular features is that the exercise classes are all held on the beach. People say it's far preferable to being in a gym.

Finally, we offer several holidays in Morocco. One very popular one is the mountain biking holiday. Bikes are provided and there are different routes according to people's ability. We offer one which is tailored to the needs of **Q20** families, which is particularly popular.

OK, so that's about all the time I have today, so thank you very much...

*That is the end of Part 2 now have half a minute to check your answers you now turn to Part 3*

## Part 3

You will hear to tourism students called Natalie and Dave talking about the tourism case study they are doing. First you have some time to look at questions 21 to 26. Now listen carefully and

answer questions 21 to 26.

Natalie: Dave, I'm worried about our case study. I've done a bit of reading, but I'm not sure what's involved in actually writing a case study. I missed the lecture where Dr. Baker talked us through it.

Dave: OK, well it's quite straightforward. We've got our focus- that's tourism at the Horten castle site. And you said you done some reading about it.

Natalie: Yes, I found some articles and made notes of the main points.

Dave: **Q21** Did you remember to keep a record of where you got the information from?

Natalie: Sure. I know what a pain it is when you forget that.

Dave: OK, so we can compare what we've read. Then we have to decide on a particular problem or need at our site. And then think about who we're going to interview to get more information.

Natalie: OK. So who'd that be? **Q22** The people who work there? And presumably some of the tourists too?

Dave: Yes, both those groups. So we'll have to go to the sites to do that, I suppose. But we might also do some of our interviewing away from the site. **Q23** We could even contact some people here in the city, like administrators involved in overseeing tourism.

Natalie: OK. So we'll need to think about our interview questions and fix times and places for the meetings. It's all going to take a lot of time.

Dave: Mmm. And if we can we should ask our interviewees if they can bring along some numerical data that we can add to support our findings.

Natalie: And photographs?

Dave: I think we have plenty of those already. **Q24** But Dr. Baker also said we have to establish with our interviewees whether we can identify them in our case study. Or whether they want to be anonymous.

Natalie: Oh, I wouldn't have thought of that. OK, once we've got all this information, I suppose we have to analyze it.

Dave: Yes, put it all together and choose what's relevant to the problem we're focusing on. And **Q25** analyze that carefully to find out if we can identify any trends or regularities there. That's the main thing at this stage, rather than concentrating on details or lots of facts.

Natalie: OK. And then once we've analyzed that, what next?

Dave: Well, then we need to think about what we do with the data we've selected to make it as clear as possible to our readers. Things like graphs, or tables, or charts.

Natalie: Right.

Dave: Then the case study itself is mostly quite standard, we begin by presenting the problem, and giving some background, then go through the main sections, but the thing that **Q26** in a normal report we'd end with some suggestions to deal with the problem or need we identified, but in a case study we end up with a question or a series of questions to our readers, and they decide what ought to be done.

Natalie: Oh, I hadn't realized that.

*Before you hear the rest of the discussion you have some time to look at questions 27 to 30 you now listen and answer questions 27 to 30.*

Natalie: So basically, the problem we're addressing in our case study of the Horton castle site is why so few tourists are visiting it. And we'll find out more from our interviews, but I did find one report on the internet that suggested that one reason might be because as far as transport goes, access is difficult.

Dave: I read that too, but that report was actually written ten years ago, when the road there was really bad. But that's been improved now. And **Q27** I think there's plenty of fascinating stuff there for a really good day out. But you'd never realize it from the castle website- maybe that's the problem.

Natalie: Yes. It's really dry and boring.

Dave: I read somewhere a suggestion that what the castle needs is a visitor center. So we could have a look for some information about that on the Internet. What would we need to know?

Natalie: Well, who'd use it for a start. It would be good to know what categories the visitors fell into too, like school parties or retired people, but I think we'd have to talk to staff to get that information.

Dave: OK. And as we're thinking of suggesting a visitor center we'd also have to look at potential problems. I mean, obviously it wouldn't be cheap to set up.

Natalie: No, but it could be a really good investment. **Q28** And as it's on a historical site it did need to get special planning permission. I expect. That might be hard.

Dave: Right, especially is the only possible place for it would be at the entrance, and that's right in front of the castle.

Natalie: Mmm.

Dave: But it could be a good thing for the town of Horton. At present, it's a bit of a ghost town. **Q29** Once they left school and got any skills or qualifications, the young people all get out as fast as they can to get jobs in the city. And the only people left children and those who've retired.

Natalie: Right. Something else we could investigate would be the potential damage that tourists might cause to the castle site, I mean their environmental impact. At present the tourists can just wander around wherever they want, **Q30** but if numbers increase, there might have to be some restrictions, like sticking to marked ways. And there'd need to be guides and wardens around to make sure these are enforced.

Dave: Yes, we could look at that too. OK, well...

*That is the end of Part three you, now have half a minute to check your answers you now turn to Part four .*

## Part 4

*You will hear a lecturer on an environmental studies course discussing how birds are affected by environmental change. First you have some time to look at questions 31 to 40. You now listen carefully and answer questions 31 to 40.*

Okay, so we've been looking at how man-made changes in our environment can affect wildlife. Now I'll discuss a particular example. Let's take a look at mercury. Mercury's one of the 120 or so elements that make up all matter, and it has the symbol Hg. It's a shiny, silvery substance. You may have seen it in old-fashioned thermometers, but it's not used much for domestic purposes now because it's highly toxic.

But the problem is that the amount of mercury in the environments increasing. The main reason for this is the power plants used to produce electricity. The main source of energy that most of them use is still coal, and when it's burned it releases mercury into the atmosphere. Some of this gets deposited into lakes and rivers, and if it's ingested by a fish it's not excreted, it stays in the fish's body and it enters the food chain. So it's been known for some time that birds which eat fish may be affected but what wasn't known until quite recently is that those that eat **Q31** insects can also be affected.

So a woman called Claire Varian Ramos is doing some research on how this is affecting birds.

And rather than looking at how many birds are actually killed by mercury poisoning, she's looking for more subtle sub-effects. And these may be to do with the **Q32** behavior of the birds, or with the effect of mercury on the way their brain works, so whether it leads to problem with memory, for example. And she's particularly focusing on the effects of mercury on bird song. Now, the process of song learning happens at a particular stage in the birds' development, and what you may not know is that a young bird seems to acquire this skill by listening to the songs produced by its **Q33** father, rather than by any other bird.

And Varion Ramos has already found in her research that if young male birds are exposed to mercury. If they eat food contaminated with Mercury. Then the songs they produce aren't as **Q34** complex as those produced by other birds. So quite low-level exposure to mercury is

likely to have an impact on male birds, in a natural situation, because it can mean that they're less attractive to female birds, and so it can affect their chances of **Q35 reproduction**.

Now the way she's carrying out this research is worth thinking about. She's using a mixture of studies using birds kept in laboratories, and studies carried out outdoors in the wild. The lab-based studies have the advantage that you don't get all the variables you would in a natural setting. So the experimenter has a much higher level of **Q36 control**, and that means they can be more confident about their results in some ways. And of course they don't have to worry about going out and finding the birds in order to observe them.

So what are the implications here for humans? Well, because many birds are migratory, they may be transporting mercury far from contaminated sites. For example it's been found that **Q37 ducks** who'd been feeding to contaminated site were later shot by hunters over a thousand kilometres away, and presumably eaten. But these birds likely had mercury levels high enough to warrant concern for human consumption.

In addition, going back to song learning by birds, we saw that this may be affected by mercury contamination. Well, we also know that in humans, mercury causes developmental delays in the acquisition of **Q38 language**, and in fact this process is very similar in the brain regions it involves and even the genes that are involved. But mercury contamination has other important implications for humans as well. It's now known that an unborn child can be affected if the **Q39 food** eaten by its mother contains high levels of mercury, and these effects can be quite substantial.

In the end, it comes down to whether more value is placed on human economic well-being or environmental well-being. It's true there are new regulations for mercury emissions from power plants but these will need billions of dollars to implement and increase **Q40 costs** for everyone. Some argue that's too much to pay to protect wildlife but as we've seen the issues go beyond that and I think it's an issue we need to consider very carefully.

*That is the end of section 4 you now have half a minute to check your answers.*