

IELTS Practice Tests Plus Volume 2

Listening Practice Test 2

HOW TO USE

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2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



Questions 1-3

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C

Example:

Martin wants to

A sell a flat.

B rent a flat.

C buy a flat.

1 What is Martin's occupation?

- A He works in a car factory.
- B He works in a bank.
- C He is a college student.

2 The friends would prefer somewhere with

- A four bedrooms.
- B three bedrooms.
- C two bathrooms.

3 Phil would rather live in

- A the east suburbs.
- B the city centre.
- C the west suburbs

Questions 4-10

Complete the table below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Details of flats available		
Location	Features	Good (+) and bad (-) points

Bridge Street, near the 4 _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bedrooms • very big living room 	(+) 5 _____ (£) a month (+) transport links (-) no shower (-) could be 6 _____
7 _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bedrooms • living room • 8 _____ 	(+) 9 _____ and well equipped (+) shower (+) will be 10 _____ (-) £800 a month

Questions 11-15

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

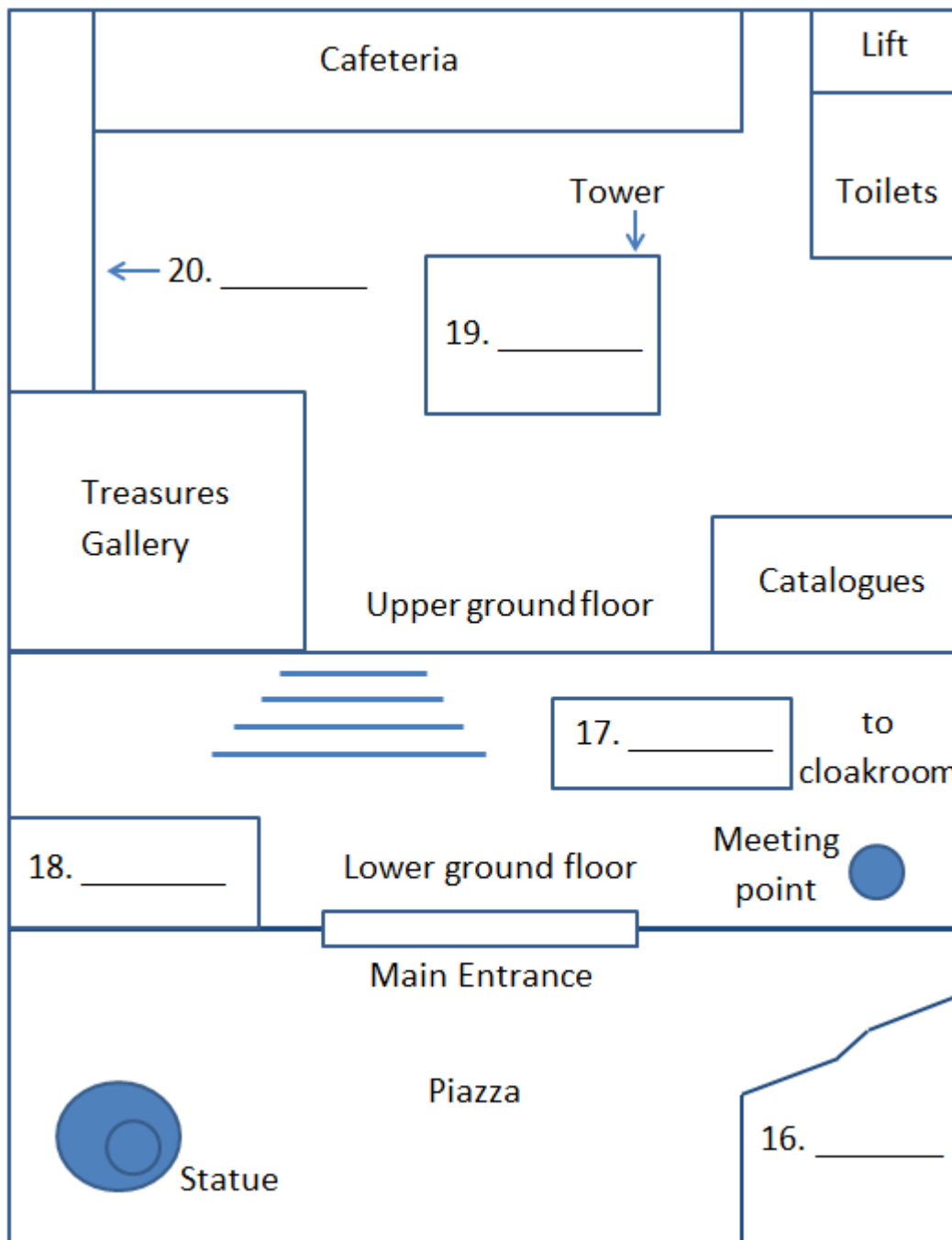
The British Library	
The reading rooms are only open for group visits on	11 _____
The library was officially opened in	12 _____
All the library rooms together cover	13 _____ m ² .
The library is financed by the	14 _____
The main function of the library is to provide resources for people doing	15 _____

Questions 16-20

Label the plan below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Plan of the British Library



16 _____

17 _____

18 _____

19 _____

20 _____

Questions 21-25

Choose the correct answer A, B or C

Project on work placement

21 The main aim of Dave's project is to

- A describe a policy.
- B investigate an assumption.
- C identify a problem.

22 Dave's project is based on schemes in

- A schools.
- B colleges.
- C universities.

23 How many academic organisations returned Dave's questionnaire?

- A 15
- B 50
- C 150

24 Dave wanted his questionnaires to be completed by company

- A Human Resources Managers.
- B Line Managers.
- C owners.

25 Dr Green wants Dave to provide a full list of

- A respondents.
- B appendices.
- C companies.

Questions 26-30

Complete the notes below.

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Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

Notes on project

Introduction

- improve the 26 _____ of ideas
- include a 27 _____ of 'Work Placement'
- have separate sections for literature survey and research 28 _____ and methods

Findings

Preparation stage - add summary

29 _____ development - good

Constraints on learning - provide better links to the 30 _____ from research

Questions 31-35

Complete the sentences below

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

Bilingualism can be defined as having an equal level of communicative 31 _____ in two or more languages.

Early research suggested that bilingualism caused problems with 32 _____ and mental development.

Early research into bilingualism is now rejected because it did not consider the 33 _____ backgrounds of the children

It is now thought that there is a 34 _____ bilingualism and cognitive skills in children.

Research done by Ellen Bialystok in Canada now suggests that the effects of bilingualism also apply to 35 _____

Questions 36-40

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

36 In Dr Bialystok's experiment, the subjects had to react according to

- A** the colour of the square on the screen.
- B** the location of the square on the screen.
- C** the location of the shift key on the keyboard.

37 The experiment demonstrated the 'Simon effect' because it involved a conflict between

- A** seeing something and reacting to it.
- B** producing fast and slow reactions.
- C** demonstrating awareness of shape and colour.

38 The experiment shows that, compared with the monolingual subjects, the bilingual subjects

- A** were more intelligent.
- B** had faster reaction times overall.
- C** had more problems with the 'Simon effect'

39 The results of the experiment indicate that bilingual people may be better at

- A** doing different types of tasks at the same time.
- B** thinking about several things at once.
- C** focusing only on what is needed to do a task.

40 Dr Bialystok's first and second experiments both suggest that bilingualism may

- A** slow down the effects of old age on the brain.
- B** lead to mental confusion among old people.
- C** help old people to stay in better physical condition



Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 10

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1 B | 2 A |
| 3 C | 4 bus station |
| 5 450 | 6 noisy |
| 7 Hills Avenue | 8 dining room |
| 9 modern/very modern | 10 quiet |

Part 2: Question 11 - 20

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 11 Sundays | 12 1998 |
| 13 100,000/100000/one hundred thousand/a hundred thousand | 14 government |
| 15 research | 16 Conference Centre/Center |
| 17 information desk | 18 bookshop |
| 19 King(')s Library | 20 stamp display |

Part 3: Question 21 - 30

- | | |
|------|------|
| 21 B | 22 C |
| 23 A | 24 B |

25 A

27 definition

29 Key Skills

Part 4: Question 31 - 40

31 proficiency

33 social and economic

35 adults

37 A

39 C

26 organisation

28 aims

30 evidence

32 learning

34 positive

36 A

38 B

40 A

Section 1

Cindy: Hello, Brindall's Estate Agents here. How may I help you?

Martin: Oh, good morning, I'm ringing to see what **Example** flats you have for rent at the moment.

Cindy: Right. Can I start by just taking your name Mr em...

Martin: Hill, Martin Hill

Cindy: Right, and are you looking for a flat for yourself or ... em ... a family perhaps?

Martin: Well it's for three of us myself and two friends - we're going to share together.

Cindy: I see . . . erm, what about employment - are you all students?

Martin: Oh no, we've all got full time jobs - **Q1** two of us work in the Central Bank, that's **Chris and me** and Phil that's the other one is working for Hallam cars, you know, at the factory about two miles out of town?

Cindy: I'll put you down as young professionals, then and I suppose you'll be looking for somewhere with three bedrooms?

Martin: Yeah - at least three. But actually, **Q2** we'd rather have a fourth room as well if we can afford it - for friends staying over and stuff

Cindy: Is that with a living room to share? Plus kitchen and bathroom?

Martin: Yeah, that sounds good But we must have a bathroom with a shower. We don't mind about having a bath, but the shower's crucial.

Cindy: OK, I'll just key that in ... Arid, are you interested in any particular area?

Martin: Well the city centre would be good for me and Chris, so that's our first preference ... but we'd consider anything in the **Q3** west suburbs as well really - actually for Phil that'd be better, but he knows he's outnumbered. But we aren't interested in the north or the east of the city.

Cindy: OK, I'm just getting up all the flats on our books.

Cindy: Just looking at this list here, I'm afraid there are only two that might interest you ... do you want the details?

Martin: OK, let me just grab a pen and some paper, fire away!

Cindy: This first one I'm looking at is in Bridge Street - and very close to the **Q4** bus station. It's not often that flats in that area come up for rent. This one's got three bedrooms, a bathroom

and kitchen, of course ... and a very big living room That sounds a good size for you.

Martin: Mmmm . So, what about the rent? How much is it a month?

Cindy: The good news is that it's only **Q5** four hundred and fifty pounds a month. Rents in that area usually reach up to six fifty a month, but the landlord obviously wants to get a tenant quickly.

Martin: Yeah, it sounds like a bit of a bargain. What about transport for Phil?

Cindy: Well, there'll be plenty of buses so no problem for him to use public transport... or... but unfortunately there isn't a shower in the flat, and that location is likely to be **Q6** noisy, of course ...

Martin: OK - what about the other place?

Cindy: Let's see ... oh yes. well this one is in a really nice location - on **Q7** Hills Avenue. I'm sure you know it. This looks like something a bit special It's got four big bedrooms and erm, there's a big living room and ... oh. this will be good for you a **Q8** dining room. It sounds enormous, doesn't it?

Martin: Yeah, it sounds great!

Cindy: That whole area's being developed, and the flat's very **Q9** modern, which I'm sure you'll like. It's got good facilities, including your shower. And of course it's going to be **Q10** quiet, especially compared with the other place.

Martin: Better and better but I'll bet it's expensive, especially if it's in that trendy area beside the park.

Cindy: Hmm, I'm afraid so. They're asking £800 a month for it.

Martin: Wow it sounds a lot more than we can afford.

Cindy: Well maybe you could get somebody else to move in too? I'll tell you what, give me your address and I can send you all the details and photos and you can see whether these two are worth a visit.

Martin: Thanks, that would be really helpful my address

Section 2

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to your very own tour of the British Library on this lovely afternoon. My name is Tony Walters and I'm your guide for today. Could I please see your tickets for the guided tour?

I'd also like to remind you that any tickets bought today do not include a visit to the reading rooms. I'm afraid we don't do visits on Fridays - or any weekday during working hours, so as

not to disturb the readers. But if you do want to see those rooms, the only day there are tours is on **Q11 Sundays**. So, I don't want anyone to be disappointed about that today. OK? thank you. Right. We'll start with a brief introduction. As many of you know, this is the United Kingdom's National Library and you can see that this is a magnificent modern building. It was first designed by Sir Colin St John Wilson in 1977, and inaugurated by Her Majesty the Queen more than twenty years later, in **Q12 1998**.

As you can see, the size is immense and the basements alone have 300 kilometres of shelving - and that's enough to hold about 12 million books. The total floor space here is **Q13 100,000** square metres and, as I'll show you, the library houses a huge range of facilities and exhibition spaces, and it has a thousand staff members based here in the building - so, you can appreciate the scale of our operation.

In fact, this was the biggest publicly-funded building constructed in the United Kingdom last century. It is still funded by the **Q14 government** as a national institution, of course, and it houses one of the most important collections in the world. The different items come from every continent and span almost 3000 years.

The library isn't a public library, though you can't just come in and join and borrow any of the books. Access to the collections is limited to those involved in carrying out **Q15 research**, so it's really a huge reference library for that purpose, and anyone who wants to consult any materials that are kept here can formally apply to use the library reading rooms.

Right, well, here we are, standing at the Meeting Point on the lower ground floor just to the right of the Main Entrance. I've given you all a plan of the building so that we can orientate ourselves and get an idea of where we'll be going. Now outside the Main Entrance you'll see the wide Piazza with the stunning sculpture of Newton.

The sculptor was Paolozzi, but it's based on the famous image by William Blake - and it's definitely worth a closer look. On the other side of the Piazza from the statue is the **Q16 Conference Centre**, which is used for all kinds of international conventions we'll take a quick look inside at the end of our tour.

Looking ahead of us now, you'll see that we're standing opposite the staircase down to the basement where you'll find the cloakroom, and to the left of that, we have the **Q17 information desk** where you can find out about any current exhibitions, the times of the tours and anything you need to know - if you don't have a tour guide. As you can see, on this lower ground floor we also have a **Q18 bookshop** that's the area over to the left of the main entrance. You'll be free to browse there when we get back to the ground floor.

Now, opposite the main entrance on this floor we have the open stairs leading up to the upper ground floor. And at the top of them, in the middle of the upper ground floor, you can see a kind of glass-sided tower that rises all the way up through the ceiling and up to the first floor. This is called the **Q19 King's Library**, it's really the heart of the building, it was built to house the

collection that was presented to the nation in 1823 by the King. You can see it from every floor above ground. When we go up there, you'll find the library's Treasures Gallery on the left. Can you find it on your plan? That's the exciting one, so we'll be visiting that first but we'll also take a look at the **Q20 stamp display** situated behind it, on the way to the cafe - a lot of people miss that. The Cafeteria runs along the back of the floor and, in the right hand corner, you'll find the lifts and toilets ... ha, always good to locate them. The other main area on that floor is the Public Access Catalogue section and I'll show you how that operates when we get up there ...

Section 3

Dr Green: Good afternoon, Dave, come on in and take a seat.

Dave: Hi, Dr Green thanks

Dr Green: Hang on a minute, I'll just find the first draft of your project paper and we can have a look at it together. Now yours is the one on Work Placement, isn't it?

Dave: Yeah, that's right.

Dr Green: So what made you choose that for your project?

Dave: Well, I suppose it was because sending students off to various companies for work experience seems to be such a typical part of educational courses these days - I mean, even school kids get to do it. **Q21** But I felt everyone just kind of assumes it's a good thing and I guess I wanted to find out if that's the case.

Dr Green: But you don't look at schools or colleges, right? You've stuck to **Q22** university placement schemes

Dave: Yeah, well, I quickly found that I had to limit my research, otherwise the area was just too big. Do you think that was OK?

Dr Green: I think it's very sensible, especially as the objectives might be very different. So how many schemes did you look at?

Dave: Well, I sent out about 150 questionnaires altogether - you know. 50 of each to university authorities, students and companies, and I got responses from **Q23** 15 educational institutions, and, er, 30 students in 11 individual companies.

Dr Green: Great, that sounds like a good sample. And who did you send your company questionnaires to?

Dave: Well, the idea was to have them done by the **Q24** students' Line Managers, but sometimes they were filled in by the Human Resources manager or even the owner of the company.

Dr Green: Right. I didn't find a full list anywhere, so I think it's very important to provide that,

really. You can put it as an appendix at the back.

Dave: Right. I've got a record of all **Q25 the respondents** so that'll be easy. I hope other things were OK. I mean I've already put such a lot of work into this project, identifying the companies and so on.

Dr Green: Oh, I can tell I think you've done a good job overall.

Dr Green: I thought your questionnaires were excellent, and you'd obviously done lots of background reading, but there were a few problems with the introduction. First of all, I think you need to make some slight changes to the **Q26 organisation** of your information there, at present it's a bit confused.

Dave: OK. What did you have in mind?

Dr Green: Well, you write quite a bit about Work Placement in general, but you never explain what you mean by the term.

Dave: So you think I should give a **Q27 definition**?

Dr Green: Exactly. And the introduction is the place to do it. And then look, you start talking about what's been written on the topic - but it's all a bit mixed up with your own project.

Dave: So do you think it would be better to have two sections there like, a survey of the literature as the introduction and then a separate section on the **Q28 aims** of my research?

Dr Green: I do. You can include your methods for collecting data in the second section too. It would be much dearer for your reader .. you know, establish the background first, then how your work relates to it, it would flow quite nicely then.

Dave: Yes, I see what you mean

Dr Green: Anyway, moving on I like the way you've grouped your findings into three main topic areas

Dave: Well, it became very obvious from the questionnaires that the preparation stage was really important for the whole scheme to work. So had to look at that first. And I found a huge variation between the different institutions, as you saw.

Dr Green: I was wondering if you could give a summary at the end of this stage of what you consider to be the best practice you found, I think that would be very helpful ..

Dave: Right, I'll just make a note of that What did you think of my second set of findings - on **Q29 Key Skills** development? For me, this is the core of my whole project really ...

Dr Green: And you've handled it very well. I wouldn't want you to make any changes you've already got a nice final focus on good practice there

Dave: Thanks.

Dr Green: Right, now I think the last part, which deals with the reasons why students don't learn ...

Dave: What? The constraints on learning chapter?

Dr Green: Yes. that's the one I think you need to refer to the **Q30 evidence** from your research a bit more closely here. You know, maybe you could illustrate it with quotations from the questionnaires, or even use any extracts from a student 'diary' if you can. And refer back to what you've written about good practice ...

Section 4

When we look at theories of education and learning we see a constant shifting of views as established theories are questioned and refined or even replaced, and we can see this very clearly in the way that attitudes towards bilingualism have changed.

Let's start with a definition of bilingualism, and for our purposes today, we can say it's the ability to communicate with the same degree of **Q31 proficiency** in at least two languages. Now, in practical terms this might seem like a good thing - something we'd all like to be able to do. However, early research done with children in the USA in fact suggested that being bilingual interfered in some way with **Q32 learning** and with the development of their mental processes, and so in those days bilingualism was regarded as something to be avoided, and parents were encouraged to bring their children up as monolingual - just speaking one language. But this research, which took place in the early part of the twentieth century is now regarded as unsound for various reasons, mainly because it didn't take into account other factors such as the children's **Q33 social and economic** backgrounds

Now, in our last lecture we were looking at some of the research that's been done into the way children learn, into their cognitive development, and in fact we believe now that the relationship between bilingualism and cognitive development is actually a **Q34 positive** one, it turns out that cognitive skills such as problem solving, which don't seem at first glance to have anything to do with how many languages you speak, are better among bilingual children than monolingual ones.

And quite recently there's been some very interesting work done by Ellen Bialystok at York University in Canada, she's been doing various studies on the effects of bilingualism and her findings provide some evidence that they might apply to **Q35 adults** as well, they're not just restricted to children.

So how do you go about investigating something like this? Well, Dr Bialystok used groups of monolingual and bilingual subjects, aged from 30 right up to 88 for one experiment, she used a computer program which displayed either a red or a blue square on the screen. The coloured square could come up on either the left-hand or the right-hand side of the screen. If the square was blue, the subject had to press the left 'shift' key on the keyboard and if the square was red

they had to press the right shift key. So they didn't have to react at all to the actual position of the square on the screen, **Q36 just to the colour they saw**. And she measured the subjects' reaction times by recording how long it took them to press the shift key. and how often they got it right.

What she was particularly interested in was whether it took the subject longer to react when a square lit up on one side of the screen - say the left, and the subject had to press the shift key on the right hand side. She'd expected that it would take more processing time than if a square lit up on the left and the candidates had to press a left key.

This was because of a phenomenon known as the 'Simon effect', where, basically the brain gets a bit confused because of conflicting demands being made on it - **Q37 in this case seeing something on the right, and having to react on the left** and this causes a person's reaction times to slow down.

The results of the experiment showed that **Q38 the bilingual subjects responded more quickly than the monolingual ones**. That was true both when the squares were on the 'correct' side of the screen, so to speak, and - even more so - when they were not. So, bilingual people were better able to deal with the Simon effect than the monolingual ones.

So, what's the explanation for this? Well, the result of the experiment suggests that bilingual people are better at **Q39 ignoring information which is irrelevant to the task in hand and just concentrating on what's important**. One suggestion given by Dr Bialystok was that it might be because someone who speaks two languages can suppress the activity of parts of the brain when it isn't needed in particular, the part that processes whichever language isn't being used at that particular time.

Well, she Then went on to investigate that with a second experiment, but again the bilingual group performed better, and what was particularly interesting, and this is I think why the experiments have received so much publicity, is that in all cases, the performance gap between monolingual and bilinguals actually increased with age - **Q40 which suggests that bilingualism protects the mind against decline**, so in some way the life-long experience of managing two languages may prevent some of the negative effects of aging. So that's a very different story from the early research.

So what are the implications of this for education . .