



IELTS Practice Tests Plus Volume 3

Listening Practice Test 6

HOW TO USE

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Questions 1-10

Complete the table below.

Write **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

HOLIDAY RENTALS				
Dates: Example 10th-22ndJuly				
Name of Property	Location	Features	Disadvantage(s)	Booking details
1 _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rural surrounded by 2 _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> apartment two bedrooms open plan 	distance from 3 _____	www. 4 _____ .com
Kingfisher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rural next to the 5 _____ nice views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> house three bedrooms 6 _____ room living room kitchen 	expensive?	Phone the owner (01752669218)
Sunnybanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in a village next to the 7 _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> house has private 8 _____ 	no 9 _____	Contact the 10 _____

Questions 11-14

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

11 According to the speaker, why is it a good time for D-I-Y painting?

- A There are better products available now.
- B Materials cost less than they used to.

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- C People have more free time than before.

12 What happened in 2009 in the UK?

- A A record volume of paint was sold
- B A large amount of paint was wasted.
- C There was a major project to repaint public buildings.

13 What does the speaker say about paint quantity?

- A It's not necessary to have exact room measurements.
- B It's better to overestimate than to underestimate.
- C An automatic calculator can be downloaded from the Internet.

14 What does Community RePaint do?

- A It paints people's houses without payment.
- B It collects unwanted paint and gives it away.
- C It sells unused paint and donates the money to charity.

Questions 15-16

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

What **TWO** pieces of advice does the speaker give about paint?

- A Don't buy expensive paint.
- B Test the colour before buying a lot.
- C Choose a light colour.
- D Use water-based paint.
- E Buy enough paint for more than one application.

Questions 17-18

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

What **TWO** pieces of advice does the speaker give about preparation?

- A Replace any loose plaster.
- B Don't spend too long preparing surfaces.
- C Use decorators' soap to remove grease from walls.
- D Wash dirty walls with warm water.
- E Paint over cracks and small holes.

Questions 19-20

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

What **TWO** pieces of advice does the speaker give about painting?

- A Put a heater in the room.
- B Wash brushes in cold water.
- C Use a roller with a short pile.
- D Apply paint directly from the tin.
- E Open doors and windows.

Questions 21-26

Choose the correct letter; A, B or C.

21 Why is Matthew considering a student work placement?

- A He was informed about an interesting vacancy.
- B He needs some extra income.
- C He wants to try out a career option.

22 Which part of the application process did Linda find most interesting?

- A The psychometric test.
- B The group activity.
- C The individual task.

23 During her work placement, Linda helped find ways to

- A speed up car assembly.

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- B process waste materials.
- C calculate the cost of design faults

24 Why did Linda find her work placement tiring?

- A She wasn't used to full-time work.
- B The working hours were very long.
- C She felt she had to prove her worth

25 What did Linda's employers give her formal feedback on?

- A engineering ability
- B organisational skills
- C team working

26 What was the main benefit of Linda's work placement?

- A Improved academic skills.
- B An offer of work.
- C The opportunity to use new software.

Questions 27-30

What does Linda think about the books on Matthew's reading list?

Choose **FOUR** answers from the box and write the correct letter, A-F, next to questions 27-30.

Books

- 27 The Science of Materials
- 28 Materials Engineering
- 29 Engineering Basics
- 30 Evolution of Materials

	Opinions
A	helpful illustrations
B	easy to understand
C	up-to-date
D	comprehensive
E	specialised
F	useful case studies

Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

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

Researching the origin of medieval manuscripts

Background

Medieval manuscripts - handwritten books produced between the fifth and fifteenth centuries

Origin of many manuscripts unknown until 2009; scientists started using DNA testing

Animal hides - two types

Parchment

Sheep skin: white in colour and 31 _____

Greasy - writing can't be erased so often used for 32 _____

Vellum

Calf skin: most popular for prestigious work because you can get 33 _____ lettering.

Preparation of hides

Treated in barrels of lime - where this was not available, skins were 34 _____ (removed hair -> more flexible)

Stretched tight on a frame

Scraped to create same 35 _____

Vellum was 36 _____

Genetic testing - finding origins

Previously - analysed handwriting and 37 _____ used by the writer

Now - using genetic data from 'known manuscripts' to create a 38 _____

Uses of new data

Gives information on individual books

Shows the 39 _____ of the book industry

Helps define 40 _____ in medieval period



Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 10

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1 Moonfleet | 2 fields |
| 3 shops | 4 summerhouses |
| 5 river | 6 dining |
| 7 sea | 8 garden |
| 9 parking | 10 agent |

Part 2: Question 11 - 19

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

Part 3: Question 21 - 30

- | | |
|------|------|
| 21 A | 22 B |
| 23 A | 24 C |
| 25 B | 26 B |

27 B

29 D

28 A

30 C

Part 4: Question 31 - 40

31 (very) thin

33 high-quality

35 thickness

37 dialect

39 evolution

32 court documents

34 buried

36 bleached/whitened

38 baseline

40 trade routes

SECTION 1

You will hear a man called Ken talking on the phone to a friend called Liz about holiday accommodation.

Liz: Hello?

Ken: Hi Liz, it's Ken here.

Liz: Hi Ken! Nice to hear from you! Are you ...

Ken: This is just a quick call, but Mary and I have just been talking about our summer holiday - we haven't booked a place yet and we've left it a bit late. We were just wondering if you know of any holiday rentals in your area - it's so nice there.

Liz: Well yes, I can think of two or three places that are very nice - what dates have you got in mind?

Ken: **Example** The 10th of July to the 22nd of July.

Liz: Oh yes, that is quite soon isn't it? Well there's a place near here called **Q1** Moonfleet ...

Ken: Is that M-double O- N-F-L-double E- T?

Liz: That's right. It's quite a rural location, and it's next to the owner's house, but it's got **Q2** fields all around it, so it's very pretty.

Ken: Mm. Sounds OK. Can you tell me a bit more about it?

Liz: Well it's an annexe to the owner's house, and it's an apartment with two bedrooms, and an open-plan living area.

Ken: Well I like the sound of it. Is there anything we might not like about it?

Liz: Well it's quite a distance from the nearest **Q3** shops, that's all ...

Ken: OK. And ... well, I'll tell Mary but I don't think she'd mind that. Do you know how you book it?

Liz: You have to book on the internet. There's a web address - it's www. **Q4** summerhouses ...

Ken: One word?

Liz: Yes ... Then dot com. You'll be able to look at a photograph on that.

Ken: OK . And what about the others? Where are they?

Liz: The second one I'm thinking of is called Kingfisher, and that's even more rural. It's a really beautiful location in fact, it's by the **Q5 river**, and it's got nice views - it overlooks woodland on the other side.

Ken: Is that an apartment?

Liz: No, it's a three-bedroomed house. And that's got a **Q6 dining** room as well as a separate living room and a kitchen. But I expect it's more expensive. You'll have to check the prices.

Ken: Mm. It's probably a bit bigger than we need, but our nephew might be joining us, we're not sure yet. How do you book Kingfisher?

Liz: You have to phone the owner directly. Shall I give you the number? I've got it here in my phone book ... It's oh one seven five two, double six nine, two one eight.

Ken: Right ...

Ken: And you mentioned a third place?

Liz: Yes, there's a house that my sister stayed in last year - it's called Sunnybanks.

Ken: Nice name.

Liz: And the location of that one is rather different ... It's in the centre of a village, but it's a very small and quaint place.

Ken: Did your sister like it?

Liz: Oh yes, it's by the **Q7 sea** so her children really loved it ...

Ken: What's the accommodation like?

Liz: I'm not sure about the number of rooms because I haven't been in it myself, but I think she said it's quite spacious ... And I know it's got its own **Q8 garden**. It's not very big, but it's not shared with anyone else, and it's supposed to be very pretty.

Ken: Any snags? Problems?

Liz: The only other thing I can think of is that there's nowhere for **Q9 parking**. The streets are too narrow. So you have to leave your car somewhere else and then walk to the house - it's only about ten minutes away, but ...

Ken: OK. Well ... I don't think it matters personally. How do you book it?

Liz: There's an **Q10 agent** you have to contact. I don't know his details, but I can ask my sister and let you know tomorrow.

Ken: Thanks Liz, that'd be great. I'll talk to Mary and see what she says. Thanks for your help.

Liz: That's OK Ken, I'll speak to you again tomorrow. I hope you find what you're looking for ...

SECTION 2

You will hear part of a radio programme about Do-It-Yourself house painting.

Speaker: Good morning everyone, and welcome to our weekly series on home improvements.

Today's programme is about Do-It-Yourself house painting ... There's never been a better time for people who like to do their own interior house painting. Although people still lead very busy lives, **Q11** thanks to the availability of various new DIY materials, you can now decorate your home in a more efficient and a more environmentally-friendly way.

In two thousand and nine alone, **Q12** approximately fifty-three million litres of the paint that was sold in the UK were left untouched - that's enough to fill twenty one Olympic-sized swimming pools.

It's easy to overestimate how much paint you'll need to decorate your room if you use guesswork. And if you know exactly how much paint is needed, you avoid unnecessary waste.

Q13 There are automatic paint calculators available now - most of the major paint manufacturers provide them - look on their websites, or just google 'paint calculator' and see what comes up. Then simply measure the circumference and height of the room in metres, enter this into the calculator along with the type of surface you're painting, and it will tell you how many litres of paint you'll need.

But if you do end up with leftover paint, you can donate it to an organisation like Community RePaint. **Q14** They will take the paint from you and redistribute it to local charities and voluntary organisations, so it goes to a good home. You can find more information about Community RePaint on communityrepaint.org.uk.

Speaker: Another way of avoiding paint wastage is to check you're completely happy with your colour choice before starting to paint. For example, **Q15** you can get a small sample of the colour you're thinking of using, then paint a board and move it around the room, so you can see how it looks against your furnishings, and in different lights. Also, it's always better to buy high quality paints, because you get what you pay for. If you buy cheap paint you might need to apply two or three coats to achieve the same coverage that you'd get from one coat of a good-quality paint. You could also spend a week on a job that could have been done in a day or two. And consider the environment. **Q16** Most paint manufacturers now sell water-based paints that don't contain harmful chemicals or give off harmful odours, so get one of these. You can also buy paint that's packaged in recyclable containers. There's a lot more choice than there used to be.

You can only do a good job, which will last, if you prepare the surfaces thoroughly before

painting. In fact, in many ways if you want to do a professional-looking job, this is more important than the painting itself. If there are any cracks or patches of loose plaster, painting over them won't solve the problem. **Q17** Take the plaster out and fill the holes, allowing enough time for the new plaster to dry. And you won't get a smooth finish if the walls are dusty or greasy, so washing with water isn't enough. **Q18** Use a solution of decorator's soap and rinse well with warm water afterwards.

When you're ready to paint, we suggest you use a medium-pile roller for walls and ceilings. A lot of people tend to use short-pile rollers, but these give a patchy finish, and that wastes paint and time. Similarly, long-pile rollers can create a thick, textured effect, which looks messy. The same goes for brushes. The stronger the bristles, the easier they are to wash and reuse. And as you've chosen a water-based paint, **Q19** clean your brushes with cold water, because it's more energy-efficient that way. As you're decorating, keep transferring small amounts of paint into a tray and keep topping it up when you need to. This reduces the chance of it being contaminated by dust and pieces of dirt ... And finally, water-based paint doesn't have a lingering smell, so that's not an issue any more, but it's air flow rather than heat that helps the paint dry quicker, so to help finish the job in the quickest time **Q20** leave your doors and windows open. The faster the paint is dry and the job finished, the quicker you can start enjoying your room!

In tomorrow's programme I'll be giving some advice ...

SECTION 3

You will hear two engineering students, a woman in her sixth year called Linda and a man in his fifth year called Matthew, discussing the benefits of student work placements.

Hi Linda. Can you spare a few minutes?

Hello Matthew, no problem.

I just wanted to talk to you about temporary work placements ... I've never really thought there was a good reason for doing one. I've got some savings, so I don't really need the money at the moment. But **Q21** I've had an email from the university about a vacancy that looks quite interesting. You did a placement last year didn't you?

I did, yes. In my case I wanted to find out if I was making the right career choice before I began applying for permanent jobs. I thought I wanted to work in car manufacturing but I wasn't sure. So I applied to Toyota.

What was the application process like?

Lengthy. There were a lot of different parts to it. The dullest one was a psychometric test - you know, when you have to answer loads of questions about yourself.

And you're trying to guess what's the best thing to say!

Yes. Then **Q22** there was an activity that we did in groups, which I found really fascinating. Engineers are renowned for being a bit unsociable, but I thought we made a great team.

And we had an individual task too. We had to sort through various business documents and prioritise them. It was just like what you have to do as a student really, just with different content.

What exactly were you doing on the placement?

I was helping to design some diagnostic software to identify any waste in the car assembly process

Do you mean waste of materials?

No, time. **Q23** Anything that can speed the process up helps to cut costs.

How did the work placement compare to being a student? Was it hard work?

Yes, it was. I'd had full-time work before - I've done various unskilled jobs during university holidays, and some of those involved long hours - so I thought I'd find it easy. I was wrong though. I think **Q24** when you're on placement you're always trying to prove yourself ...

So you push yourself hard to succeed?

Yes. But I got a lot of support from my employers. They were always helpful. And then at the end of the placement I was given formal feedback.

Do you mean on your engineering ability?

Well, no, I didn't really need that because we had team meetings every other day, and so I had the chance to discuss technical issues and ask about anything that wasn't clear. The evaluation was about general workplace things, like **Q25** organisational ability, initiative ... That sort of thing ...

I get the impression you think you benefited from the placement ... ?

Well the best thing is that **Q26** they've offered me a job for next year! Depending on my exam results of course, but still ...

A permanent one?

Yes! But apart from that I learned so much . The industrial environment was much more demanding than the academic one, so my general skills improved. Like time Management ... meeting deadlines ... And on the technical side I learned new software packages like MS Project

Well, I think you've convinced me that work placements are worthwhile ... But while you're here can you give me advice on something else?

I'm about to make a start on the Engineering Materials module, and I've got a booklist here -

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can you have a quick look and tell me what you would recommend - that's if you can remember?

Let's see ... I do remember some of them ... Yes, this one ... **Q27** *The Science of Materials*. I found the subject quite hard generally, but **Q27** *this book is very accessible so it suited me*. It doesn't cover everything though ...

What about this one then . **Q28** *Materials Engineering*?

Oh yes, I do remember that. But it's a bit out-of-date now isn't it, unless it's a new edition?

I don't think so ...

But what I liked about it were the pictures. **Q28** *They really helped to understand the descriptions*. It's useful just from that point of view ... Let's see ... What else? Oh yes ... That one there - **Q29** *Engineering Basics* - I think out of all these that's got the **Q29** *widest coverage* ...

But I've looked at the contents page, and it hardly mentions nanotechnology.

Yes, you're right. The **Q30** *Evolution of Materials* does though. It's a recent publication so **Q30** *it covers all the latest developments*. It's a bit thin on the nineteen sixties though, and that decade was quite important.

Well it sounds as if they all complement each other in some ways. I don't suppose you can lend me .

SECTION 4

You will hear a historian giving a presentation about techniques to identify the origin of handwritten books from the middle ages.

Historian: My presentation today is on how the science of genetics is being used to shed light on the origin of manuscripts - anything written by hand - produced in the medieval period ... that is ... the period between the fifth and fifteenth centuries AD.

As many of you know, thousands of medieval handwritten books still exist today. Some of them have a clear provenance, that is, we know exactly where and when they were written, but the origin of many manuscripts has been a complete mystery, that is, until two thousand and nine when geneticists started using DNA testing to shed light on their origins.

But before looking at the new research, I need to explain something about the way the manuscripts were produced - particularly what they were written on. Virtually all were written on treated animal skins and there were essentially two types. The first was parchment, which is made of sheep skin. It has the quality of being very white but also being **Q31** *thin*. It has a naturally greasy surface which meant it was hard to erase writing from it. This made it much sought after for **Q32** *court documents* in medieval times.

The second type is vellum, which is calf skin. This was most often used for any very 'high-status' documents because it provided the best writing surface so scribes could achieve lettering of **Q33 high quality**.

So, once the animal hides had been chosen, they had to be prepared. Where the right materials were on hand, the skins were put into large barrels or vats of lime, where they were agitated or stirred frequently. But if lime wasn't available, then the hides were **Q34 buried**. Both these techniques were designed to cause the hair to slough off, and the skins to become gelatinous and therefore more flexible.

The next stage was to put the hides on stretcher frames and pull them very tight. While on the frame they were scraped with a moon-shaped knife in order to create a uniform **Q35 thickness**. For parchment, that was the end of the process, but for vellum there was an additional stage where it was **Q36 bleached**, in order to achieve the desired colour.

Historian: So, what does all this preparation mean for the quest to identify the origins of 'mystery' manuscripts? Well, until recently the only way historians and other academics were able to guess at origins was either through the analysis of the handwriting style, or from the **Q37 dialect** in which the piece was written. But these techniques have proven unreliable, for a number of reasons.

It was thus decided to try to look at the problem from a different angle ... to start from what is known, that is, the small number of manuscripts whose origins we do already know. Because these parchments and vellum are both made from animal hides, it was possible to subject them to DNA testing and to identify the genetic markers for the date and location of production. From this was created what is known as a '**Q38 baseline**'. The next stage was to test the mystery manuscripts, finding their DNA characteristics and then making comparisons between the known and the mystery scripts. Genetic similarities and differences enabled the scientists to gain more information about the origins of the many manuscripts we had known virtually nothing about up to that point.

Now you might ask - what are the potential uses of this new information? Well, obviously, it can shed light on the origin of individual books and manuscripts. But that's not all. It can also shed light on the **Q39 evolution** of the whole of the manuscripts production industry in medieval times. And because that was such a thriving business, involving very large-scale movements right across the globe, the new data, in turn, help historians establish which **Q40 trade routes** were in operation during the whole millennium.

Now if anyone has any questions ...