



IELTS Practice Test Volume 3

Listening Practice Test 1

HOW TO USE

You have 2 ways to access the listening audio

1. Open this URL <https://link.intergreat.com/TgNK8> on your computer
2. Use your mobile device to scan the QR code attached



Questions 1-7

Complete the form.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Client Details	
Name: <u>Andrew Peterson</u> (Example)	
Educational Qualification: Degree in 1	<input type="text"/>
Previous Job: 2	<input type="text"/>
Hobbies: 3	<input type="text"/>
Main Skills: 4	<input type="text"/>
Expected Salary (\$): 5	<input type="text"/>
Can start? 6	<input type="text"/>
Other languages? 7	<input type="text"/>

Questions 8-10

Choose **THREE** letters from the list, A-G.

Which **THREE** qualities do employers most value in their staff?

- A** Problem-solving skills
- B** Diligence
- C** Experience
- D** Flexible hours
- E** Independent thinking
- F** Good personality
- G** Qualifications

Questions 11-15

Answer the questions.

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

What does the centre provide first?

11 _____

What is important to control?

12 _____

What will be used to assess member's fitness level?

13 _____

How often is the exercise schedule reviewed?

14 _____

How many exercise programs are available?

15 _____

Questions 16-20

Write the correct letter, A-G, next to the questions.

Which place is best for

A	jogging machines
B	Yoga studio
C	Weight units
D	Front-desk area
E	Squash courts
F	Shower blocks
G	Swimming pool

16 developing confidence?

17 reducing stress?

18 building fitness?

19 meeting others?

20 finding information?

Questions 21-25

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

21 The position needs someone good at

- A computers.
- B dealing with people.
- C arts.

22 The directors will select someone from the faculty of

- A arts.
- B computing.
- C business.

23 The position will require the person to

- A work long hours.
- B train others.
- C do weekend work.

24 The position will come with a

- A car.
- B parking space.
- C much better salary.

25 The best aspect of the job is it

- A gives more responsibility.
- B comes with a private office.
- C is a step to higher positions.

Questions 26-30

Complete the table.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

	Candidates			
	Steven	Abdul	Lek	Oscar
Years of Experience	26 _____	7	8	12
Qualification	MBA	27 _____	degree	certificates
Possible Concerns	28 _____	limited English	29 _____	30 _____

Questions 31-33

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

31 Caves are

- A often ignored.
- B mostly in remote areas.
- C often difficult to explore.

32 People who explore caves

- A mostly need to know about cartography
- B enjoy overcoming the difficulties.
- C usually know about cave sciences.

33 China has

- A probably the most undiscovered caves.
- B a growing number of cave explorers.
- C some of the best documented caves.

Questions 34-40

Complete the table and notes.

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

Three Main Reasons for Cave Formation

Dissolution	Volcanic Lava Tubes	Action of Waves
mainly involves 34 _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • topmost surface cools down and 35 _____ • hotter lava continue to flow beneath 	waves pound in to cliffs then erode into 36 _____ or less rigid rocks.

Limestone caves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • often have formations made of 37 _____ carbonate • e.g. stalactites, stalagmites, and 38 _____
e.g. Lechuguilla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finally revealed in 39 _____ • interestingly, formed from the 40 _____



Solution:

Part 1: Question 1 - 8

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 engineering | 2 car salesman |
| 3 (play)(ing) chess | 4 electronics |
| 5 1,200 | 6 immediately |
| 7 Spanish | 8 $\frac{8}{10}$ A,E,F |

Part 2: Question 11 - 20

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 11 consultation(s) | 12 diet |
| 13 test | 14 monthly |
| 15 three | 16 C |
| 17 A | 18 E |
| 19 F | 20 B |

Part 3: Question 21 - 30

- | | |
|------|------|
| 21 B | 22 C |
| 23 A | 24 B |
| 25 C | 26 7 |

27 MBP

29 bad attitude

Part 4: Question 31 - 40

31 C

33 A

35 solidifies

37 calcium

39 1986

28 not stable

30 health problems

32 C

34 limestone

36 fault lines

38 flowstone

40 bottom up

SECTION 1

You will hear a young student, Andrew, ringing an employment agency, enquiring about their services.

Andrew: Hello. Is this the Triple A Employment agency? .

Woman: Yes.

Andrew: Hi. I rang before. My name's Andrew. **Andrew Peterson**. I rang you earlier and gave you my personal details. If you remember, I'm that student looking for work during the summer holidays.

Woman: Oh, sure. Actually, I have your file right here. But... we still need to add some further information.

Andrew: Yeah, that's what they told me, and that's why I'm ringing. What do you need to know?

Woman: Well, we have to know your main level of education. It's a degree, I suppose.

Andrew: Yes, but I'm still doing it, in **Q1 engineering**. It's quite interesting. Some of my friends are studying computing though, so I'm interested in that, also.

Woman: Well, I'll just write in your main degree subject. Engineering. We usually have a demand in computing though. Have you worked with computers before? Andrew: No. I just do some programming for fun at the university, but I almost got a job as a computer designer once. Actually, the only job I've ever had was as a **Q2 car salesman**, believe it or not.

Woman: Well, at least you've had experience dealing with customers. What about hobbies though? Sometimes they can help develop useful skills.

Andrew: Ummm ... in my free time I don't do much — mostly study. I **Q3 play chess** occasionally at the university chess club. That's right next to the tennis courts, but I'm not interested in that.

Woman: Chess helps develop analytical skills, so I'll put that down. Of course, it's your main skills that employers want to know about. What would you say they are?

Andrew: Well, I'm in my third year now, studying electrical machines and generating systems, but I'd say **Q4 electronics** is my best skill— much better than, say, my machine skills, which aren't so good, actually.

Woman: Okay ... machine skills are in demand, but so too are electronic ones, so we might be able to find you a part-time job in that field. But what sort of money do you expect to get?

Andrew: Oh, anything really. I'd want the standard payment, let's say. What's normal? 1,000 a month? 1,500?

Woman: I'll just put **Q5 \$1,200**, okay?

Andrew: That's fine by me.

Woman: When can you start? Say, within two days?

Andrew: Easily! Actually, less. In fact, just give me a ring, and I'll be able to start **Q6 immediately**, although I admit it'll take me a few days to get used to getting up early in the morning.

Woman: Okay! That's just about it, unless you'd like to add anything else which may help with your application?

Andrew: Ah, not really. I ride a motorbike, but that's unimportant. I'm friendly, but every applicant claims that, right? I can speak another language.

Woman: Ah, that might be useful, depending on the language. Is it Chinese? A Chinese speaker would go down well.

Andrew: **Q7 Spanish**, I'm afraid. You see, I grew up with some friends who came from South America.

Woman: Okay, I'll write that down, but I don't think it will help that much, sorry to say.

Andrew: Well, thanks for your help, and hopefully I'll get a job soon, but can I just ask one more question? [Sure] What, basically, are employers looking for when they interview someone?

Woman: Oh, many things. Being hardworking, diligent, and focused on your job is good, but surprisingly, it often means you can't see the bigger picture, or provide suggestions which help the company move forward. That requires **Q8 thinking for yourself, outside the box as they say, and being free of the standard ways of approaching tasks**. Employers certainly value that.

Andrew: I guess experience must help, though?

Woman: It depends. If it involved a routine job, one which didn't exercise your mind, it might not mean that much at all. But since companies are basically composed of people, it is important to be able to **Q9 get along with others**. There's no point in hiring someone whom the other employees don't like, right? That just causes problems — in fact, I would say that being friendly and approachable ranks far more highly than your academic qualifications.

Andrew: Okay, and that's all assessed at the interview, right?

Woman: Yes, and your qualifications, experience, and approach to the job, such as whether you can do different things, work overtime, or do long hours as needed. But those latter qualities are pretty much standard. What may be more important is based on the fact that things inevitably go wrong. Mistakes are made, and **Q10 someone's got to fix them** in a way that

creates the least disturbance. People with demonstrated abilities to do this are certainly regarded highly.

Andrew: I see. That's very interesting.

SECTION 2

You will hear the manager of a fitness centre giving information about the centre to some new customers.

Hello everyone, and welcome to the "Fit for Life" Health Centre — a place which, as the name suggests, is not just for short-term solutions, but rather, intends to put you on a sensible and achievable footing for the rest of your life. And that's how we're different. For example, we could immediately put you on a harsh exercise program, expecting you to work out every day, but such a plan would see you quickly lose interest. That's why the initial step is a one-and-a-half-hour **Q11 consultation**, in which your lifestyle, current situation, and long-term goals, are all thoroughly analysed.

Now, an important part of this consultation involves analysing what you eat. There's no point exercising here, and losing weight, then putting it all back on, later. You will need to show self-control and discipline in your **Q12 diet**, and we'll work on that. Similarly, we'll put you on an exercise regime suitable for your level of fitness, so that will involve a **Q13 test**, where we will take you through some activities, then measure your heart rate and blood pressure to determine how fit you are. This will be monitored during every subsequent consultation, along with your exercise schedule, and that occurs **Q14 monthly**, and not half-yearly, as with many other centres.

As to our actual exercise machines and programs, you will have to decide whether it is muscle mass, stamina, or general fitness, that you want to develop. Think about which of these **Q15 three** you want to target, and we'll design a specific program for you -- but remember, bulging muscles aren't necessarily suitable for everyone. Sometimes it's better to think in terms of two simple concepts: muscle definition and stamina; or, if you are female, being fit and healthy, in both mind and body.

Now, if you're going to work out at this gym, you'll need to think about your reasons for exercising, so let's consider that in more detail. Muscle mass is certainly popular with the guys, probably seeking, to impress the girls, and with muscles comes the confidence to do that, right? Well, for that, you'll need our **Q16 high-stress weight units**, where pumping iron is all the rage. Moving, on to other benefits,

one of the main ones is beating the tension of life, right, and the longer the exercise is, the greater the rewards in this respect. Thus, playing squash can certainly help, and so can swimming, but what's much better, as every jogger will tell you, is their activity, so we have ample **Q17 jogging machines**, and they're always popular. They can provide good fitness too,

as can the yoga classes; however, again, let's not forget **Q18 playing squash**, which, I would say, is the optimum way to improve your general wellbeing. Such an active, energetic game, plus the competitive element, drives you forward into high levels of health and fitness. These, of course, are the ultimate purposes of being here, but remember, the centre is full of like-minded people, all of whom are interesting to meet, and valuable sources of information.

The yoga classes have a pre- and post-meeting session, so you'll certainly meet others there, although they'll all be yoga enthusiasts, which limits the range somewhat. But whether doing yoga, swimming, or exercising, everyone showers, right, so those facilities are where you'll hear all sorts of interesting conversations, and **Q19 really get to know people**—not like the front-desk area, which is mostly empty as patrons go immediately inside to do their exercise. Of course, the front desk can answer all your questions, and has information brochures, and such like, but for knowing more about a greater variety of subjects and community concerns, **Q20 look at the notice board in the yoga studio**, where there's a huge array of papers, leaflets, and articles, all for you to read and consider.

SECTION 3

You will hear two faculty directors talking about which person in their university to promote.

Dir. A: Okay, we've got to decide who to promote to Leading Education Officer.

Dir. B: Someone from the arts faculty, I suppose.

Dir. A: Well, it can be from any faculty, since the position requires more general skills: **Q21 handling personnel, settling disputes, and motivating them** to focus on the task. It was the last position which involved computer knowledge, not this one.

Dir. B: Surely computer knowledge would help. So too would knowledge in the arts.

Dir. A: Sure, it would help, but the key criterion is being able to direct the staff appropriately.

Dir. B: So, it doesn't matter then from which faculty we select our candidates?

Dir. A: Not really, but I've already looked at those from computing, and rejected them all.

Dir. B: Why?

Dir. A: They'll all too new, lacking in sufficient experience, whereas these ones from **Q22 the business faculty** are longtimers, so we'll take someone from there.

Dir. B: I suppose you're right. The arts faculty doesn't present much in the way of suitable candidates either.

Dir. A: But we'll still have to train the person—teach the ropes, as they say. And he or she will have to expect to **Q23 do overtime**, as needed.

Dir. B: Of course. It can get so busy that, if we were open on the weekend, they'd have to work

then as well.

Dir. A: Just as well we're a Monday to Friday university, right?

Dir. B: Right! But are you sure these people will actually want the job? The salary isn't such an improvement on their current ones.

Dir. A: I know, but there are benefits. You get overtime rates, **Q24** a nice place to put your car, as well as additional petrol money if you drive for company purposes, which they'll probably be required to do.

Dir. B: But those benefits are quite limited, especially given all the work and responsibility involved. People often don't like that. They prefer the creative freedom of less-senior teaching positions.

Dir. A: Yeah I know, but these candidates should realise that if they do this job well, **Q25** there'll be more promotions down the line. You know how everyone likes having their own office, right?

Dir. B: Sure.

Dir. A: Well, that would come after a few years, if they're prepared to work hard and grow with the university.

Dir. B: Yes, that should attract these people.

Dir. A: Well, that's enough talk about the job. What about the actual candidates? How many do we have?

Dir. B: Ah, I've narrowed it down to four—ah, just using their first names, that's Steven, Abdul, Lek, and Oscar. As you said, there's quite a bit of experience between them, about 34 years in all.

Dir. A: What's the exact breakdown of figures?

Dir. B: Abdul and Steven both have **Q26** seven years, Lek has one more, and Oscar is the most experienced, at 12.

Dir. A: But who's the most qualified?

Dir. B: Steven and Abdul have an MBA — sorry! Abdul's got something called a **Q27** M.B.P. — some foreign thing which translates as Master of Business Practice.

Dir. A: I'm not sure what that is, but does he do the job well?

Dir. B: Very well, apparently — better than Lek and Oscar, who hold a degree and some certificates, respectively. But we have to think about any drawbacks — y'know, possible issues with any of them. I asked their respective deans for feedback, and I found out that Steven, the younger one, drinks a bit.

Dir. A: So, he has a problem with alcohol?

Dir. B: No, he never drinks to excess, but at the bar he's often expressed his intention of moving on, of teaching abroad.

Dir. A: Ah, he's **Q28** not stable.

Dir. B: Not stable at all, apparently. We'll never know for how long he'll hold the job.

Dir. A: We need stable personnel, and people without family problems, or sick relatives, like the last guy we promoted. What about Abdul then? Will he do?

Dir. B: He might do, except his English language ability is limited. It's functional, but a bit broken, and meaning is sometimes lost. That's not the problem with the next candidate, Lek, who has good language ability, but this job involves handling people, and his dean says Lek's **Q29** attitude is bad.

Dir. A: In what way?

Dir. B: His manners are okay, and he's interested in his job, but he believes there should always be adequate leisure in life. He definitely won't work overtime and complains a lot already about his job, but this last candidate, Oscar, is probably not the right one, either.

Dir. A: Why not? Not another problem with language?

Dir. B: His first language isn't English, but he speaks it well enough. He's stable, with a good attitude, but his age is the problem.

Dir. A: Age is not a problem. That would be ageism, and I don't believe in that.

Dir. B: But with his age comes **Q30** health problems as well, and serious ones at that.

Dir. A: Oh, that might be an issue then.

SECTION 4

You will hear a lecturer talking about caves.

If there is one natural feature which has long fascinated man, it is caves -- those natural underground spaces into which people can enter. No known cave in the world can exist without it being extensively explored, whether it be in remote areas, such as the Clearwater Cave in Borneo, or immensely long and difficult, such as Mammoth Cave in America, or perhaps the most challenging: those caves below the water table, full with water -- in which ease the exploration is known as cave diving. Whatever the ease, if the caves are known, **Q31** as complex and difficult as they usually are, they will be explored.

The formal name for the study of caves is speleology — and involves many disciplines, such as chemistry, geology, biology, and cartography, or the science of making accurate maps, since

the largest caves can be hundreds of kilometers long and highly complicated. If the exploration is just for fun, the activity is known as caving, but with the difficulties and dangers involved, **Q32** the average caver is often involved with one of these speleological sciences.

As for the number of caves in the world, research suggests that only a fraction have been found and documented, mostly in the areas in which caving has long been a popular activity, such as in America, France, or Australia. China, for example, has huge areas of limestone bedrock—prime material for cave formation—and logically **Q33** must contain among the largest number of caves in the world, yet only few are documented due to the lack of interest in caving there. Thus, as exploration continues, new caves will be discovered, and it is likely that the numbers could radically change in the future.

With caves being such mysterious and intriguing places, the obvious question concerns how they form. The most common cause is the effect of slightly acidic water in a process called 'dissolution'. Here, water seeps into the ground, and down through rock masses. If this rock is soluble, the water dissolves some of it, and over time, the passage expands to become a cave, or cave system. The largest and most common of these involves **Q34** limestone, although other materials are possible, including gypsum, marble, and even salt.

Now, if the cave is formed at the same time as the rock, it is called a primary cave, and the most common of these are lava tubes. When lava from volcanoes flows downhill, the topmost surface cools and **Q35** solidifies first, leaving the hotter lava to continue to flow beneath. If most of this eventually flows out, a hollow tube is left. The country Iceland, has some excellent caves of this type, and even far-flung Australia has a few. Finally, there are sea caves, formed from waves pounding into coastal cliffs, and eroding into **Q36** fault lines, or softer rock. These caves are usually the shortest, about 50 meters at most, since the erosive action of the waves can only reach a certain distance.

However, it is limestone caves which will always be the most interesting. This is due to the presence of limestone formations. As the groundwater seeps downward through the ceiling of the caves, it encounters a different pressure and temperature, causing it to deposit a small amount of its dissolved **Q37** calcium carbonate. Over time, through the action of millions of drops, this deposition process results in ever-growing masses, known as stalactites (if hanging from the ceiling), or stalagmites (if growing from the floor). Alternatively, the water may flow over a large surface of rock, forming **Q38** flowstone, and with other sorts of processes, can result in beautiful milky-white formations of astonishing complexity.

One of the best examples of this, as well as of what surprising discoveries may yet await, is the Lechuguilla Cave in New Mexico. In the 1950s, some cavers heard the sound of wind underneath some large boulders on the cave floor, a clear sign of a deeper passageway. It took until 1984 for a group of cavers to gain permission to start digging, and two years later, in **Q39** 1986 they broke through into a walkable passageway —unlocking, one of the longest cave systems in the world, the deepest in America, and some of the most beautiful formations

ever found, Unusually, many of these were yellow with sulphur, suggesting that the caves were a result of hydrogen-sulfide from nearby oil deposits. This was forced through fracture lines, combining with existing groundwater to form sulfuric acid, dissolving the limestone from the **Q40 bottom up**, instead of the normal top-down seepage which characterises most limestone cave formation.