

IELTS

ACADEMIC 17

WITH ANSWERS

AUTHENTIC PRACTICE TESTS



WITH AUDIO



Test 1

LISTENING

PART 1 Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

Buckworth Conservation Group

Regular activities

Beach

- making sure the beach does not have **1** on it
- no **2**

Nature reserve

- maintaining paths
- nesting boxes for birds installed
- next task is taking action to attract **3** to the place
- identifying types of **4**
- building a new **5**

Forthcoming events

Saturday

- meet at Dunsmore Beach car park
- walk across the sands and reach the **6**
- take a picnic
- wear appropriate **7**

Woodwork session

- suitable for **8** to participate in
- making **9** out of wood
- 17th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- cost of session (no camping): **10** £

PART 2 Questions 11–20**Questions 11–14**

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



Listening test audio

Boat trip round Tasmania

- 11** What is the maximum number of people who can stand on each side of the boat?
- A** 9
 - B** 15
 - C** 18
- 12** What colour are the tour boats?
- A** dark red
 - B** jet black
 - C** light green
- 13** Which lunchbox is suitable for someone who doesn't eat meat or fish?
- A** Lunchbox 1
 - B** Lunchbox 2
 - C** Lunchbox 3
- 14** What should people do with their litter?
- A** take it home
 - B** hand it to a member of staff
 - C** put it in the bins provided on the boat

Test 1

Questions 15 and 16

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Which **TWO** features of the lighthouse does Lou mention?

- A** why it was built
- B** who built it
- C** how long it took to build
- D** who staffed it
- E** what it was built with

Questions 17 and 18

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Which **TWO** types of creature might come close to the boat?

- A** sea eagles
- B** fur seals
- C** dolphins
- D** whales
- E** penguins

Questions 19 and 20

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Which **TWO** points does Lou make about the caves?

- A** Only large tourist boats can visit them.
- B** The entrances to them are often blocked.
- C** It is too dangerous for individuals to go near them.
- D** Someone will explain what is inside them.
- E** They cannot be reached on foot.

PART 3 Questions 21–30**Questions 21–26**

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



Listening test audio

Work experience for veterinary science students

- 21** What problem did both Diana and Tim have when arranging their work experience?
- A** making initial contact with suitable farms
 - B** organising transport to and from the farm
 - C** finding a placement for the required length of time
- 22** Tim was pleased to be able to help
- A** a lamb that had a broken leg.
 - B** a sheep that was having difficulty giving birth.
 - C** a newly born lamb that was having trouble feeding.
- 23** Diana says the sheep on her farm
- A** were of various different varieties.
 - B** were mainly reared for their meat.
 - C** had better quality wool than sheep on the hills.
- 24** What did the students learn about adding supplements to chicken feed?
- A** These should only be given if specially needed.
 - B** It is worth paying extra for the most effective ones.
 - C** The amount given at one time should be limited.
- 25** What happened when Diana was working with dairy cows?
- A** She identified some cows incorrectly.
 - B** She accidentally threw some milk away.
 - C** She made a mistake when storing milk.
- 26** What did both farmers mention about vets and farming?
- A** Vets are failing to cope with some aspects of animal health.
 - B** There needs to be a fundamental change in the training of vets.
 - C** Some jobs could be done by the farmer rather than by a vet.

Test 1

Questions 27–30

What opinion do the students give about each of the following modules on their veterinary science course?

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

Opinions

- A** Tim found this easier than expected.
- B** Tim thought this was not very clearly organised.
- C** Diana may do some further study on this.
- D** They both found the reading required for this was difficult.
- E** Tim was shocked at something he learned on this module.
- F** They were both surprised how little is known about some aspects of this.

Modules on Veterinary Science course

- 27** Medical terminology
- 28** Diet and nutrition
- 29** Animal disease
- 30** Wildlife medication

PART 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

Labyrinths

Definition

- a winding spiral path leading to a central area

Labyrinths compared with mazes

- Mazes are a type of **31**
 - **32** is needed to navigate through a maze
 - the word 'maze' is derived from a word meaning a feeling of **33**
- Labyrinths represent a journey through life
 - they have frequently been used in **34** and prayer

Early examples of the labyrinth spiral

- Ancient carvings on **35** have been found across many cultures
- The Pima, a Native American tribe, wove the symbol on baskets
- Ancient Greeks used the symbol on **36**

Walking labyrinths

- The largest surviving example of a turf labyrinth once had a big **37** at its centre

Labyrinths nowadays

- Believed to have a beneficial impact on mental and physical health, e.g., walking a maze can reduce a person's **38** rate
- Used in medical and health and fitness settings and also prisons
- Popular with patients, visitors and staff in hospitals
 - patients who can't walk can use 'finger labyrinths' made from **39**
 - research has shown that Alzheimer's sufferers experience less **40**

Test 2

LISTENING

PART 1 Questions 1–10

Questions 1–7

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

Opportunities for voluntary work in Southoe village

Library

- Help with **1** books (times to be arranged)
- Help needed to keep **2** of books up to date
- Library is in the **3** Room in the village hall

Lunch club

- Help by providing **4**
- Help with hobbies such as **5**

Help for individuals needed next week

- Taking Mrs Carroll to **6**
- Work in the **7** at Mr Selsbury's house

Questions 8–10

Complete the table below.

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

Village social events			
Date	Event	Location	Help needed
19 Oct	8	Village hall	providing refreshments
18 Nov	dance	Village hall	checking 9
31 Dec	New Year's Eve party	Mountfort Hotel	designing the 10



PART 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11–14

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



Listening test audio

Oniton Hall

- 11** Many past owners made changes to
- A** the gardens.
 - B** the house.
 - C** the farm.
- 12** Sir Edward Downes built Oniton Hall because he wanted
- A** a place for discussing politics.
 - B** a place to display his wealth.
 - C** a place for artists and writers.
- 13** Visitors can learn about the work of servants in the past from
- A** audio guides.
 - B** photographs.
 - C** people in costume.
- 14** What is new for children at Oniton Hall?
- A** clothes for dressing up
 - B** mini tractors
 - C** the adventure playground

Questions 15–20

Which activity is offered at each of the following locations on the farm?

Choose **SIX** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–H**, next to Questions 15–20.

Activities

- A** shopping
- B** watching cows being milked
- C** seeing old farming equipment
- D** eating and drinking
- E** starting a trip
- F** seeing rare breeds of animals
- G** helping to look after animals
- H** using farming tools

Locations on the farm

- 15** dairy
- 16** large barn
- 17** small barn
- 18** stables
- 19** shed
- 20** parkland

PART 3 Questions 21–30

Questions 21 and 22

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.



Listening test audio

Which **TWO** things do the students agree they need to include in their reviews of *Romeo and Juliet*?

- A** analysis of the text
- B** a summary of the plot
- C** a description of the theatre
- D** a personal reaction
- E** a reference to particular scenes

Questions 23–27

Which opinion do the speakers give about each of the following aspects of The Emporium's production of *Romeo and Juliet*?

Choose **FIVE** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–G**, next to Questions 23–27.

Opinions

- A** They both expected this to be more traditional.
- B** They both thought this was original.
- C** They agree this created the right atmosphere.
- D** They agree this was a major strength.
- E** They were both disappointed by this.
- F** They disagree about why this was an issue.
- G** They disagree about how this could be improved.

Aspects of the production

- 23** the set
- 24** the lighting
- 25** the costume design
- 26** the music
- 27** the actors' delivery

Questions 28–30

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

- 28** The students think the story of *Romeo and Juliet* is still relevant for young people today because
- A** it illustrates how easily conflict can start.
 - B** it deals with problems that families experience.
 - C** it teaches them about relationships.
- 29** The students found watching *Romeo and Juliet* in another language
- A** frustrating.
 - B** demanding.
 - C** moving.
- 30** Why do the students think Shakespeare's plays have such international appeal?
- A** The stories are exciting.
 - B** There are recognisable characters.
 - C** They can be interpreted in many ways.

PART 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

The impact of digital technology on the Icelandic language

The Icelandic language

- has approximately **31** speakers
- has a **32** that is still growing
- has not changed a lot over the last thousand years
- has its own words for computer-based concepts, such as web browser and **33**

Young speakers

- are big users of digital technology, such as **34**
- are becoming **35** very quickly
- are having discussions using only English while they are in the **36** at school
- are better able to identify the content of a **37** in English than Icelandic

Technology and internet companies

- write very little in Icelandic because of the small number of speakers and because of how complicated its **38** is

The Icelandic government

- has set up a fund to support the production of more digital content in the language
- believes that Icelandic has a secure future
- is worried that young Icelanders may lose their **39** as Icelanders
- is worried about the consequences of children not being **40** in either Icelandic or English

Test 3

LISTENING

PART 1 Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

Advice on surfing holidays

Jack's advice

- Recommends surfing for **1** holidays in the summer
- Need to be quite **2**

Irish surfing locations

- County Clare
 - Lahinch has some good quality **3** and surf schools
 - There are famous cliffs nearby
- County Mayo
 - Good surf school at **4** beach
 - Surf camp lasts for one **5**
 - Can also explore the local **6** by kayak

Weather

- Best month to go: **7**
- Average temperature in summer: approx. **8** degrees

Costs

- Equipment
 - Wetsuit and surfboard: **9** euros per day
 - Also advisable to hire **10** for warmth

PART 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11 and 12

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.



Which **TWO** facts are given about the school's extended hours childcare service?

- A** It started recently.
- B** More children attend after school than before school.
- C** An average of 50 children attend in the mornings.
- D** A child cannot attend both the before and after school sessions.
- E** The maximum number of children who can attend is 70.

Questions 13–15

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

13 How much does childcare cost for a complete afternoon session per child?

- A** £3.50
- B** £5.70
- C** £7.20

14 What does the manager say about food?

- A** Children with allergies should bring their own food.
- B** Children may bring healthy snacks with them.
- C** Children are given a proper meal at 5 p.m.

15 What is different about arrangements in the school holidays?

- A** Children from other schools can attend.
- B** Older children can attend.
- C** A greater number of children can attend.

Questions 16–20

What information is given about each of the following activities on offer?

Choose **FIVE** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–G**, next to Questions 16–20.

Information

- A** has limited availability
- B** is no longer available
- C** is for over 8s only
- D** requires help from parents
- E** involves an additional fee
- F** is a new activity
- G** was requested by children

Activities

- 16** Spanish
- 17** Music
- 18** Painting
- 19** Yoga
- 20** Cooking

PART 3 Questions 21–30

Questions 21–24

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.



Listening test audio

Holly's Work Placement Tutorial

- 21** Holly has chosen the Orion Stadium placement because
- A** it involves children.
 - B** it is outdoors.
 - C** it sounds like fun.
- 22** Which aspect of safety does Dr Green emphasise most?
- A** ensuring children stay in the stadium
 - B** checking the equipment children will use
 - C** removing obstacles in changing rooms
- 23** What does Dr Green say about the spectators?
- A** They can be hard to manage.
 - B** They make useful volunteers.
 - C** They shouldn't take photographs.
- 24** What has affected the schedule in the past?
- A** bad weather
 - B** an injury
 - C** extra time

Questions 25–30

What do Holly and her tutor agree is an important aspect of each of the following events management skills?

Choose **SIX** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–H**, next to Questions 25–30.

Important aspects

- A** being flexible
- B** focusing on details
- C** having a smart appearance
- D** hiding your emotions
- E** relying on experts
- F** trusting your own views
- G** doing one thing at a time
- H** thinking of the future

Events management skills

- 25** Communication
- 26** Organisation
- 27** Time management
- 28** Creativity
- 29** Leadership
- 30** Networking

PART 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

Bird Migration Theory

Most birds are believed to migrate seasonally.

Hibernation theory

- It was believed that birds hibernated underwater or buried themselves in **31**
- This theory was later disproved by experiments on caged birds.

Transmutation theory

- Aristotle believed birds changed from one species into another in summer and winter.
 - In autumn he observed that redstarts experience the loss of **32** and thought they then turned into robins.
 - Aristotle's assumptions were logical because the two species of birds had a similar **33**

17th century

- Charles Morton popularised the idea that birds fly to the **34** in winter.

Scientific developments

- In 1822, a stork was killed in Germany which had an African spear in its **35**
 - previously there had been no **36** that storks migrate to Africa
- Little was known about the **37** and journeys of migrating birds until the practice of ringing was established.
 - It was thought large birds carried small birds on some journeys because they were considered incapable of travelling across huge **38**
 - Ringing depended on what is called the **39** '.....' of dead birds.
- In 1931, the first **40** to show the migration of European birds was printed.

Test 4

LISTENING

PART 1 Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD** for each answer.



Listening test audio

Easy Life Cleaning Services

Basic cleaning package offered

- Cleaning all surfaces
- Cleaning the 1 throughout the apartment
- Cleaning shower, sinks, toilet etc.

Additional services agreed

- Every week
 - Cleaning the 2
 - Ironing clothes – 3 only
- Every month
 - Cleaning all the 4 from the inside
 - Washing down the 5

Other possibilities

- They can organise a plumber or an 6 if necessary.
- A special cleaning service is available for customers who are allergic to 7

Information on the cleaners

- Before being hired, all cleaners have a background check carried out by the 8
- References are required.
- All cleaners are given 9 for two weeks.
- Customers send a 10 after each visit.
- Usually, each customer has one regular cleaner.

PART 2 Questions 11–20

Questions 11–14

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



- 11** Many hotel managers are unaware that their staff often leave because of
- A** a lack of training.
 - B** long hours.
 - C** low pay.
- 12** What is the impact of high staff turnover on managers?
- A** an increased workload
 - B** low morale
 - C** an inability to meet targets
- 13** What mistake should managers always avoid?
- A** failing to treat staff equally
 - B** reorganising shifts without warning
 - C** neglecting to have enough staff during busy periods
- 14** What unexpected benefit did Dunwich Hotel notice after improving staff retention rates?
- A** a fall in customer complaints
 - B** an increase in loyalty club membership
 - C** a rise in spending per customer

Questions 15–20

Which way of reducing staff turnover was used in each of the following hotels?

Write the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**, next to Questions 15–20.

Ways of reducing staff turnover

- A** improving relationships and teamwork
- B** offering incentives and financial benefits
- C** providing career opportunities

Hotels

- 15** The Sun Club
- 16** The Portland
- 17** Bluewater Hotels
- 18** Pentlow Hotels
- 19** Green Planet
- 20** The Amesbury

PART 3 **Questions 21–30**

Questions 21–22

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.



Which **TWO** points do Thomas and Jeanne make about Thomas's sporting activities at school?

- A** He should have felt more positive about them.
- B** The training was too challenging for him.
- C** He could have worked harder at them.
- D** His parents were disappointed in him.
- E** His fellow students admired him.

Questions 23 and 24

Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.

Which **TWO** feelings did Thomas experience when he was in Kenya?

- A** disbelief
- B** relief
- C** stress
- D** gratitude
- E** homesickness

Questions 25–30

What comment do the students make about the development of each of the following items of sporting equipment?

Choose **SIX** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–H**, next to Questions 25–30.

Comments about the development of the equipment

- A** It could cause excessive sweating.
- B** The material was being mass produced for another purpose.
- C** People often needed to make their own.
- D** It often had to be replaced.
- E** The material was expensive.
- F** It was unpopular among spectators.
- G** It caused injuries.
- H** No one using it liked it at first.

Items of sporting equipment

- 25** the table tennis bat
- 26** the cricket helmet
- 27** the cycle helmet
- 28** the golf club
- 29** the hockey stick
- 30** the football

PART 4 Questions 31–40

Complete the notes below.

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



Listening test audio

Maple syrup

What is maple syrup?

- made from the sap of the maple tree
- added to food or used in cooking
- colour described as **31**
- very **32** compared to refined sugar

The maple tree

- has many species
- needs sunny days and cool nights
- maple leaf has been on the Canadian flag since 1964
- needs moist soil but does not need fertiliser as well
- best growing conditions and **33** are in Canada and North America

Early maple sugar producers

- made holes in the tree trunks
- used hot **34** to heat the sap
- used tree bark to make containers for collection
- sweetened food and drink with sugar

Today's maple syrup

The trees

- Tree trunks may not have the correct **35** until they have been growing for 40 years.
- The changing temperature and movement of water within the tree produces the sap.

The production

- A tap is drilled into the trunk and a **36** carries the sap into a bucket.
- Large pans of sap called evaporators are heated by means of a **37**
- A lot of **38** is produced during the evaporation process.
- 'Sugar sand' is removed because it makes the syrup look **39** and affects the taste.
- The syrup is ready for use.
- A huge quantity of sap is needed to make a **40** of maple syrup.