

IELTS Listening Sample Tasks

The IELTS Listening test includes a variety of tasks. Different question types are used, chosen from the following: multiple choice, matching, plan/map/diagram labelling, form/note/table/flow-chart/summary completion, sentence completion.

Read the details of each task type on our [Test format page](#).

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Listening Sample Task – Form Completion

PART 1

Questions 1 – 8

Complete the form below.

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

PACKHAM'S SHIPPING AGENCY – customer quotation

Example

Country of destination: **Kenya...**

Name **Jacob 1**

Address to be collected **2** **College, Downlands Rd**

Town

Postcode **3**

Size of

The diagram shows a 3D perspective of a rectangular box. Dashed lines indicate the hidden edges. Three dimensions are labeled with arrows: 'Length:' points to the front-left edge, 'Width: 4' points to the bottom edge, and 'Height: 5' points to the right vertical edge.

Contents **clothes**

6

...

Total estimated value: **8**

Listening Sample Task – Form Completion (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

You will hear a telephone conversation between a customer and an agent at a company which ships large boxes overseas.

- A** Good morning. Packham's Shipping Agents. Can I help you?
- B** Oh yes, I'm ringing to make enquiries about sending a large box, a container, back home to Kenya from the UK.
- A** Yes, of course. Would you like me to try and find some quotations for you?
- B** Yes, that'd be great. Thank you.
- A** Well first of all, I need a few details from you.
- B** Fine.
- A** Can I take your name?
- B** It's Jacob Mkere.
- A** Can you spell your surname, please?
- B** Yes, it's M-K-E-R-E.
- A** Is that 'M' for mother?
- B** Yes.
- A** Thank you, and you say that you will be sending the box to Kenya?
- B** That's right.
- A** And where would you like the box picked up from?
- B** From college, if possible.

- A** Yes, of course. I'll take down the address now.
- B** It's Westall College.
- A** Is that W-E-S-T-A-L-L?
- B** Yes, ... college.
- A** Westall College. And where's that?
- B** It's Downlands Road, in Bristol.
- A** Oh yes, I know it. And the postcode?
- B** It's BS8 9PU.
- A** Right ... and I need to know the size.
- B** Yes, I've measured it carefully and it's 1.5m long ...
- A** Right.
- B** 0.75m wide ...
- A** OK.
- B** And it's 0.5m high or deep.
- A** Great. So I'll calculate the volume in a moment and get some quotes for that. But first can you tell me, you know, very generally, what will be in the box?
- B** Yes there's mostly clothes.
- A** OK. [writing down]
- B** And there's some books.
- A** OK. Good. Um ... Anything else?
- B** Yes, there's also some toys.
- A** OK and what is the total value, do you think, of the contents?

B Well the main costs are the clothes and the books – they’ll be about £1500 but then the toys are about another two hundred – so I’d put down £1700.

Listening Sample Task – Form Completion (Answers)

- 1 Mkere
 - 2 Westall
 - 3 BS8 9PU
 - 4 0.75 m/metre(s)/meter(s) (wide) / three(-)quarter(s) (of) (a) metre/meter (wide) / $\frac{3}{4}$ m (wide) / 75 cm(s) (wide)
 - 5 0.5 m/metre(s)/meter(s) (high/deep) / (a) half (a) metre/meter (high/deep) / $\frac{1}{2}$ m (high/deep) / 50 cm(s) (high/deep)
- 6 & 7 in either order**
(some) books
(some) toys
- 8 1,700

Words in brackets are optional - they are correct, but not necessary. Alternative answers are separated by a slash (/).

Listening Sample Task – Multiple Choice

PART 1

Questions 9 and 10

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

9 Type of insurance chosen

- A** Economy
- B** Standard
- C** Premium

10 Customer wants goods delivered to

- A** port
- B** home
- C** depot

Listening Sample Task – Multiple Choice (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

(A customer has been arranging with a shipping agent to send a large box overseas. This is the last part of the conversation.)

- A** OK right. Now obviously insurance is an important thing to consider and our companies are able to offer very good rates in a number of different all-inclusive packages.
- B** Sorry, could you explain a bit more?
- A** Yes, sorry, um. There's really three rates according to quality of insurance cover – there's the highest comprehensive cover which is Premium rate, then there's Standard rate and then there's Economy rate. That one will only cover the cost of the contents second hand.
- B** Oh I've been stung before with Economy insurance so I'll go for the highest.
- A** Mh'hm and can I just check would you want home delivery or to a local depot or would you want to pick it up at the nearest port?
- B** The port'd be fine – I've got transport that end.
- A** Fine and will you be paying by credit card?
- B** Can I pay by cheque?

Listening Sample Task – Multiple Choice (Answers)

9 C

10 A

Listening Sample Task – Short-answer Questions

PART 2

Questions 11 – 16

Answer the questions below.

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

What **TWO** factors can make social contact in a foreign country difficult?

- 11
- 12

Which types of community group does the speaker give examples of?

- theatre
- 13
- 14

In which **TWO** places can information about community activities be found?

- 15
- 16

Listening Sample Task – Short-answer Questions (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

You will hear an extract from a talk given to a group who are going to stay in the UK.

Good evening, and welcome to the British Council. My name is John Parker and I've been asked to talk to you briefly about certain aspects of life in the UK before you actually go there. So I'm going to talk first about the best ways of making social contacts there. Now you might be wondering why it should be necessary. After all, we meet people all the time. But when you're living in a foreign country it can be more difficult, not just because of the language, but because customs may be different.

If you're going to work in the UK you will probably be living in private accommodation, so it won't be quite so easy to meet people. But there are still things that you can do to help yourself. First of all, you can get involved in activities in your local community, join a group of some kind. For example, you'll probably find that there are theatre groups who might be looking for actors, set designers and so on, or if you play an instrument you could join music groups in your area. Or if you like the idea of finding out about local history there'll be a group for that too. These are just examples. And the best places to get information about things like this are either the town hall or the public library. Libraries in the UK perform quite a broad range of functions nowadays – they're not just confined to lending books, although that's their main role of course.

Listening Sample Task – Short-answer Questions (Answers)

- 11 & 12** ***in either order***
language
customs
- 13 & 14** ***in either order***
music (groups)
local history (groups)
- 15 & 16** ***in either order***
(the) (public) library/libraries
(the) town hall

Words in brackets are optional - they are correct, but not necessary. Alternative answers are separated by a slash (/).

Listening Sample Task – Sentence Completion



PART 3

Questions 27 – 30

Complete the sentences below.

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

Studying with the Open University demanded a great deal of **27**

Studying and working at the same time improved Rachel's **28** skills.

It was helpful that the course was structured in **29**

She enjoyed meeting other students at **30**

Listening Sample Task – Sentence Completion (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

Two friends, Rachel and Paul, are discussing studying with the Open University. Rachel has already done a course at the university, but Paul has not. The extract relating to these questions comes from the last part of the recording.

Paul The other thing I wanted to ask you was, did you find it hard, studying with the Open University?

Rachel You mean, because you're studying on your own, most of the time?

Paul Mm.

Rachel Well it took me a while to get used to it. I found I needed to maintain a high level of motivation, because it's so different from school. There's no-one saying, 'Why haven't you written your assignment yet?' and that sort of thing.

Paul Oh dear.

Rachel You'll learn it, Paul. Another thing was that I got very good at time-management because I had to fit time for studying round a full-time job.

Paul Well I'm hoping to change to working part-time, so that'll help.

Rachel What makes it easier is that the degree is made up of modules, so you can take time off between them if you need to. It isn't like a traditional three- or four-year course, where you've got to do the whole thing of it in one go.

Paul That's good, because I'd like to spend six months travelling next year.

Rachel Huh, it's all right for some. Then even though you're mostly studying at home, remember you've got tutors to help you, and from time to time there are summer schools. They usually last a week. They're great, because you meet all the other people struggling with the same things as you. I've made some really good friends that way.

Paul Sounds good. So how do I apply?

Listening Sample Task – Sentence Completion (Answers)

- 27** motivation
- 28** time(-)management
- 29** modules
- 30** summer school(s)

Listening Sample Task – Matching 1



PART 3

Questions 21 – 25

What does Jack tell his tutor about each of the following course options?

- A** He'll definitely do it.
- B** He may or may not do it.
- C** He won't do it.

Write the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**, next to questions 21- 25.

You may choose any letter more than once.

- 21** Media Studies
- 22** Women and Power
- 23** Culture and Society
- 24** Identity and Popular Culture
- 25** Introduction to Cultural Theory

Listening Sample Task – Matching 1 (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

You will hear a Communication Studies student talking to his tutor about optional courses for the next semester.

Dr Ray Come in. Oh hello Jack. Have a seat. Right ... you said you wanted to see me to talk about your options next semester?

Jack That's right. We have to decide by the end of next week. Really, I'd like to do all five options but we have to choose two, don't we.

Dr Ray Yes, but the choice depends on your major to some extent. You're majoring in Communication Studies, aren't you?

Jack That's right.

Dr Ray So for example the Media Studies Option will cover quite a lot of the same area you did in the core module on mass communications this semester - the development of the media through the last two centuries, in relation to political and social issues.

Jack Mmm. Well that was interesting, but I've decided I'd rather do something completely new. There's a Women's Studies option, isn't there?

Dr Ray Yes, 'Women and Power' – again it has a historical focus, it aims to contextualise women's studies by looking at the legal and social situation in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries ...

Jack So it would be useful if I intended to specialise in women's studies ... but I'm not sure I do actually.

Dr Ray Well, it might still be useful to give you an idea of the issues involved. It's taught by Dr Steed.

Jack Oh, really? I'll sign up for that, then. What about the option on Culture and Society?

Dr Ray That addresses the historical debate on the place of culture since the Industrial Revolution in Britain.

Jack So a historical focus again ...

Dr Ray Do I get the message you're not so keen on history?

Jack Well, it's just we seem to have done quite a lot this semester ... anyway I'll think about that one.

Dr Ray If you're interested in a course focusing on current issues there's the option on Identity and Popular Culture – that approaches the subject through things like contemporary film, adverts, soap operas and so on.

Jack Oh? That sounds interesting. Can you tell me who runs it?

Dr Ray Well, it's normally Dr Stevens but he's on sabbatical next semester, so I'm not sure who'll be running it. It should be decided by next week though.

Jack Right, well I might wait until then to decide ... And the last option is Introduction to Cultural Theory, isn't it. I'm quite interested in that too – I was talking to one of the second year students, and she said it was really useful, it made a lot of things fall into place.

Dr Ray Yes, but in fact in your major, you'll have covered a lot of that already in Communications 102, so that might be less useful than some of the others.

Jack Oh, I'll forget about that one, then.

Dr Ray Now while you're here, we could also discuss how you're getting on with your Core Module assignment ...

Listening Sample Task – Matching 1 (Answers)

21 C

22 A

23 B

24 B

25 C

Listening Sample Task – Matching 2



PART 1

Questions 1 – 4

Which hotel matches each description?

Choose your answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-E**, next to questions 1-4.

A	The Bridge Hotel
B	Carlton House
C	The Imperial
D	The Majestic
E	The Royal Oak

- 1 is in a rural area
- 2 only opened recently
- 3 offers facilities for business functions
- 4 has an indoor swimming pool

Listening Sample Task – Matching 2 (Recording and Transcript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Transcript

You will hear a man talking to an official at a tourist information office.

Official Can I help you?

Man Yes, I was wanting somewhere to stay for a few days - a four- or five-star hotel. Can you tell me something about the possibilities?

Official OK, right, well there are five hotels that might interest you. Were you wanting a city centre location, or would you be interested in something a bit further out?

Man Well, I do have a car so I could go for either.

Official Well, there are two central hotels in the range you're looking for – there's Carlton House and The Imperial, they're both near the main square, but if you've got your own transport you might be interested in the Royal Oak – that's out in the country, about ten kilometres away, very peaceful. Then there's the Bridge hotel and the Majestic – they're both in town but not in the centre, they're out on the airport road.

Man Mmm that might be a bit far out actually. OK, now the other two you mentioned, in the city centre. Can you tell me a bit about them?

Official Well, they're both excellent hotels. If you want something with a bit of character, Carlton House is quite unusual – it's a very old building that was originally a large private house. It was bought by the Vannis chain and they completely refurbished it – they took their first guests just a few months ago but it's already got an excellent reputation. That's a five-star hotel. Or there's the Imperial, which is a much more modern building. That also has its own gym and it also has internet connection and meetings rooms – it's used for conferences and corporate events as well as private guests. That's five-star as well.

Man Does it have a swimming pool as well as a gym?

Official No – the Royal Oak has an outdoor pool, which is lovely in the summer, but the only hotel with an indoor pool is the Bridge Hotel. It doesn't have

a gym though. The Majestic is planning to build a swimming pool and a fitness centre, but it's not finished yet.

Man I see. Well, I think I'll probably go for one of the city centre hotels.

Listening Sample Task – Matching 2 (Answers)

1 E

2 B

3 C

4 A

Listening Sample Task – Plan/map/diagram Labelling

PART 2

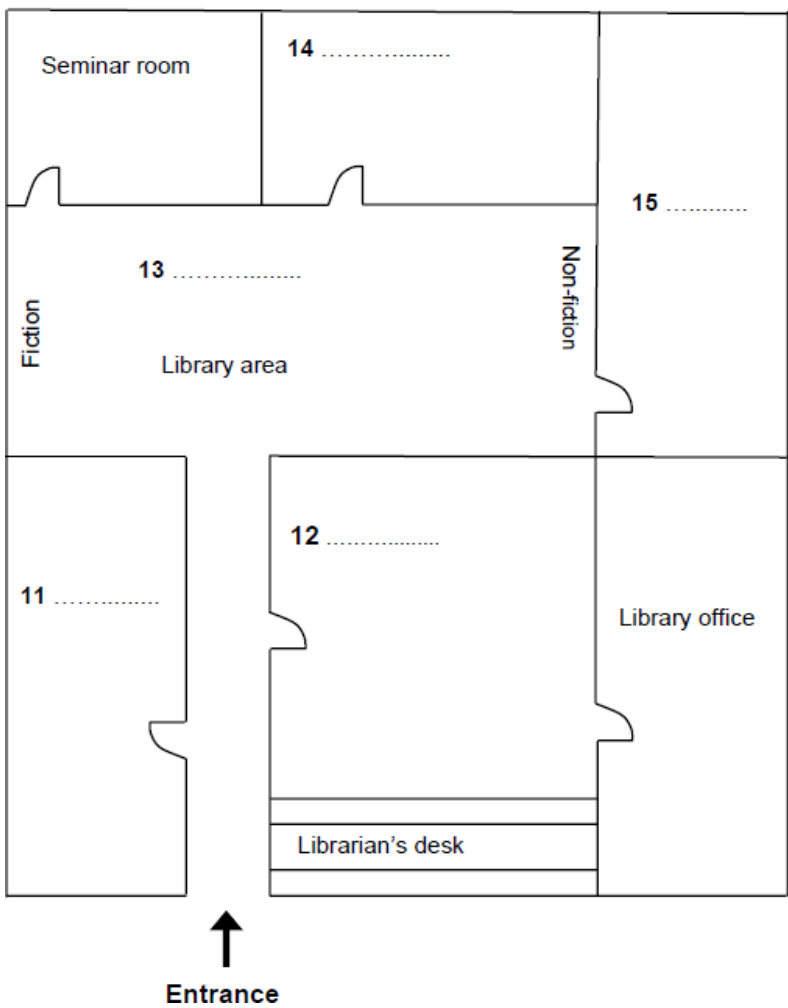
Questions 11-15

Label the plan below.

Choose **FIVE** answers from the box and write the correct letters, **A-I**, next to questions 11-15.



Town Library



- A Art collection
- B Children's books
- C Computers
- D Local history collection
- E Meeting room
- F Multimedia
- G Periodicals
- H Reference books
- I Tourist information

Listening Sample Task – Plan/map/diagram Labelling (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

You will hear the librarian of a new town library talking to a group of people who are visiting the library.

OK everyone. So here we are at the entrance to the town library. My name is Ann, and I'm the chief librarian here, and you'll usually find me at the desk just by the main entrance here. So I'd like to tell you a bit about the way the library is organised, and what you'll find where ... and you should all have a plan in front of you. Well, as you see my desk is just on your right as you go in, and opposite this the first room on your left has an excellent collection of reference books and is also a place where people can read or study peacefully. Just beyond the librarian's desk on the right is a room where we have up to date periodicals such as newspapers and magazines and this room also has a photocopier in case you want to copy any of the articles. If you carry straight on you'll come into a large room and this is the main library area. There is fiction in the shelves on the left, and non-fiction materials on your right, and on the shelves on the far wall there is an excellent collection of books relating to local history. We're hoping to add a section on local tourist attractions too, later in the year. Through the far door in the library just past the fiction shelves is a seminar room, and that can be booked for meetings or talks, and next door to that is the children's library, which has a good collection of stories and picture books for the under elevens. Then there's a large room to the right of the library area – that's the multimedia collection, where you can borrow videos and DVDs and so on, and we also have CD-Roms you can borrow to use on your computer at home. It was originally the art collection but that's been moved to another building. And that's about it – oh, there's also the Library Office, on the left of the librarian's desk. OK, now does anyone have any questions?

Listening Sample Task – Plan/map/diagram Labelling (Answers)

11 H

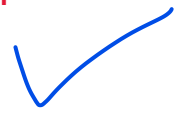
12 G

13 D

14 B

15 F

Listening Sample Task – Note Completion



PART 2 Questions 11 – 20

Questions 11 – 16

Page 4 of original Listening paper

Complete the notes below.

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

THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE	
Well known for:	11
Complex consists of:	concert rooms
	theatres
	cinemas
	art galleries
	public library
	restaurants
	12
Historical background:	1940 – area destroyed by bombs
	1960s – Centre was 13
	In 14..... - opened to public
Managed by:	15
Open:	16 days per year

Complete the table below.

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

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Ticket price
Monday and Tuesday	7.30 p.m.	'The Magic Flute' (opera by Mozart)	17	from £8.00
Wednesday	8.00 p.m.	18 '.....' (Canadian film)	Cinema 2	19
Saturday and Sunday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.	20 '.....' (art exhibition)	Gallery 1	free

Listening Sample Task – Note Completion (Recording and Tapescript)

[Link to Recording](#)

Tapescript

You will hear a man talking on the radio about a National Arts Centre.

Hello, and welcome to "Focus on the Arts". I'm your host - Dave Green - and this is your very own local radio programme. Every Friday evening we put the spotlight on different arts and culture facilities, and look at the shows and events that are on offer in the coming week.

And today the focus is on The National Arts Centre. Now, if you don't already know it yourself, I'm sure you've all heard of it. It's famous throughout the world as one of the major venues for classical music.

But did you know that it's actually much more than just a place to hear concerts? The Centre itself is a huge complex that caters for a great range of arts. Under a single roof it houses concert rooms, theatres, cinemas, art galleries and a wonderful public library, as well as service facilities including 3 restaurants and a book shop. So, at any one time, the choice of entertainment there is simply enormous.

So, how did they manage to build such a big arts complex right in the heart of the city? Well, the area was completely destroyed by bombs during the war in 1940. So, the opportunity was taken to create a cultural centre that would be, what they called: 'the City's gift to the Nation'. Of course, it took a while for such a big project to get started, but it was planned in the 60s, built in the 70s and eventually opened to the public in 1983. Ever since then it has proved to be a great success. It's not privately owned, like many arts centres, but is still in public hands: - it's run by the City Council. Both our National Symphony Orchestra and National Theatre Company were involved in the planning of the project, and they are now based there - giving regular performances every week - and as the Centre is open 363 days of the year, there are plenty of performances to choose from.

Pause

So, to give you some idea of what's on, and to help you choose from the many possibilities, we've made a selection of the star attractions.

If you're interested in classical music, then we recommend you go along to the National on either Monday or Tuesday evening at 7.30 for a spectacular production of 'The Magic Flute' - probably the most popular of all Mozart's operas. It's in the Garden Hall and tickets start at only £8.00, but you'll have to be early if you want to

get them that cheap! And remember, it's only on for those two evenings.

For those more interested in the cinema, you might like to see the new Canadian film which is showing on Wednesday evening at 8pm in Cinema 2. And that's called 'Three Lives.' It's had fantastic reviews and tickets cost just £4.50, which is a reduction on the usual price of £5.50. So it's really good value, especially for such a great movie.

But you can see the centre's main attraction at the weekend, because on Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 10pm, they're showing a wonderful new exhibition that hasn't been seen anywhere else in Europe yet. It's a collection of Chinese Art called 'Faces of China' - that's in Gallery 1 - and it has some really fascinating paintings and sculptures by leading artists from all over China - and the good news is that it's completely free, so don't miss it!

So, why not go along to the National Arts Centre next week for one - or all - of these great events - and you can always pick up a programme and check out all the other performances and exhibitions on offer, or coming soon, on almost every day of the year.

Next week we'll be looking at the new Museum of Science ...

Listening Sample Task – Note Completion (Answers)

- 11** classical music (concerts)
/ (classical) (music) concerts
- 12** (a) bookshop / (a) bookstore
- 13** planned
- 14** 1983 / (the) 1980s
- 15** (the) City Council
- 16** 363
- 17** (the) Garden Hall
- 18** Three Lives
- 19** £4.50
- 20** Faces of China