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Paper 3 Listening
SPECIMEN TEXTS

For examination from 2023

Approximately 45 minutes

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Text for Question 1

(two friends, late teens)

M Hi Jan – it's your birthday next week, isn't it?

F Yeah – it's on Saturday. That's the day we usually go to the cinema, but I think we'll give it a miss this time.

M I remember the party you had at your house for your birthday last year – it was great. You should have another one!

F I'd like to! Mum and Dad have some friends visiting though, so they'd rather I did something else. They even said they'd pay for me to go out for a meal with a few friends. I wasn't particularly keen on the idea at first, but I've changed my mind now. Something I'd really like to do is go on a boat trip for the afternoon. We've left it too late to arrange that. Maybe next year!

Text for Question 2

(adult male)

Hi, it's me. Just to let you know I had time to go to the supermarket on my way home from work and I've just got back and put everything away. Do you still want to make that cake this evening? If so, you'll need to pick up some eggs on your way back – I thought I had bought everything on the list we needed, but maybe I didn't – I must have walked straight past them in the shop ... I wasn't sure if we needed more butter, but I got some just in case. Oh, and I didn't get any flour, as I knew we had enough already. And the last thing is that they'd run out of lemons, so I got some strawberries instead – I hope that's OK. Anyway, see you later!

Text for Question 3

(father and daughter)

F Hi Dad

M Oh, Maria – I'm glad you're back. I was just thinking that you were home a bit late, and I was about to ring you. Where were you? Is everything OK?

F Fine, thanks Dad. It's just that I found a bunch of keys on my way home from school. I was waiting to get on the bus when I noticed them lying right in the middle of the pavement – and there was no one else around so I wasn't sure what to do. Anyway, I thought I'd go and ask in the café nearby – and it turns out that a lady had dropped them on her way in. How lucky was that!

M I bet she was relieved!

F She was!

Text for Question 4

(adult female)

Listen carefully everyone – I've got one more announcement before you go to your classes. Do you remember I said we'd arrange some career talks here at school this term? Well, on Monday, we're going to have a talk from a nurse, and I know nursing is a career some of you are considering. Last week, we asked who else you would like us to invite to the school to speak about their profession. We had a great response – one of the most popular suggestions was to ask a musician to come in. We've sent some letters out and are waiting for replies. We've also contacted an author, who happens to be available next month, so we'll put details about that on the school website. We're hoping to get a scientist too, as we know that lots of you would like a career in that area. We'll keep you informed.

Text for Question 5

(two friends, teenagers)

M What's that you're looking at?

F Oh, it's the information about co-curricular activities. I'm trying to decide between drama and chess club. What do you reckon?

M Well, I've been a member of both of them! I definitely had loads of fun being in plays last year – I'd recommend that. The chess club's good too – I learned some clever moves, and I won a competition! This year I'm looking to do something a bit more active.

F Oh, right. What do you have in mind?

M I like the sound of gardening - you learn how to grow things from seed and take care of plants as they grow. It's full though – can you believe it? So, I signed up for the choir instead. I'm not sure if I'll be any good at singing, but I'll soon find out! Why don't you join too?

F Maybe I will!

Texts for Questions 6 to 10

(male interviewer and female interviewee)

- M** Today's interview is with Ruth Wong, who is currently sailing around the world – alone. Hello, Ruth. Can you tell us how you prepared for this trip?
- F** I hadn't done anything like this before, but I had a basic qualification. Still, I knew I had lots to learn, so I started off with a couple of two-week trips. I was going to talk to someone who'd done the trip before, but I didn't manage to get hold of him. We've been in touch since then and have been sharing adventures, which has been fun!
- M** Tell us about your boat – what equipment has it got?
- F** Just the standard stuff. In the kitchen there's a sink, and a tiny stove with a grill that hardly works. There isn't even a fridge! There's nothing I really miss, other than having a regular hot shower, but you get used to just using a washbasin. The first winter I spent on the boat, it was freezing, so I had a heater installed at one of the ports. It's my one luxury!
- M** And have you had any major problems with the boat so far?
- F** Actually, the engine broke down not long after I set off. I was approaching a tricky area where the sea was very rough, and my engine suddenly failed. I thought I could sail without it, but then the wind stopped, and it became really foggy, so I knew that that wouldn't work and I needed to do something. I had no one else but myself to rely on. After three attempts, I got the engine going again and made it to a calmer area.
- M** Tell us about your blog.
- F** I like to post quite regularly, to keep in touch with people back home. Recently I posted a stunning picture of the boat in an empty harbour, at sunset. Some of my friends were jealous, understandably! Oddly, my dad was worried about how lonely it looked. It was a wonderful spot, but, as always, I soon felt the need to move on.
- M** When do you think you might return home?
- F** People always ask me that! My answer is simply 'when I'm ready'! When I complete the trip, I'll consider my options. It'll be when I feel the need to go back to my old life. I don't mind if I can't get a job straight away, though I can't imagine living in a house again after spending so long in such a tiny space on this boat!
- M** Well, good luck Ruth, and thanks for speaking to us today.

Text for Questions 11 to 15

(adult male)

Today's talk is about a village in Japan which has attracted lots of attention – and it's because of their rubbish, or waste. In fact, it's because of how little waste they produce.

In the year 2000, the village council realised they had a problem with waste management. Until this time, nobody thought much about what exactly happened to their rubbish after it was collected and burned. The council needed to replace the facility where rubbish was burned while maintaining acceptable levels of the dangerous gases produced by this process. They soon realised that this would cost an enormous amount. A better solution was needed and that was to avoid having any rubbish to burn.

Three years later, the council confidently came up with a zero-waste policy, the first of its type in the country. Local people received clear instructions to clean and separate their waste into several different categories. The reaction to this wasn't entirely positive – some people were concerned that it would require too much effort, and some even refused to cooperate. The new policy didn't include people having to pay a fine for not following the instructions.

The council then built a recycling centre. It's open daily, apart from three days around new year. Local people take all their rubbish there, after cleaning and sorting at home. Food waste is the only exception – every household has a special bin for this, and the contents can eventually be used in their garden. At the centre, employees check that rubbish is put in the correct bin and, if necessary, ask people to sort their items again. And if people bring things in good condition that they no longer need, these can be sold or exchanged for other things at the centre's small store.

I discovered a number of interesting things about the centre. I'll show you some pictures, so you can see how well-organised the place is – if you're expecting to see piles of rubbish, you'll be surprised. The really unexpected thing is how sociable the centre has become, with local people often staying for a chat after dropping off their rubbish. Employees often give guided tours to council officers and politicians from other towns and even countries, who want to find out how to copy the scheme elsewhere.

So, what do individuals need to do in order to achieve zero waste? One step that we can take is to only get what we need when we go shopping and look for products in packaging that can be used again – by taking home less, we will waste less. Above all, we shouldn't accept plastic bags because they are not recyclable. It's easy to simply say no when you're offered one at the checkout.

Now, are there any questions?

Text for Question 16 to 20**Speaker 1** (*adult female*)

We usually get a newspaper at the weekend. To be honest, there's so much in it, that it keeps me going all week! I like looking through the main section to see what's going on around the world, though I've usually heard the latest news on the radio already. While my husband goes straight for the sports pages, it's actually the section on holidays that I turn to before anything else, then I often end up doing the crossword while I have a cup of coffee.

Speaker 2 (*male, late teens*)

I read a national newspaper online, nearly every day, though I certainly don't read all of it. There are things like the weather forecast, and articles about books that've been published, which I hardly ever take a look at. It's the reports about trade in our country that I click on initially, as I'd really like to run my own company in the future. Then, if there's something interesting on places to visit in other countries, I might take a look at that.

Speaker 3 (*adult female*)

I often pick up a free paper at the station on my way home from work – it gives me something to read on the train. I always start at the back, to see if there are any interesting programmes to watch that evening – and then I check the forecast for the next day. I am interested in world news, though I'm often too tired to read about that sort of stuff after a hard day at work. I keep up with that online during the day instead.

Speaker 4 (*young male*)

I like reading the local newspaper – I'm more interested in what's going on in my town than in other countries, though there are articles about that in the local paper too. It's free – and there's usually a pile of them at the company where I work, so I pick one up on my way in in the morning. I don't get a chance to look at it until lunchtime, when I turn to the crosswords on the middle page. I save the best bit – the sports section – until later.

Speaker 5 (*female, late teens*)

We have a school newspaper which comes out once a month, and I love reading it! I've even written a couple of articles for it – the first one was about a documentary I saw on television, and the other was about some students from abroad who came to our school for an exchange programme. My favourite page is where students give their opinions of novels they've read recently. But before I look at that, I check out how well our school's doing in all the tournaments and athletics competitions.

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