

LanguageCert
Mastery C2
Level 3
International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)
Practice Paper 6

NB Read out the text which is not in italics. Read at normal speed making it sound as much like spoken English (rather than English which is read aloud) as possible.

Listening part one.

You will hear some sentences. You will hear each sentence twice. Choose the best reply to each sentence. *(15 seconds.)*

Number one. Number one. *(6 seconds)*

Don't be so quick to take offence, Mary! I didn't **say** you were past it.
Don't be so quick to take offence, Mary! I didn't **say** you were past it.

(10 seconds)

Number two. Number two. *(6 seconds)*

Could you possibly draft the agenda for the next meeting, Mr Smith?
Could you possibly draft the agenda for the next meeting, Mr Smith?

(10 seconds)

Number three. Number three. *(6 seconds)*

I'm not covering up for you this time – you'll just have to face the music!
I'm not covering up for you this time – you'll just have to face the music!

(10 seconds)

Number four. Number four. *(6 seconds)*

Most of the staff have serious reservations about the stance the new Director has taken.
Most of the staff have serious reservations about the stance the new Director has taken.

(10 seconds)

Number five. Number five. *(6 seconds)*

John's got his foot on the career ladder all right – bound to make it to the top.
John's got his foot on the career ladder all right – bound to make it to the top.

(10 seconds)

Number six. Number six. *(6 seconds)*

[Tone of disapproval] Um, Sarah, I wish you wouldn't moan about Harry all the time – he **is** doing his best.

[Tone of disapproval] Um, Sarah, I wish you wouldn't moan about Harry all the time – he **is** doing his best.

(10 seconds)

That is the end of Part One.

Listening part two.

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation. (10 seconds.)

Conversation One

- M: OK if I leave the van here, is it?
- F: You supplies, Sir? Our delivery bay's over there.
- M: No time-limit or anything, I suppose?
- F: Well, actually, during this sales period you have to get a ticket from me, stick it on the windscreen. Thirty minutes maximum. You'd never **believe** how many deliveries there are. Stuff brought in specially, from all over.
- M: Yeah, but you're not lacking custom, by the looks of things. Cars double-parked all along the street by the shop's main entrance. Uh! Talk of congestion!
- F: You're telling me! [Angrily] The place is open till **ten at night** all this week, and I don't even get overtime.
- M: Sorry to hear that, but I suppose it's only for a week or so. And better boom than bust!
- F: [*Gloomily*] But that's the trouble. We're worried here that the store's about to go under, and that all this Clearance Sales stuff's just a last-ditch attempt to save it. I may be on the dole soon.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Two

- F: It's the day after tomorrow you're seeing them, isn't it?
- M: Right. I don't think there's a chance in a million I'll get it, but might as well have a go. Any tips?
- F: [*Encouragingly*] Oh, come on! You'll be perfectly OK if you make yourself less scruffy. They go a lot on appearances.
- M: That goes without saying. I'll get rid of the stubble and do a spot of ironing. Or could **you**, perhaps? Or, better still, I might invest in a new shirt.
- F: Yes, do. Definitely gen up on the firm, though -- history and background and stuff. They're bound to ask. And **do** stress your strong points!
- M: I've done all the research bit. But strong points? Didn't know I had any.

F: Oh, stop fishing for compliments. You **know** you're brilliant with figures, and that's really what counts for this post, isn't it?

M: Um, I suppose you're right. *[Brightening up]* And thanks for being so encouraging. Perhaps things aren't so hopeless after all.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Three

M: You know, Pam, I'm thinking of putting myself in for A-level Chinese at the Adult Education Centre, just for fun.

F: At **your** age. What on earth for? I know you picked up a bit on your travels, but why an exam?

M: Well, now that I'm retired I've got time for new things. And you've been keeping up with languages, so why shouldn't I?

F: Oh, you mean those Spanish classes I went to? Yes, but I didn't do exams. I just wanted to learn to speak.

M: And **I** just want to learn to speak Chinese.

F: Um, exams based on memorising facts – history, say – are fine, but speaking's a skill, and you can only learn skills by repetition.

M: Actually, it's the course that interests me, not the exam; but you know **me** – I can't do anything without a deadline.

F: True; but at least find out who the teacher is, and whether they actually speak Chinese in class.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Two.

Listening part three.

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words. (1 minute.)

[beep]

Good evening, everyone. I feel most honoured to have been invited to speak at the Community Project Centre, as I'm a firm believer in local initiative. Indeed, setting up cottage industries seems to me the best answer to the present economic crisis. My name is Joanna Renton, and my special subject is the production of silk – technically known as *sericulture*, the word comes from a combination of the Latin word for silk and the French for cultivation. I started up a silk co-operative in Sussex in two-thousand-and-eight, and, though I say it myself, it has proved an enormous success.

OK, well, you all know what silk looks and feels like, but how many of you have thought about its origins? Believe it or not, it's been around for at least three thousand years in China, where the wearing of garments made of this elegant, lustrous fabric indicated high social status. In the first millennium BCE, a trading-route, later known as the Silk Road, became established. Production then spread to Japan and India, but it wasn't until the late Middle Ages that Western Europe began to produce silk, the process having been brought back from the East. However, the taste for silk declined during the Industrial Revolution, when mechanisation facilitated the cheap production of cotton and wool. Recently, though, the silk industry has regained popularity.

So why sericulture here? Well, the beauty is its simplicity. It's a real cottage industry. A mini silk-farm kit, which enables you to start on a small scale, can be bought cheaply on the net nowadays. You first put your silkworm eggs in a warm box to incubate at a steady temperature till they hatch. Make sure you've got a ready supply of mulberry leaves, as that's what the silkworms will feed on. These are not actually worms, despite the name, but caterpillars of the silkworm moth and these will appear after about ten days. The tiny silkworms will then feed on the mulberry leaves for about six weeks. It's astonishing to see the rate at which they grow. When they're about five centimetres long, they start spinning a silk cocoon around their black-and-white striped bodies. It's yellowish in colour, and when it's completed, you plunge it in boiling water and wind off the silk, which usually comes in an unbroken thread of about one kilometre. Your silk is now ready to be dyed and spun.

The best way to start sericulture is by using this standard procedure. But as it involves the killing of the moth growing within the cocoon, some present-day silk-farmers, including myself, now use alternative methods. For this, a different species of silkworm, which feeds on the Castor plant, is used. Compared to standard silk, the material produced, known as Eri silk, is less shiny. However, it *is* softer. What is revolutionary is that the moth is allowed to escape from the cocoon before the silk is unwound. This process is more labour-intensive, as each cocoon has to have an escape hole made in it. This means we end up charging higher prices.

Well, let's adjourn to the Committee Room now, where I'll answer any questions and show you samples of different silks and a video of the production process ...

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

You now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

(30 seconds.)

[beep]

That is the end of Part Three.

Listening part four.

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers. (20 seconds)

You have two minutes to look at the task below. (2 minutes.)

[beep]

- F: Hello Robert. Bit late, aren't you, dear? I thought Council Meetings always finished at seven.
- M1: Sorry, Julie. Not this one – it was terribly important. *[Pause, then emphatically]* I've got news for you both – especially for you, Tom. Listen, there are going to be more than a thousand new jobs in the area, so you'll be able to get a job and move out to a place of your own again – at last!
- M2: *[Sarcastically]* Oh, you love having me here *so much*, don't you, Dad? *[Short pause]* Well, what's this news?
- M1: The Town Council have agreed to allow hydraulic fracturing in the area to get at the natural gas.
- M2: *[Amazed and furious]* **What?** Are you nuts? **Fracking?** And here of all places? No way!
- F: Hold on, you two! Before you come to blows, for goodness' sake someone tell me what this, um, flacking is.
- M2: **Fracking**, Mum. *[Spells the word]* F-R-A-C-K-I-N-G. That's the common name for hydraulic fracturing – in other words, breaking rock with liquid. It's an extremely controversial and hazardous way of extracting gas from deep down. I've been listening to debates about it on the radio recently – very contradictory views from some experts too, there were – not just from members of the public.
- M1: *[Scornfully]* Don't be ridiculous, Tom. We had an *expert* to advise us, and *he* said it's *perfectly* safe – been going on in the US for fifty years. You pump water at high pressure down a drill-hole to fracture the rock and release the gas, that's all.
- M2: Oh, no, it's **not** all! It's not just water they use, but water mixed with chemicals and minerals, and some of them, such as uranium, can seep out and cause all sorts of *very* nasty illnesses.
- F: *[Horriified]* You mean those substances might end up contaminating our drinking water? Is that true, Robert?
- M1: Well, yes, Julie; they do add substances, but Mr O'Sullivan, the expert, assured us they're harmless, and a leak is highly unlikely.
- F: Hang on, Robert – was this Mr O'Sullivan connected with the company that's going to do the – er – fracking?
- M1: *[Beginning to worry]* Oh dear – Umm... actually, I don't know. The Mayor chose him, err I just *supposed* he was independent.
- F: Hold on. Didn't I read something in the paper last week about earthquakes in Holland and houses collapsing? And they thought gas-extraction caused it.

- M2: Right, Mum. Remember Lancashire, here in UK, in two-thousand-and-eleven, that mini-earthquake? Fortunately there was no damage there, but it shows what this process can trigger.
- M1: *[Getting very worried]* Oh dear! Nobody mentioned earthquakes. But surely if they're just tremors the houses are solid enough in this area – no high-risk or anything – and there aren't many inhabitants anyway, it's a protected area after all.
- F: *[furious]* Exactly, a *nature conservation* area. Here, **of all places**, the Town Council has OK'd a project that might poison the water and cause earth tremors... I can't **believe** it! What about the mess the drilling'll make? Plus they'll have to think about new roads for the lorries, and
- M1: *[Interrupting]* Oh, do stop being so negative, Julie. Think of the benefits. The gas bills'll go right down. This country **needs** natural gas. And think of all those jobless twenty-somethings, like Tom, forced to live at home with his parents....
- M2: Well, *I* can't put *my* problems before the health of the *community*. *[Pause, then decisively]* I'm going to organise a protest and get my mates to join in. OK, we **do** need energy, but let's go for something clean and safe. *Sustainable's* the buzz-word nowadays.
- F: Well yes, certainly something's got to be done, Tom. **But** why don't you and your friends do some serious research and write a report, **instead?** You know, a really objective one without any emotional stuff? Then present this to the Mayor and ask him to call a public meeting.
- M2: Right as usual, good idea, Mum. What d'you say, Dad?
- M1: *[Giving in, with a deep sigh]* Oh go ahead, Tom –we'll never see eye to eye on the subject, but I suppose everyone has a right to follow their own conscience. But do me a favour and try to keep your name out of it. I'm *on* the Council, remember.
- M: *[Emphatically]* No way, Dad. My name'll *be there* OK?

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have two hours and forty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.