

GESE – Sample listening tasks

Advanced stage (Grades 10-12)

The following document contains some sample listening tasks for Grades 10-12. Please note these are example tasks and will not be used in a real examination.

Grade 10

The examiner will introduce the Listening phase by saying:

I'm going to read you three short passages and after I've finished each one, I'd like you to either suggest a suitable ending or answer a question. I'll then move on to the next passage. Are you ready? These two passages are incomplete. When I stop, I'd like you to tell me in just a few words how you think the passage finishes.

Grade 10 Type 1 listening tasks

1. Although we're very close, my sister and I aren't alike. We've been going on holiday together for ages at least twice a year, and once the date's fixed we follow the same old pattern. Well before departure, she's washed and ironed her clothes, bought her foreign currency and guidebook and packed her stuff, whereas I never get ready until...
Expected response: the last minute/the night before (or equivalent).
2. You can do almost anything with mobile phones nowadays. So much so that some people never seem to take their eyes off them. I quite often see people wandering down the street or even crossing the road, tapping away at them, completely oblivious of what's happening around them. I'm just surprised that this doesn't lead to more...
Expected response: accidents/crashes/collisions (or equivalent).
3. A lot of people have claimed that computer games stifle the imagination and are bad for the development of our brains. However, new evidence shows that they help people problem-solve as the games constantly challenge you. They also help you think creatively and you can even network whilst playing. So in fact, computer games can actually be...
Expected response: good/beneficial for you (or equivalent).
4. As an actor, I definitely respond to conceptually interesting films, especially science fiction ones, with their escape from the life we know on Earth. Being involved in something so different, that's thrilling. If I come across a script that is original, I go after it. It's really exciting being part of a film which creates an entirely new...
Expected response: world/universe/reality (or equivalent).
5. I don't like being told what to do. If I buy something that I need to assemble, I never look at the instructions. When I buy electronic gadgets I just fiddle around until they start working. And when I'm getting a meal ready I just throw all the ingredients together and rely on my taste instead of using a...
Expected response: recipe/cook book (or equivalent).
6. You people need to be reminded that starting a business is a process of small, progressive steps. Too many think it's all or nothing. And some are daunted by the idea you need to be something special to be an entrepreneur, but it's not true. Start off with a small idea, use the support available, and just work hard. Basically, anyone...
Expected response: can do it/succeed in business, be a businessperson or entrepreneur (or equivalent).
7. When I was growing up I was hardly ever at home. Because the climate was mild, we were able to play all sorts of games outdoors. We often used to stay out until sunset and I loved the freedom and spontaneity of it all. If the weather had been worse, I'm sure I would have been forced to...
Expected response: play/indoors/stay, remain indoors, at home (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 10 Type 1 listening tasks continued

8. Psychology plays an important role in supermarket layout. Customers leaving the shop only with what they intended to buy is not the point. Expensive items are placed on eye-level shelves, while children's treats are lower down. Essential products are found at the back of the store, so customers have to walk past other products. Everything's designed to make you...

Expected response: buy/spend more (or equivalent).

9. A friend of mine has just accepted a new job that pays less than her existing one. She's always struck me as ambitious and she certainly has a lavish lifestyle. That's why I was rather surprised about her decision initially. However, we met up last night and she explained that job satisfaction does not necessarily depend on...

Expected response: being well-paid/having a high salary (or equivalent).

10. It's remarkable, the degree to which people value the views of second-rate celebrities on any subject under the sun. I fail to understand how people think just because this or that person is famous, it gives them a tremendous insight into any other issue at all. Frankly, I find such a belief...

Expected response: incomprehensible/hard to understand/ridiculous (or equivalent).

The examiner will introduce the final Listening task by saying:

After I've read this passage, I'll ask you a question about what you've heard.

Grade 10 Type 2 listening tasks

1. Right everyone. You're doing okay, but you need to start putting in a bit more effort and start working as a team. They're running away with it just at the moment and we can't afford to let them get too far ahead. You're forgetting everything we've been doing in training. So, go out there and show them what you can do.

Q: Who is the speaker?

A: A coach/trainer

2. My tutor taught me the format to use. First you have to state what you'll be writing about. Then, you give a general background before you move on to the body of the work. For each paragraph I make an introductory point, followed by an explanation and an example. Finally, the conclusion is basically a summary of everything I've discussed in the main part.

Q: What activity is the speaker describing?

A: Writing an essay/dissertation.

3. It was a bit of a challenge coming back from the coast last weekend to say the least. Because of the freezing fog, there was almost zero visibility through the windscreen. There was ice everywhere too, which meant we kept slipping and sliding all over the place. Some people didn't keep their distance either, despite all the public safety campaigns we've had.

Q: How does the speaker feel about the driving conditions?

A: They were dangerous/difficult (or equivalent).

4. I've always been fascinated by looking back, so writing fiction set in the present day doesn't appeal to me. I love the idea of presenting life in a different time and making it vivid and authentic for other people. Before I start on a new novel, I do a lot of research, getting to know a period well. I hope to present the characters in a realistic way.

Q: What subject does the speaker write about?

A: History/(life) in the past (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 10 Type 2 listening tasks continued

5. The problem with most other exercise programmes is that you don't keep them up. They often require special equipment or gym membership. And as soon as you change your daily routine, the exercise stops. This doesn't happen with our programme. All you need is yourself and enough space to lie on the floor. Just 15 minutes a day, indoors or outdoors, and you have a healthy habit for life.

Q: What is the speaker's purpose?

A: To advertise/promote/persuade people to use a fitness or exercise programme (or equivalent).

6. Weddings are such an overrated event. All that money spent on a dress that's only going to be worn once, not to mention the excesses of food and drink, flowers, transport, and so on. I think that marriage should be a private commitment between two people not public showing of wealth and overindulgence with everyone showing off about what they can afford.

Q: What is the speaker's attitude towards weddings?

A: Critical/disapproving (or equivalent).

7. I'm completely obsessed with music, and I still go to as many concerts as I can manage. The last one I saw was one of the best I've ever seen. Both as a singer and songwriter, she was truly original. Listening to people as talented as that can drive you on and you want to reach the same heights that they've achieved.

Q: What effect did the musician have on the speaker?

A: She inspired/impressed/motivated him/her (or equivalent).

8. I like shopping online for lots of different reasons. Firstly, you save time as you can compare a large number of items, which is difficult to do if you visit retailers individually. Also, it's hassle-free as you don't have to travel and queue. The best thing, in my opinion though, is that the business's running costs are substantially lower and they pass this saving on to the customer.

Q: According to the speaker, what is the main advantage of internet shopping?

A: It's cheaper/less expensive (or equivalent).

9. I hope you've enjoyed the show, ladies and gentlemen. You've been a really wonderful audience. But before you all disappear, could you all dig deep in your pockets and put some loose change in the hat that's being passed round. Don't worry if it's not very much. Your contributions help me to keep on performing like this. Thanks very much.

Q: What is the speaker's main purpose?

A: To get/collect money (or equivalent).

10. Before you all go off for your summer break, I'd just like to say something about your work this year. In all the time I've been here, I've never come across such a dedicated and motivated group of students. I think you should all give yourselves a pat on the back. It really has been a privilege to have taught you.

Q: What is the speaker's main purpose?

A: To congratulate/thank/praise the students (or equivalent).

Grade 11

The examiner will introduce the Listening phase by saying:

I'm going to read you three short passages and after I've finished each one, I'd like you to either suggest a suitable ending or answer a question. I'll then move on to the next passage. Are you ready? These two passages are incomplete. When I stop, I'd like you to tell me in just a few words how you think the passage finishes.

Grade 11 Type 1 listening tasks

1. We all know that if food looks good and smells good, we're more likely to want to eat it. The smell of freshly-baked bread is irresistible, and a beautifully-presented dish can be literally mouth-watering. But, more surprisingly, scientists at a leading university have discovered that sound is equally important. High-pitched tunes played on the piano make things taste sweeter and low brass sounds make things taste bitter. Eating, it seems, is an experience which involves nearly all of our...
Expected response: senses/faculties (or equivalent).
2. When you become an expert in your field, it becomes increasingly difficult to convey your message. Particularly to those who have never come across the subject before. Because you have a vast store of advanced knowledge, it's challenging to put the clock back and imagine what it's like to be starting out. In my view, it becomes harder to teach rather than easier. With such a gap in level, it is difficult to put yourself in the shoes of a...
Expected response: student/pupil/beginner/person with no knowledge of the subject (or equivalent).
3. Nowadays, employees are increasingly expected to show creativity, but how can this be differentiated from innovation? Well, creativity takes place in the mind, it's simply when someone has an idea. Anyone can put forward an idea for a new product. But it doesn't become innovation until that product is actually launched on the market. This is the crucial difference- creativity is a flash of inspiration, whereas innovation is making that inspiration...
Expected response: real/a reality/come true/feasible/viable (or equivalent).
4. Teenagers and adults have never seen eye to eye about bedtimes and usually parents have insisted on early nights. But now there's compelling evidence that teenagers' body clocks are different from adults'. When they want to stay up late and get up late, they aren't just being rebellious! It seems it's all down to hormones and chemicals in their bodies. Some schools are taking the teenage sleep cycle very seriously and are even considering beginning...
Expected response: school/lessons/classes/the school day later (or equivalent).
5. During the restoration of this picture, it was realised that it was indeed painted by Leonardo. We always believed that he'd painted such a picture because we've got two sketches. Lots of versions have survived and it was always assumed that this was just a copy. There's obviously been some damage here and the restorer has substantially repainted the background. However, no Leonardo scholar who's seen this painting in the flesh doubts that this is the...
Expected response: original/real (painting by Leonardo) (or equivalent).
6. I didn't think I'd done very well in the interview. I was quizzed by a panel of managers who asked me some searching questions about the posts I'd held in the past. I did have some questions about the position up my sleeve, though, and although I was more confident when they asked why I'd applied, I didn't think I'd made a great impression. However, to my surprise a few days later I received a letter telling me I'd...
Expected response: got the job/been offered the job (or equivalent).
7. Researchers claim that if you struggle to get out of bed in the mornings, you should stop lying in at the weekends. The scientists say that rather than helping people catch up on sleep, those extra few hours in bed on Saturday and Sunday disrupt the cycle that governs sleep patterns. This makes it harder to get to sleep on a Sunday night and leaves people even more exhausted on Monday morning. In fact it isn't beneficial to...
Expected response: stay in bed (at the weekend)/have a lie in (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 11 Type 1 listening tasks continued

8. In many video games, the storyline is almost totally unimportant and plays a secondary role to the action. Luckily, this doesn't apply to all games. Some have plots that can be generated by the player. They have the benefit of open stories and the narrative can be taken in a number of directions, without compromising the action. No two games ever follow the exact same path. Undoubtedly, the most successful video games are when the player is able to...
Expected response: create their own story/control the story/write the story (or equivalent).
9. David was becoming increasingly fed up at work. He felt that his efforts and all the overtime he did were being ignored by his boss and that he wasn't being paid enough. He'd decided to leave the company if the situation didn't change and, feeling very pessimistic, asked for an appointment with his boss. He couldn't believe it when his boss told him how much he appreciated his hard work and that he was going to increase...
Expected response: his salary/pay/wages (or equivalent).
10. Homework has always been seen as a vital part of the education process. But new research shows that setting homework for schoolchildren – whatever their ability – may in fact be counter-productive to effective learning. This applies irrespective of the nature of the homework itself, or the mental capacities of the individual child. The reasons appear to be complex, but enforced study outside school or college seems to have a negative impact on any student, regardless of how...
Expected response: Intelligent/bright/good at school they are (or equivalent).

The examiner will introduce the final Listening task by saying:

After I've read this passage, I'll ask you a question about what you've heard.

Grade 11 Type 2 listening tasks

1. I don't know where I'd be if I couldn't buy stuff over the internet, but all that added convenience comes at a price. You've got to make all your purchases upfront, so you can't rule out the possibility of identity theft. You just have to take certain precautions. One thing you can do is just go to sites you've heard of. Of course, you might be tempted by a bargain somewhere else, but you may well be ordering counterfeit or even non-existent goods.
Q: What is the speaker's attitude towards online shopping?
A: You have to be careful/cautious (or equivalent)
2. One person on the stage attempting to entertain an audience for a whole show is bound to struggle a bit. But his show was very slick and his timing was brilliant. He told some very amusing anecdotes which had me in tears and some of his lines were hilarious. I thought one or two of his gags were in bad taste, poking fun at some people. But we all came out with smiles on our faces. I'd definitely like to see him again.
Q: Who is the speaker talking about?
A: A (stand-up) comedian/a comic.
3. In developing the processing of plastics, we should be guided by nature. The amount of waste in nature is minimal and almost everything is reused. Your unwanted belongings need not be burnt or buried, but should be re-formed for use by industry instead. You shouldn't just be a consumer. In future, you will need to dispose of an object with a view to it being transformed into something else. Hopefully, my ideas will make you reconsider what you do with objects you might otherwise discard with household waste.
Q: What is the speaker's purpose?
A: To persuade/encourage people to recycle (plastic) (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 11 Type 2 listening tasks continued

4. It's the end-of-season ones that are the hardest for us. Everyone's out looking for bargains after the holidays and there's a lot of pushing and shoving in the queue when the doors are opened. The busiest departments are always clothes, household and electrical goods -though there are crowds everywhere and the tills never stop ringing all day. It's a great relief when it's finally time to close and we can get home and put our feet up!
- Q: What event is the speaker describing?
A: A sale/the sales.
5. I'm just overwhelmed. I don't know what to say. But I'm just so grateful to everyone who worked so hard to help me win this award -my fellow cast members; all the people behind the camera; our generous producers; our super creative director; the costume and make-up people-just everybody. We were a fabulous team! And, of course, I couldn't have done this without my wonderful parents who have always backed me up and been there for me. This is our award.
- Q: What is the speaker's main purpose?
A: To thank/praise people (for an award) (or equivalent).
6. I try to do it every evening. It's something I started when I was university and I wanted to be able to remember all those new experiences. I usually do a page or two and sometimes it's just a few notes – reflections on the day. I don't let anybody else read it, it's just for me. Sometimes, when I look back, I can't believe some of my reactions. I always buy small leather-bound notebooks for the purpose, and I love good quality paper.
- Q: What activity is the speaker describing?
A: Writing/keeping a diary (or equivalent).
7. Okay everyone, even though you're experienced hill-walkers, I'll remind you of some basic advice. It's a clear day today, but those peaks that you can see can quickly become covered in mist or low cloud, with visibility down to 10 metres. So everybody needs their own map, compass, a torch and a whistle, right? A map's no good if your friend's got the only one. There are several good things about maps: they don't run on batteries and unlike global positioning systems you don't need a mobile signal.
- Q: What is the speaker trying to prevent?
A: People/walkers getting lost (or equivalent).
8. I'm sure you're all aware of the rumours surrounding the future development of the park and gardens in the town centre. I can confirm that we've been approached by a large retailer with a significant proposal that will give a much-needed boost to employment in the town, particularly among young people like you. But it's your town and your future so we need your input. I can assure you that no decisions will be made before a thorough consultation process has been concluded.
- Q: What does the speaker want people to do?
A: Say what they think/get involved (or equivalent).
9. Your food will be tastier and healthier as it won't have been transported for long distances to reach the shops. I'm sure you know that the nutritional value of food is reduced the longer it takes to reach its destination. The reduction in the need for distribution vehicles carrying imported food will also result in a less polluted environment. Not only that, but you will be helping the economy of your area. Profits won't go to large international stores, but farmers and food producers closer to home will benefit.
- Q: What is the speaker's main purpose?
A: To persuade people to shop locally/to discourage you from buying imported food (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 12

The examiner will introduce the Listening phase by saying:

I'm going to read you three short passages and after I've finished each one, I'd like you to either suggest a suitable ending or answer a question. I'll then move on to the next passage. Are you ready? These two passages are incomplete. When I stop, I'd like you to tell me in just a few words how you think the passage finishes.

Grade 12 Type 1 listening tasks

1. I made up my mind I wanted to be an astronomer when I was very young. I found the night sky and the idea of space fascinating. I read as much as I could about it – I thought 'this is it!' It was mind-blowing. But when I went to university this was turned upside-down. I couldn't bear listening to the lecturers droning on and on. And above all, I hated having to memorise all those facts for exams. It put paid to my enthusiasm. Before long, all the wonder I'd felt in astronomy was...
Expected response: gone/lost/dead (or equivalent).
2. Some fascinating research was carried out about the effects that birth order among brothers and sisters has on our lives. According to statistics, the oldest child is the most conscientious, has a higher IQ and even higher earnings than his or her siblings. Whereas the youngest child supposedly ends up having greater wit, charm and the ability to get on with people. This seems to hold true for a number of people I know, but I suppose these sorts of statistics should always be taken with a pinch of salt. For example, in my family it's the youngest whose salary is...
Expected response: higher/the best/the largest (or equivalent).
3. I'm concerned that we're placing too much trust in experts. In a world where there is a deluge of information, we believe that experts are more up to the task of assessing it than we are. We rely on them unthinkingly, forgetting our own sense of responsibility. When we have to weigh up different courses of action, we should abandon our over-reliance on expert advice and start making our own decisions. The consequences of not doing this are alarming. A recent experiment showed that people would accept the advice of experts whether or not...
Expected response: it was right/correct/good (or equivalent).
4. I'd never done it before and was shaking like a leaf. I had to do this if I wanted to prove myself in my new job. I stayed up till late making copious notes and I practiced it in front of the mirror countless times. Despite an initial wobble in my voice, it seemed to go down pretty well. I got my points across and managed to crack a joke at the end! There were a few laughs and applause. So I breathed again and realised that in future, I won't mind...
Expected response: giving a presentation/talking in public/public speaking (or equivalent).
5. The press has had a field day reporting recent experiments with drugs that appear to be unravelling the mechanisms of sleep. According to scientists, these drugs would make sleep unnecessary. Imagine a 24-hour society, one in which people would never need to sleep. They could work all day and party all night. Sound like a nightmare? But then nightmares would be a thing of the past. However, a doctor from a sleep research centre argues that sleep enables the brain to store memories and recuperate from work. He therefore believes these drugs...
Expected response: are dangerous/should be banned/are a bad idea (or equivalent).
6. A news study indicates that people who think they excel at multi-tasking usually don't. It shows that the majority of the participants who rated themselves as above average were, in fact, worse than average. According to researchers and psychologists, these people multi-task excessively in all areas of their lives. This is because they are impulsive, easily distracted, and even have an inflated sense of their own ability. In fact the participants who understand their abilities turned out of be the ones who...
Expected response: were better/the best at multi-tasking (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 12 Type 1 listening tasks continued

7. Many of the most remarkable advances in food production in recent years have been vilified by both press and public. It comes as no surprise then, that the spectre of meat being artificially manufactured in a laboratory setting, has been greeted with revulsion and cries of outrage. But this research isn't going to go away. And successfully lab-produced meat might be able to address two threatening issues simultaneously. I'm referring to environmentally damaging gas emissions, and the looming concern of overpopulation. Consequently, such research deserves...

Expected response: praise/backing/support/funding/serious consideration (or equivalent).

8. Fiction fulfils many roles, sparking our imagination or providing a welcome burst of escapism. On another level, though, it acts rather like a personal guide, leading us on a dance through a succession of scenarios and locations we may have already visited. Whether such dances are joyful or macabre depends on the genre concerned. In a similar vein, it can put us in touch with feelings we once had, but perhaps scarcely remembered, until the words on the page miraculously bring them rushing vividly back to life. Either way it serves to reconnect us with...

Expected response: our past/previous experiences/memories (or equivalent).

9. We know from history books that actors and spectators ate fruit, bread or even potatoes during a performance. Archaeologists have been engaged in some serious detective work here on site, and they've identified half a dozen fruit and a variety of shellfish, including oysters, which were plentiful and cheap then. We were amused to find that the debris after a live performance was not unlike the abundance of plastic cups and popcorn buckets left after a modern screening of a blockbuster. But what surprised us most about the early 17th century was the variety of foodstuffs that people consumed while...

Expected response: watching a play (or equivalent).

10. Why don't people speak out at work when they see something isn't working? There are several common reasons for people's hesitation. They could be unsure of the facts or worried about the repercussions. Perhaps we should ask why people do act or speak out. For a start, it empowers the whistle-blower, and also everybody in the organisation. It breaks the conspiracy of silence. Instead of creating mistrust, it builds an atmosphere of honesty and openness. When I spoke out, I didn't feel I was behaving disloyally. Quite the contrary. In fact, if faced with a similar situation, I...

Expected response: would do it again/act similarly/speak out again (or equivalent).

The examiner will introduce the final Listening task by saying:

After I've read this passage, I'll ask you a question about what you've heard.

Grade 12 Type 2 listening tasks

1. I keep hearing new theories which support the idea that music can help you to study more efficiently. For example, some research claims that listening to the right kind of music when you study can help relax your mind, cut down on other distractions and enable you to concentrate better. Some people even say that listening to music with 60 beats per minute puts you in an alert state of mind, which can help you focus easily. I suppose this is possible, but surely anything that competes for your attention when you're trying to concentrate is a distraction.

Q: What is the speaker's attitude to the idea that listening to music helps you study?

A: Sceptical/questioning/dubious (or equivalent)

2. One of the mysteries that perplexed zoologists for a long time is why zebras have stripes. The most common theory up to now has been that the stripes make it more difficult for predators to single out an individual zebra from the herd. But it turns out that's not it. And they're not for decoration either. Like all members of the horse family, zebras are plagued by flies, which can make their lives a misery. So experiments were devised to see whether the stripes had any effect. Results have shown that plain black and plain white horses attract far more insects than two-tone zebras.

Q: According to the passage, why do zebras have stripes?

A: To repel/keep away flies (or equivalent).

Disclaimer: the sample exam materials in this document have been provided to assist teachers with the preparation of learners for the Trinity Graded Examinations in Spoken English. Please make sure you fully consult the Exam Information Booklet for the requirements of the exam. Trinity will not consider complaints which cite the use of sample exam materials.

Grade 12 Type 2 listening tasks continued

3. The hardest part of my job is at international conferences or diplomatic events when I have to do it simultaneously. I need to make sure I represent what the speaker's just said in the same tone and register, so that their exact intention and meaning is conveyed to the audience quickly and accurately. It's not just a case of communicating their message word for word as that could result in confusion. The mental acuity required in this profession is very challenging, but I take pride in the fact that others are dependent on my skills.

Q: Who is the speaker?

A: An interpreter/a translator.

4. Many governments strive to eradicate all risk from the lives of the people they serve. But this desire is counter-productive. If we never encounter danger, surely we'll never learn to cope with it. Some safety warnings are laughable. On the packaging of one brand of an electric iron appeared the caveat, 'Do not iron clothes on body'; on a child's Superman costume it stated, 'Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly'. It's simply not possible to prevent all accidents. By definition, an accident is something unpredictable and out of our control.

Q: What is the speaker's attitude to government attempts to prevent accidents?

A: Critical/that they are ridiculous or pointless (or equivalent).

5. Our planet has always been in a state of continuous change, causing the habitats of various animal species to be altered and modified. Such natural change to animal habitats tends to occur at a gradual pace, usually having only a slight impact on individual species, which isn't a major concern. However, a greater problem is when changes occur in such a way that there is little or no time for individual species to react and adjust to new circumstances. This can have a disastrous effect and lead to habitat destruction, which in turn can result in some species becoming endangered.

Q: What kind of change to animal habitats is the speaker worried about?

A: Fast/rapid change (or equivalent).

6. Art galleries are not just a venue for showing paintings or sculptures, they have a much more important role. You can learn so much, not just from the subject of a work of art, but also from the materials used and the way the gallery chooses to present the work. A chronological exhibition, for example, helps us to understand how external factors influenced a particular artist. Or, an exhibition of a number of contemporary artists from a given period can give you a real insight into the social history of the times. It's not just about aesthetics.

Q: According to the speaker, what is the purpose of art galleries?

A: Educational

7. When my film came out I had no idea what the reaction would be. It was quite revolutionary at the time. As often happens with original work, the reviews were very mixed. Although the characters were familiar, the setting and the plot were so unusual that most audiences were completely taken aback. I think it was because the world I had created was a far cry from the world they inhabited. It wasn't sci-fi exactly, but it looked ahead to a very challenging future society and people couldn't work it out. I'm thankful they eventually overcame this barrier and, as you know, the film went on to become a classic.

Q: How did the audiences react to the film at first?

A: They didn't understand it, they were surprised (or equivalent).

8. A group of behavioral psychologists has recently been optimistically employed by the government. This group aims to use psychology to nudge us, that is, to gently push us, towards a healthier life. An example is fruit positioned at eye level in supermarkets to catch our attention. To me, this nudge approach seems rather too subtle to be effective. The small amount of money being spent by advertisers who are trying to push us in the opposite direction.

Q: What effect does the speaker think the nudge approach will have on people's health?

A: It will have a minimal effect/it is unlikely to make them healthier (or equivalent).

Grade 12 Type 2 listening tasks continued

9. The stage set was effective and there were also one or two sparks of irony in the play that the audience were quick to pick up on. The two protagonists were charming and had brilliant comic timing. Although some parts of the dialogue were fast-paced and witty, in other places the writing let the actors down. However, the performers had a wonderfully sensitive approach to their roles, which compensated for the shortcomings of the play. But for this, it would be a box-office dissipater because of the predictable and over-sentimental plot – not to mention the irritating sound effects.

Q: According to the speaker, what is the main strength of the play?

A: The acting/the two performers/actors (or equivalent).

10. The trade in fake designer goods has become big business in recent years and is a problem of major proportions for the customs authorities and manufacturers alike. The government's response so far has been somewhat mediocre. Instead of nipping it in the bud, they are yet again paying lip service to this very serious issue by setting up another body to investigate and report. By the time the report is available the trade will have become so entrenched in our society that it will be almost impossible to disband. Meanwhile, the fashion industry faces more financial hardship at a particularly volatile time.

Q: What does the speaker think the government should do about this issue?

A: Stop the trade in fake designer goods (immediately)/take a firmer stance (or equivalent).