Independent Listening Task 2:
Modern Inventions

At a glance

Level: ISE Foundation

Focus: Independent listening task 2

Aims: To understand, make notes and give information about a short listening passage

Objectives: To give further information about the topic when asked questions

Topic: Modern inventions and the computer

Language functions: Giving information about a person and object

Grammar: Past simple

Lexis: Biography and computers

Materials needed: Audio script, paper, pen and board

Timing: 30 minutes

Procedure

Preparation

1. If you are able to pre-record the audio script onto a computer or CD, this would be ideal. If not, print the audio script and be prepared to read it out.

2. Print the audio script (one copy per student/pair).

In class

1. As a warm-up activity, ask the students what inventions they think are useful today and why?

2. Write "*computers*" on the board and ask the students to list words relating to this, for example:

   Laptop, mouse, screen, expensive, useful, advantages, disadvantages etc.

   Write all of the words on the board.

3. Explain to the class that they are going to listen twice to a short audio text about a famous inventor.

4. Tell the students that whilst they are listening the first time, they need to make notes on important information such as **events**, **dates** and **places**. Write these words on the board and check the students' understanding of these words.

5. Play or read the recording the first time.

6. Ask the students to compare what they have written about **events**, **dates** and **places** with their partner.

7. Now ask the students to write down additional information that they hear the second time.

8. Play or read the recording a second time.

9. Ask students to list the 5 pieces of information they picked up from the recording, either choose students individually or they can work in pairs or small groups.

10. Ask students follow-up questions (see Teacher Notes for questions), individually, in pairs or small groups.

11. Show students the audio script so they can check their answers.

Extension activity

Ask the more advanced students to research another famous inventor and write down important information about them. Ask students to read out this information to the class and then make notes

After class

1. Students choose an important event from their lives including dates. Make notes on this.

2. Read this out to the class or to another student if they are working in pairs.

3. The other student(s) make notes on the dates.

Audio Script – Teacher Notes

ISE Foundation – Independent listening task 2

Examiner rubric:

"You're going to hear a talk about a famous inventor called Alan Turing. The talk is about 50 seconds. You'll hear the talk two times. As you listen, write down some facts about what you hear about the inventor. Are you ready?"

Audio script:

Biography – slower than native speech (approx. 140 wpm) with regular pauses – emphasis on bold words

Alan Turing is considered to be the inventor of modern **computer science**. The concept of the **modern computer** was explained for the first time by Alan Turing in **1936**. He was a **computer scientist**, mathematician and philosopher, born in **London, England, in 1912** and is generally thought of as the father of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.

He studied at **Cambridge University**, England from **1931-1934**, graduating with a first-class honours degree in **mathematics.** After this he worked in the **United States of America** where he began work on the first **digital computer programme** called the **Turing Machine**, which can be considered a model of a general purpose computer. He died in **1954.**

"Now, listen again. Then I'll ask you to tell me five facts about what you hear. Are you ready?"

"Now tell me five facts about what you heard about Alan Turing."

Note to teacher:
While the candidate is responding, tick or cross the relevant box marked on the report form to note which facts the candidate has correctly and incorrectly reported. When the candidate has finished, **select three follow-up questions from the list on the report form**. Choose three questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Teacher Notes

	Student reported	Right or X	Follow-up question	Right or X
1	Alan Turing / inventor of modern computer science		Who was Alan Turing?	
2	Modern computer explained for first time in 1936		What did he explain in 1936?	
3	He was a computer scientist		What was his profession?	
4	Born in London, England in 1912		When/where was he born?	
5	Studied at Cambridge University		Where did he study?	
6	Studied at Cambridge from 1931-1934		When did he study at Cambridge?	
7	Graduated with first class honours in mathematics		What did he graduate in?	
8	Worked in USA on first digital computer programme		What did he do in the USA?	
9	Developed Turing machine		What is the Turing machine?	
10	Died in 1954		When did he die?	
Total:				

Answer Key

<u>Student reported</u>

1. Alan Turing was considered to be the inventor of modern computer science.
2. The modern computer was explained for the first time in 1936.
3. He was a computer scientist.
4. He was born in London, England, in 1912.
5. He studied at Cambridge University.
6. He studied at Cambridge University from 1931-1934.
7. He graduated with a first-class degree in Mathematics.
8. He worked in the USA on the first digital computer programme.
9. He developed the Turing machine.
10. He died in 1954.

<u>Follow-up questions</u>

1. Alan Turing was the inventor of modern computer science/ an inventor.
2. In 1936 he explained the idea of the modern computer.
3. He was a computer scientist, (mathematician and philosopher).
4. He was born in London, England, in 1912.
5. He studied at Cambridge University.
6. He studied at Cambridge from 1931-1934.
7. He graduated in mathematics.
8. He worked in the USA on the first digital computer programme
9. The Turing machine is a model of a (general purpose) computer.
10. He died in 1954

Sources used:
http://www.turing.org.uk/index.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Turing#Early_life_and_career