

## The Listening phase - ISE III

The purpose of the Listening phase is for candidates to demonstrate high level listening skills such as prediction, deduction and inference. The candidate needs to show recognition of the context, participants and register.

**There are two types of listening tasks which require different responses from the candidate:**

- ▶ **Type 1** – require the candidate to provide a suitable ending
- ▶ **Type 2** – require the candidate to identify participants, contexts or settings.

- Candidates are presented with three listening tasks – two of Type 1 and one of Type 2.
- Candidates are expected to respond with very short, precise responses and should not give lengthy replies.
- The listening tasks are not related to any of the given subject areas for the Conversation phase. This is to provide an unknown element which candidates at this level are expected to be able to handle.
- Candidates are not required to read or write anything in this phase, and the taking of notes is unnecessary given the nature of the task.
- Please note **the listening tasks will not be repeated** by the examiner even if they are requested to do so.

**Below are some SAMPLE listening tasks for ISE III. Please note these are samples and will NOT be used in an actual examination.**

At ISE III, the examiner will introduce this 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 onto the next passage. Are you ready?'**

The examiner will introduce the Type 1 tasks by saying:

**'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.'**

The examiner will introduce the Type 2 task by saying:

**'After I've read this passage, I'll ask you about such things as the context and the people involved.'**

## ISE III - Sample listening tasks - Type 1

1. Fire-fighters said that the family were lucky to be alive after a serious fire in their home last night. When the fire crews arrived, they rescued four people including an elderly woman and a baby. Only the fact that the bedroom doors were shut prevented the fire racing through the house with tragic consequences for everyone. The fire was confined to one back bedroom, which was extensively damaged. If the bedroom doors hadn't been shut, then the four people...

Expected response: ...would have died/would have been hurt/injured.

2. It's funny how people differ in their ideas about how to do things and one example is the ideas people have about how to study successfully. Some of my friends can only concentrate if they have pop music blasting out of the loud speakers, while I need total silence when I'm doing my homework. My best friend has to get up and walk around and then has to eat something every half or so, whereas I...

Expected response: ...am completely the opposite/have to sit still and not eat anything.

3. I made the stupidest mistake the other day when I was cooking a meal for the family. I had two bottles on the table beside me - one with brown sauce for the meat dish and the other with chocolate icing to go on top of the birthday cake I was making for my niece. The time was getting on and people kept interrupting me, so I was feeling a bit hot and bothered. In my haste, by accident I ...

Expected response: ...put the icing into the meat dish OR put the sauce on the cake.

4. With only a few minutes to spare before his flight, a man went to the foreign exchange desk for some currency. The woman was very pleasant but chatting to her colleague about some party they'd both been to. When she gave him the money, she just handed it over to him and he didn't look at it. It was only when he got to his destination and tried to pay the taxi driver that he found he had a big problem because...

Expected response: ...he'd been given the wrong currency.

5. Well, my friend tries not to be judgemental but she really doesn't approve of her daughter and partner's life-style. Three kids, a big mortgage and no marriage certificate. To her that spells no lasting commitment and potential disaster if one of them ever decides to walk out. My friend says she can't help worrying - suppose she was left on her own with three little ones to bring up and he refused to ...

Expected response: ...help her raise the children and/or contribute financially.

6. I've just received a letter from a friend who's seeking sponsorship for a 5-day walk. She belongs to an organisation called Friends of Nedoma which is a small African town and the members are in regular contact with the townspeople. The money raised by the sponsored walk will be used for educational purposes. The people of Nedoma hope to build a new classroom or at least buy some new textbooks. Whether they get a classroom or just textbooks depends on...

Expected response: ...how much money is raised.

7. I just had to get away, so I caught the first plane to Australia, leaving behind my family, job and friends. At first, I felt revitalised by the change but as time passed, I missed my old life more and more. My new job was really boring and I found it increasingly hard to break into social circles. One night, as I munched a solitary snack in front of the TV, I thought to myself that I wish ...

Expected response: ...I had never left home/had never come to Australia/I was back home.

8. When she was little, Sophie had the most extraordinary eating habits. For a whole year, she refused to eat anything but pizza, followed by a banana. Her mother got so fed up with trying to tempt her to vary her diet that in the end she just gave up and served the same meal everyday. Then one day, while her mother was cooking her dinner, Sophie suddenly asked for...

Expected response: ...any meal OTHER than pizza and banana.

9. I'd never been to a fortune-teller before and I can't say I had much faith in this one. She was in a broken-down old caravan and her crystal ball wasn't exactly sparkling! But there was something about the tone of her voice and she told me one or two things about myself that only I could have known, so I started to pay more attention to her predictions. Amazingly, despite my scepticism, nearly everything that she told me would happen...

Expected response: ...came true/has come true/(has) happened/did happen (or equivalent).

10. Pete had always wanted to be one. Even as a child he loved reading medical books and watching hospital dramas on TV. We weren't at all surprised when he got a place to study medicine at university and imagined he would have a glittering career ahead of him. However, the first time he was in theatre, at the sight of all the blood, he began to feel very dizzy and passed out. Pete subsequently decided...

Expected response: ...not to become a doctor or surgeon/this was not the career for him (or equivalent).

## ISE III - Sample listening tasks - Type 2

1. Well, you know, I've had it since I was a child so I'm used to it now. It's strange because I don't have any problems with the animals themselves, I just can't wear anything made from it. Blankets can set me off too. What happens is a terrible itchy rash breaks out all over. Of course, nowadays, synthetics are much more popular but sometimes there might be a mix and so I still have to check labels before I buy anything.

Question: What is the speaker's problem?

Expected answer: Allergic to wool (or another suitable natural clothing fabric).

2. I couldn't believe it when I woke up on Friday morning with a painful dry throat. There was less than 48 hours to go. Could I possibly cure it by then? I inhaled hot steam laden with herbs. I sucked soothing sweets. Above all, I resisted the temptation to talk to anyone, let alone practising a few tunes and I kept warm. It would be such a disappointment for me to have to cancel and such a nuisance for them to have to find someone to take my place.

Question: Who is the speaker?

Expected answer: A singer.

3. We've been doing it for years now. I know some people let the machine choose automatically but we don't. We always use the same combination of special dates - our birthdays, our anniversary and the day we met. Week after week, we got nothing at all but it was still fun to check. Then once in a while we got three or four right and that was a nice little cash bonus for a special treat but although we've always dreamed of this, we never really believed that it would happen.

Question: What has just happened?

Expected answer: The speaker has just won a jackpot on the lottery.

4. My father had inherited it from one of his distant relatives but had never liked it enough to put it up anywhere. It was pretty big, probably about one metre long and half a metre wide. The varnish had discoloured and cracked, making it hard to read the signature. There was a great chunk missing from the top of the frame and the gilt was peeling off. Personally I wasn't too keen on the composition of the central figures but I could appreciate the quality of the work.

Question: What is the speaker talking about?

Expected answer: A painting.

5. My work involves both telephone and face-to-face contact. I make all the appointments as well as keeping records up to date. Some people are organised and book regular check-ups in advance but others wait until they are in pain. People can get very nervous when they come in and it's part of my job to help calm them down before they go in. We also try to make the waiting area as relaxing as possible - comfortable sofas, a wide variety of magazines and soft music.

Question: What is the speaker's job?

Expected answer: A dental/medical receptionist.

6. I have to get up really early as we have deliveries first thing every morning. When everything's been unloaded I go round to make sure all the shelves are stacked. I check the sell-by dates on the goods and remove any out-of-date items. Then I make sure the till has enough change in it and a good supply of carrier bags. Finally, I turn the sign round to 'open' and I'm ready for another day.

Question: What is the speaker's job?

Expected answer: Shopkeeper/Shop manager.

7. We stood for hours on the corner of the street, right at the front so that we'd get a really good view. And it was worth the long wait, I can tell you. There was a huge turn-out, with lots of wonderful multi-coloured floats and fabulous costumes. On one of them there was a group of young children, singing and dancing and clearly having fun. Everybody was happy and relaxed in the sunshine and we just wished it could go on forever.

Question: What event is being described?

Expected answer: A carnival (procession)/festival.

8. I never knew exactly what people meant by it until recently, when I got my own laptop. Now if I'm not careful I can waste hours every day going from one site to another or reading endless blogs about other people's lives. It's amazing what a huge diversity of information you can come across. Sometimes it seems as if everybody on the globe is reaching out to contact everybody else. And it's certainly a marvellous tool for students of any discipline.

Question: What activity is being described?

Expected answer: Surfing the internet.

9. We have a fleet with dual controls so we can take over if the learner is in a difficult situation. Apart from learning how to use all the controls like gear and clutch they have to be taught how to manoeuvre safely and to be aware of other road users and pedestrians. These days as well as passing the practical they also have to do a theory test relating to highway rules and safety before they can get a full licence.

Question: What is the speaker's job?

Expected answer: Driving instructor/teacher.

10. I'm not a great fan of them because I find it rather depressing to see all those poor creatures in cramped conditions and looking miserable through the bars of their cages. However, my children were really insistent on going there as they'd seen some advert on the TV. So I was forced to take them. I drove them there and feared the worst. Anyway, we went in and I was afraid of what I might see, but I have to admit they've changed a lot since I was a kid and I actually really enjoyed it.

Question: What place is the speaker describing?

Expected answer: A zoo.

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