

ISE II

Sample Independent listening task – New town stadium

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a talk about a town. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you what reasons the speaker gives for and against the plans. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me what reasons the speaker gives for and against the plans. You have one minute to talk.

Audio script

So today we're looking at the debate about the planned new stadium. Right, so, the city's football club say their present stadium, in the city centre, isn't big enough (which I must say surprises me, as it's half empty for most matches at the moment). So they've announced their plan to build a much bigger stadium in a quiet neighbourhood five kilometres north of the city centre.

Of course, local shopkeepers are excited about the plans, as business has been difficult recently, and the stadium would bring thousands of people to their shops. Similarly, several big fast food companies have already said they would be keen to open outlets in the area. But most of the local residents are protesting. They don't want 40,000 people walking past their houses every week or two, which is quite understandable! They're saying things like it wouldn't be safe to park your car on the street when there's a match; and if the two teams didn't like each other, they wouldn't feel safe walking near their own home. So what does the club say? Well it's told them it will pay for police and security people to keep the streets safe.

OK, but what about all the plastic cups and fast-food papers left in the streets after a match? Well, local businesses say they will share the cost of street cleaners with the club – they say that everywhere will be clean one hour after a match, which seems fair, but possibly a little hard to believe. Finally, what everybody who lives there is saying is that the roads are too small for football match traffic – they're worried they won't be able to drive their cars. So the club says it has plans to build a giant car park on empty land outside the city, with hundreds of special buses. The city bus company says this system works in other cities, and it will work here, although it's not clear what they mean by 'in other cities'. And the local government? Well, it says that the stadium will create a lot of new jobs, and bring a lot of money into a part of town that, to be honest, is not rich. The football club says it will give money to improve the local schools and hospital, although it hasn't mentioned a specific amount in its plans. So that's the situation. Now, what do you think?

Answers

Main point/gist: Plans for a new stadium – there are arguments for and against (any broadly similar formulation is acceptable).

Arguments for	Arguments against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Good for local businesses – difficult times recently▶ Opportunity for fast-food companies▶ Will bring money and new jobs to poor part of town▶ Present stadium not big enough▶ Football club will give extra money to schools and hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Local residents don't want 40,000 people walking past their houses▶ Not safe to park▶ Not safe to walk▶ Litter in the streets▶ Roads too small for extra traffic