

**ESOL International
English Listening Examination**

Level B2 Independent User

Texts to be used with the examination

The texts are to be recorded and sent to the centre on a disk prior to the examination.

Instructions are written in underlined italics and should not be recorded.

The recording must be played to learners in full from start to finish.

This is the NOCN ESOL International Independent User Level B2 Listening examination.

Please check that your name and other details are on your mark sheet.

The invigilator will have explained how to fill in the mark sheet.

Do not write on your examination paper.

The Listening examination will now begin.

Part 1

You will hear ten sentences. Read the replies on your examination paper. You have two minutes to read the replies on your examination paper.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to the sentences. You will hear the sentences in full twice. Choose the best reply for the situation. You will then have two minutes to check your answers.

Record the sentences (three seconds between each sentence).

1. What skills are required for this job?
2. I watched a brilliant TV programme last night.
3. Property prices are rising.
4. Where did you get that necklace?
5. I can't hear them. What did they say?
6. Did you hear about the earthquake?
7. What will you do if you pass your exam?
8. How long have you been working for this company?
9. He is quite keen on fishing.
10. I don't like bananas.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the sentences again.

Record the sentences again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

You will hear two conversations. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both conversations. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to Conversation 1. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the conversation.

- Hello Chris. I can see you have been working on a new instrument. It's a kind of chromatic harp which you called the Min. Have you actually composed anything for it?
- Hello, Sarah. Yes, I've written three pieces for it. The first one was inspired by my four year old daughter, Lisa, it is called The Enchanted. The second one, The Mystique is for my wife, Tess and the last one I wrote thinking about my mother. I called it The Wonderland - you see my mum's name is Wanda so I thought it was quite funny.
- That's lovely. Have you performed with the Min? In front of a crowd? For an audience?
- Yes, I have performed for small audiences - I've been going to schools as well as pubs and clubs. I'm looking to perform more in the future.
- Great and what has the response been from people? From audiences when they hear your compositions?
- It seems that people really like it. They enjoy the new sound.
- And how old is the Min?
- I finished it about a year ago.
- A year ago. So how long did it take you to make it?
- I had started the body about nine years before that. But the whole process took about a decade.
- The whole process took about a decade? That's amazing dedication. Well good luck for the future, Chris.
- Thank you, Sarah.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Record the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 2 – Conversations

Listen to Conversation 2. You will hear the conversation twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the conversation – the interviewer is female and Shirley is female.

(Interviewer) We are talking to Shirley, 57, born in America. She left home just before her 17th birthday and went to France, where she became a model. She got married to a pop star, Terry McCain; they had four children before their relationship ended in 1999. She has appeared on more than 500 magazine covers.

- Shirley, what is your earliest memory?

- Playing with my identical twin sister, Suzanne. We used to play pranks on my grandma, I pretended to be my sister, our granny could never tell. We tried it a few times with our mum but she always knew - so we gave up.

- What is your favourite smell?

- I love primroses. It is such a lovely smell of spring. It captures the first warm days of March. I love this season.

- What is your favourite word?

- "Darling." It is so soft and gentle. I use it all the time!

- How would you like to be remembered?

- As a good party mum. I love to work hard and I love to party hard even more, but most of all I love my four kids. They are my life!

- What is the most important lesson life has taught you?

- Tenacity pays off. I usually get what I want out of life!

- Shirley, thank you very much.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the conversation again.

Record the conversation again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Broadcasts

You will hear two broadcasts. Read the questions and answers on your examination paper for both broadcasts. You have two minutes to read them.

Pause for two minutes.

Listen to Broadcast 1. You will hear the broadcast twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the broadcast.

The number of divorces in England and Wales has risen slightly according to official figures, with 118,140 divorces recorded in 2012. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has just released its latest report.

In its latest release the ONS has also included a selection of facts about the 2012 divorce statistics which state that:

- There were 13 divorces an hour in England and Wales in 2012
- Over 9,000 men and 6,000 women aged over 60 got divorced and
- The average age at divorce was 45 for men and 42 for women

The number of over-60s in England and Wales who are getting divorced is rising. Ruth Sutherland, the chief executive of the relationship charity Relate, said: "It is clear from today's statistics that there are many pressures facing couples as they grow older. It is unfortunate but simply not uncommon in modern times to see couples drift apart as a result of 'empty nest syndrome', when their children head off to university or move out of the family home. This can have a major impact on the dynamic between a couple and bring issues to the fore which may have been hidden by their continued responsibilities to their offspring.

It is scary to think that 42% of marriages may end in divorce in the future.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the broadcast again.

Record the broadcast again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

Part 3 – Broadcasts

Listen to Broadcast 2. You will hear the broadcast twice. Answer the questions. Then you have two minutes to check the answers.

Record the broadcast.

Recently in our programme we wanted to know whether or not you think wind farms are a positive step for Great Britain, and what additional or alternative methods could be used to help reduce the country's carbon footprint. We asked if you support or oppose wind farms as a source of renewable energy. The results were interesting.

Many people think they are a monstrosity set in our beautiful countryside and all round dreadfully expensive to construct, maintain and convert to electricity. In the rest of Europe they tend to be placed in industrial locations like ports etc. whereas in the UK the political decision was taken to ruin the views in the countryside by constructing them in remote beauty spots.

But although they need regular maintenance and the output is low, the lack of any significant waste, the long lifespan of the equipment and the relatively clean nature of the energy outweigh the negative aspects. Many people believe we must switch to green energy to prevent climate change and the UK has huge wind-power potential. Wind power also creates jobs and helps strengthen the UK economy by reducing our reliance on imported oil, gas and coal.

Did you know that the cost of electricity generation by land wind farms per hour is roughly twice that by nuclear generation and that of off shore wind farms is more than three times the cost of nuclear power? The amount of energy they produce will probably never cover the cost of manufacture and installation. The cost of constructing wind farms will also have to include the cost of cleaning up pollution from the more traditional generating methods.

This debate will run and run.

Pause for five seconds after the first reading.

Now listen to the broadcast again.

Record the broadcast again.

Now check your answers. You have two minutes to check your answers.

Pause for two minutes after the second reading.

That is the end of the Listening examination. Please check your mark sheet is completed correctly. Put your pens down.

End of Examination

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