



IELTS Masterclass Pack: Listening

Produced by IDP IELTS Europe

The basics

The table below will allow you to convert your listening score from a mark out of 40 to an IELTS band score.

Band score	Raw score out of 40
5	16
6	23
7	30
8	35

Using your time before the audio starts

Print off the question sheet on the next page - Packham's Shipping Agency's customer quotation form (questions 1-8) – to follow the Masterclass and help you understand how you can make the best use of your time before the audio starts. ¹

¹ **Please note:** Some of the question papers used in this Masterclass have been taken from 'Official IELTS Practice Materials 2' (UCLES 2010).

Listening sample task – Form completion (to be used with IELTS Listening Recording 1)

SECTION 1

Questions 1 – 8

Complete the form below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

PACKHAM'S SHIPPING AGENCY – customer quotation form

Example

Country of destination: **Kenya**.....

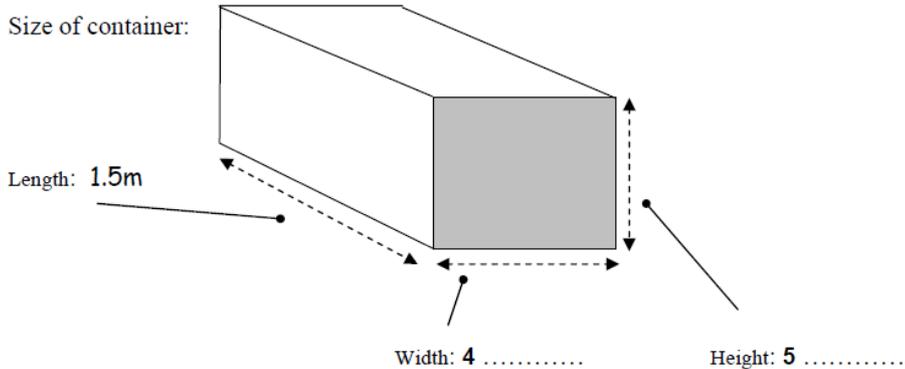
Name: **Jacob** 1

Address to be collected from: **2** College, Downlands Rd

Town: **Bristol**

Postcode: **3**

Size of container:



Length: **1.5m**

Width: **4**

Height: **5**

Contents: clothes

6

7

Total estimated value: **8** £.....

Tapescript to accompany Packham's Shipping Agency form completion (Section 1)

You will hear a telephone conversation between a customer and an agent at a company which ships large boxes overseas.

- A *Good morning Packham's Shipping Agents. Can I help you?*
- B *Oh yes, I'm ringing to make enquiries about sending a large box, a container, back home to Kenya from the UK.*
- A *Yes, of course. Would you like me to try and find some quotations for you?*
- B *Yes, that'd be great. Thank you.*

In this Masterclass we look at underlining keywords in the questions before the audio starts. Print off the question below to practice this technique:

SECTION 3

Questions 27 – 30

Complete the sentences below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

Studying with the Open University demanded a great deal of **27**

Studying and working at the same time improved Rachel's **28** skills.

It was helpful that the course was structured in **29**

She enjoyed meeting other students at **30**

Specific tips and practice of different question types: Multiple choice questions

This section of the Masterclass focuses on techniques to tackle multiple-choice questions. Print questions 24-27 below to practise alongside the Masterclass:

Questions 24 – 27

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

- 24** Why does Marco's tutor advise him to avoid the *Team Management* course?
- A** It will repeat work that Marco has already done.
 - B** It is intended for students at a lower level than Marco.
 - C** It may take too much time to do well.
- 25** Why does Marco want to do a dissertation?
- A** He thinks it will help his future career.
 - B** He would like to do a detailed study.
 - C** He has already done some work for it.
- 26** What does Marco's tutor think about the dissertation outline?
- A** The topic is too narrow to be useful.
 - B** The available data may be unsuitable.
 - C** The research plan is too complicated.
- 27** What does Marco decide to do about his dissertation?
- A** contact potential interviewees
 - B** change to another topic
 - C** discuss it with Professor Briggs

T: Now last time we met, you mentioned doing Team Management, didn't you?

M: That's right. I'm still quite keen on the idea.

T: The trouble is that because of changes in the content of various courses, Team Management overlaps with the Introduction to Management course you took in your first year. So what you'd learn from it would be too little for the amount of time you'd have to spend on it.

M: I'll drop that idea, then. Have you had a chance to look at the outline I wrote for my finance dissertation? I left it in your pigeonhole last week.

T: Yes. Why exactly do you want to write a dissertation, instead of taking the finance modules? It'll be pretty demanding.

M: Well, I'm quite prepared to do the extra work, because I'm keen to investigate something in depth, instead of just skating across the surface. I realise that a broader knowledge base may be more useful to my career, but I'm really keen to do this.

The first part of the tape script for questions 24-27

T: Right. Well I had a quick look through your outline, and the first thing that struck me was that you'll have to be careful how you set about it, as the way you've organised it seems unnecessarily complex. The data that you want to collect and analyse is potentially valuable, but you'll need to narrow down the subject matter to make the whole thing manageable.

M: OK, I'll have another look at it. I was talking to Professor Briggs about it yesterday, and I got some more ideas then. For part of the dissertation I was thinking of trying to persuade finance managers from three or four companies to let me ask them about their company finances. If not I think I'll have to change to another topic.

T: Well go ahead then. I could give you some names.

M: Thanks.

The second part of the tape script for questions

Specific tips and practice of different question types: Map/Diagram labelling questions

Useful language for map labelling questions

- *At the top / at the bottom*
- *On the left / on the right*
- *Left hand side / right hand side*
- *South / North / East / West*
- *Southeast / Southwest / Northeast / Northwest*
- *To the north / to the south / to the east / to the west*
- *Opposite / in front of / behind*
- *In the middle / in the centre/in the corner*
- *Above / below*
- *Inside / outside*
- *Just beyond / a little beyond / just past/before you get to*
- *Next to / alongside / adjoining (= next to or joined with)*
- *Enter via*
- *Runs alongside/ runs between/runs through*
- *Clockwise/anticlockwise*

Print off the questions below to help you practise map labelling questions:

SECTION 2

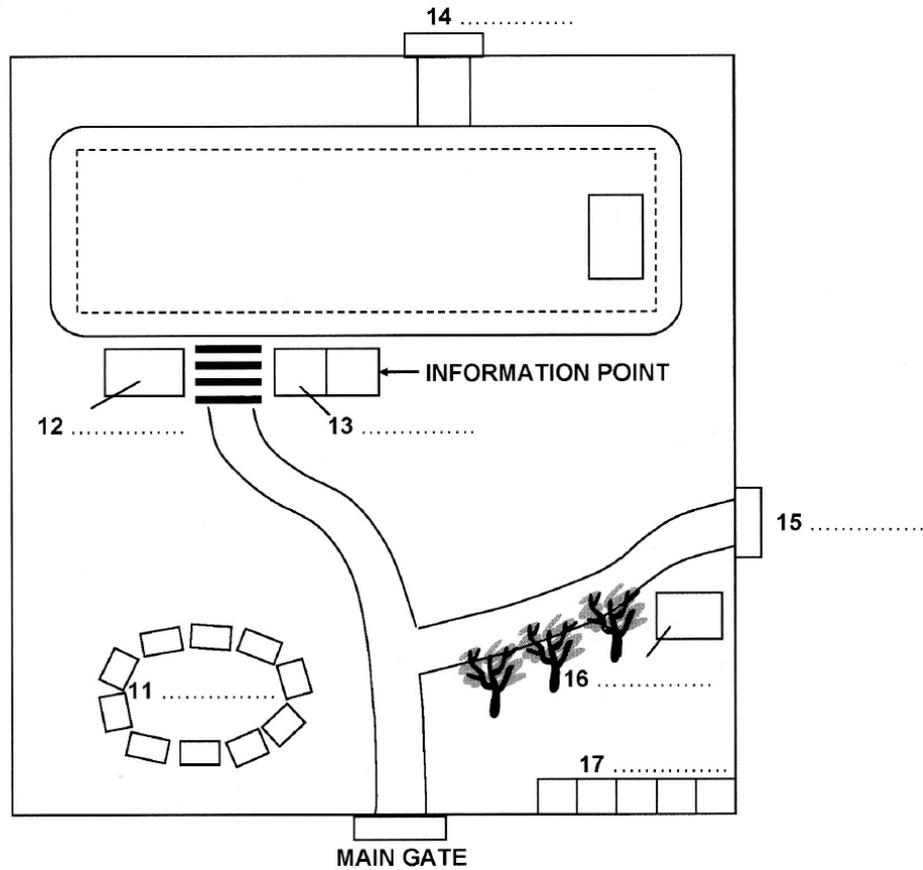
Questions 11 – 20

Questions 11 – 17

Label the plan of the rock festival site below.

Choose **SEVEN** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A-I**, next to questions 11-17.

- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| A | art exhibition |
| B | band entrance |
| C | car park |
| D | craft fair |
| E | exhibitors' entrance |
| F | fringe stage |
| G | lock-up garages |
| H | main stage |
| I | restaurant |



Tapescript to accompany the map labelling question:

I'm glad you could all make this planning meeting for what promises to be the biggest and most colourful free rock festival ever held in the south-east. So whether you're a performer, a craft exhibitor or an artist, we all extend a big welcome to you.

*Could we turn first to the plan so I can familiarise you with the layout of the site – which as you know is an old football stadium, we're really lucky to have so much space this year. You can see the **main gate** at the **bottom** of the plan – have you found it? That's where most visitors will enter. It's also the entrance for those taking part in **the craft fair** – we've set stalls **just inside** the **gate** on the left in a **circle**.*

*If you walk **straight ahead** from the **gate** along the **path** without turning **right**, you'll come to some **steps** up to the **football stadium**. On the left of the **steps** is the **Fringe Stage**. This is for alternative artistes – they include folk singers, poets and other acts which are suited to a smaller stage and they should also enter by the main **gate**. On the **opposite side** of the **steps** is a **restaurant** and **adjoining** that is the main festival **information point**. Here you can get extra programmes and up to the minute information about events and you can discuss any last minute problems – although, we hope everything will be running smoothly once the festival starts.*

*Right, coming back to the plan, you go up the **stairs** to the stadium, the **entrance** for the **rock bands** is **on the far side** and **on your right** is the main stage, which will have powerful illumination and amplification throughout the weekend. There will probably be TV vehicles adjacent – that's in this area only – for recording purposes.*

*If you look at the outside of the plan you can see a third **gate** for **exhibitors** opening onto a side **path**. A little way down the **path** before you get to the **trees** is the building where the **art exhibitions** housed. Then finally there's just 1 more building marked on your plan – **quite near** the **main gate**. It's divided into **lock-up garages**. So I hope you now feel familiar with the main festival area*

Specific tips and practice of different question types: Short answer questions

To follow the Masterclass and practise answering short answer questions, print off questions 11-16 below:

SECTION 2

Questions 11 – 16

Answer the questions below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

What **TWO** factors can make social contact in a foreign country difficult?

- 11
- 12

Which types of community group does the speaker give examples of?

- theatre
- 13
- 14

In which **TWO** places can information about community activities be found?

- 15
- 16

Tapescript to accompany the above short answer questions

You will hear an extract from a talk given to a group who are going to stay in the UK.

Good evening, and welcome to the British Council. My name is John Parker and I've been asked to talk to you briefly about certain aspects of life in the UK before you actually go there. So I'm going to talk first about the best ways of making social contacts there. Now you might be wondering why it should be necessary. After all, we meet people all the time. But when you're living in a foreign country it can be more difficult, not just because of the language, but because customs may be different.

If you're going to work in the UK you will probably be living in private accommodation, so it won't be quite so easy to meet people. But there are still things that you can do to help yourself. First of all, you can get involved in activities in your local community, join a group of some kind. For example, you'll probably find that there are theatre groups who might be looking for actors, set designers and so on, or if you play an instrument you could join music groups in your area. Or if you like the idea of finding out about local history there'll be a group for that too. These are just examples. And the best places to get information about things like this are either the town hall or the public library. Libraries in the UK perform quite a broad range of functions nowadays – they're not just confined to lending books, although that's their main role of course.

How to get better at listening

Help with spelling

- **Spelling rules:** Even though there are exceptions, around 75% of words do follow the spelling rules. The University of New England has put together a very useful fact sheet on English spelling rules. [Access it via their website.](#)
- **Dolch words:** These are the 300 most frequent words in English which make up about 50% of words found in all books for adults. They include common prepositions, verbs, adjectives and articles. [View the lists online.](#)

Useful websites listed in the Masterclass:

1. [BBC Learning English:](#) news topics and lessons for English students.
 2. [BBC 6 Minute English:](#) brush up your listening skills with interesting topics, vocabulary lists, transcripts and grammar exercises.
 3. [BBC World: The Interview Archive:](#) radio programmes with a wide variety of themes. Good for IELTS listening sections 3 and 4.
 4. [Ello:](#) listening practice from Beginners to Advanced, with a variety of accents
 5. [Audible:](#) practise your listening and reading skills using audio books. 30-day free trial. You can download the books to a smartphone.
 6. [Voice of America:](#) news stories with a script and grammar topics, the pace is not too fast.
 7. [Listen a minute:](#) A-Z of topics for simple listening practice with PDF transcripts of recordings as well as spelling and comprehension activities.
 8. [Stitcher Podcasts:](#) news topics and podcasts on current issues - good site to practise real-world listening skills.
 9. [TED talks:](#) lectures and presentations on many topics. Good for higher level students who want to build IELTS vocabulary.
 10. [ESL Lab:](#) lots of topics and exercises, mainly American English.
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