

## Exam practice: Listening and Reading Comprehension

### 1

#### Listening Comprehension Strategies and Tips

- **Gaps:** Enter the correct word(s) or number(s) from the talk.
- **Open questions:** Write clear answers. Use complete sentences.
- **True or false:** Mark the correct answer.
- **Multiple choice:** Choose the best answer(s).

#### General points

- You will hear the recording(s) twice.
- The questions appear in chronological order.
- Read the questions carefully, highlighting key information. Remember that successful listening depends on correct reading of the questions.
- Note that the exercises test your listening comprehension skills, not what you may already know about the topic. Thus, your answers must be based on the information given by the recording.
- Write legibly.

#### 1. Gap-fills

- The recording may not repeat the exact words of the question. However, the answers which you write in the spaces must be *exactly the words you hear* and they must be spelt correctly.
- Try to predict the kinds of words or numbers that might go in the gaps.
- Make sure your answers fit the context of the sentences with regard to grammar and meaning.

#### 2. Open questions

- Take notes in the margin while listening.
- After the listening, write them up in full, coherent sentences. They should be clear and precise, answering the question to the point and not leaving any room for interpretation.

#### 3. Multiple choice questions and True-/False-questions

- Read the statements carefully. Highlight key words so you know what you need to listen for.

- Beware of distractors, i.e. statements that are close to the original information that you hear, but not identical.
- Remember: the whole statement must agree with the information you hear. Partial agreement is not enough.
- If you are asked to choose one answer, choose one answer only. You will score zero points if you choose several answers in this case.

## 2 Listening Comprehension: 'The most secure password in the world'

### Exam Type Listening Task

- *You are going to hear a report on the latest trend in internet security.*
- *Listen to the programme and answer questions 1-10.*
- *You now have two minutes to read the questions. They are in chronological order.*
- *You will have a minute after the first listening before you hear the programme a second time.*

**1a** *According to the presenter, how do the people interviewed in downtown Berkley feel about passwords?*

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**1b** *Why have passwords become a more acute problem? Name two different aspects.*

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**2** *How do people handle passwords? Only tick those strategies mentioned in the report.*

- use as many as 15 different passwords
- use names of people they know well
- write them down
- use memory techniques to remember them
- use variations of the same password
- use birthdates of close friends

**3a** *What did Google's top security executive, Heather Adkins, say about passwords at the conference?*

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**3b** *What advice does she give start-up companies which want to develop secure password systems?*

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**4** *What could replace passwords in the future?*

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**5** *True or false? Mark the correct answer.*

- a** The market for fingerprint scanners is already worth 10 billion dollars. **T / F**
- b** Nuance Communications wants to replace passwords and PINs with voice recognition. **T / F**

**6** *Explain what the two basic elements of the new technology are.*

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**7** *Why is the security system that Nuance Communications is working on less at risk from fraud<sup>1</sup> than other systems?*

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**8** *There are other "wild ideas" that could be used instead of passwords. Name two.*

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**9** *Old-fashioned passwords have many advantages over biometric passwords. Tick the ones mentioned in the report.*

- You don't need any additional hardware.
- You can change them any time.
- You don't have to buy an expensive fingerprint scanner
- You don't have to give away personal information.

<sup>1</sup> fraud = the crime of deceiving people in order to gain something such as money or goods  
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Listening comprehension source: <http://www.npr.org/sections/alltechconsidered/2013/11/05/243060103/he-most-secure-password-in-the-world-might-be-you>)

Reading comprehension source: <https://ieltsetc.com/2018/09/ielts-gtreading-crime-fighting-tools/>

- You can more easily reset it (if the system doesn't recognize your password anymore).
- You don't have to worry about somebody chopping off your thumb.

**10** *True or false? Mark the correct answer.*

Most of the people interviewed feel sceptical about biometric passwords. **T / F**

## Reading Comprehension Strategies and Tips

- Skim/Scan the text first to get a general idea of what it is about. This way, when you read the questions, you will know roughly where to find the answers.
- Ignore anything you already know about the topic and don't make assumptions. Base your answers on the text only.
- Don't panic if you don't know anything about the subject of the text; all the answers can be found in the text.
- Don't worry if there is a word that you don't understand – you may not need to use it.
- Attempt all questions; there are no penalties for incorrect answers.
- If you can't find the information you are looking for, or if you have no idea what the answer is, move on and come back to this question later or make a guess and move on to the next question.
- Keep an eye on time! Allow yourself app. 20 mins. per text.

### 1. Matching headings or information with paragraphs

- Highlight keywords/ key information in the text. As you do so, try to 'mentally' sum up the general meaning of each paragraph in one or two words.
- Once you've done this for all the paragraphs, look at the list of headings and choose the most suitable one.
- If there are two or three headings that are similar, try to find out the difference between them. What are the keywords? How does this change the meaning? Which one matches the paragraph best?

### 2. Multiple choice questions

- Read the task question (NOT options a, b, c and/or d). Find where the question is dealt with in the text and only read that part of the text carefully.
- Try to formulate your own answer to the question before looking at the four choices and then choose the answer closest to your own.
- Remember: the words of the text will not repeat the words of the task question. You will have to find the same ideas expressed differently, via synonyms.

### 3. 'True, False or Not Mentioned?' questions

- Read all the statements carefully, trying to understand what the whole sentence means. Watch out for qualifying words such as *some*, *mainly* or *always* etc.
- Underline the words that give you the answer. This will help you focus and you can check back later.

#### 4. Full/short answer / expressions/ gap-fill questions

- Identify the piece of information and type of word(s) you need for each answer e.g. noun, place, date etc.?
- Scan the text for the answers – for the specific information i.e. place, date etc.
- Underline the words that give you the answer. This will help you focus and you can check back later.
- Paraphrase keywords (non-generic/general terms) in your answers.

### 3 Reading Comprehension: 'High-tech crime-fighting tools'

#### Task 1

*The reading text on pp. 7 and 8 has six paragraphs (A–F). Choose the correct heading (i–x) for each paragraph and write its number next to the corresponding paragraph. There are extra headings which you do not need to use.*

- i** The Spy in the sky
- ii** The spread of technology
- iii** The limitations of cameras
- iv** The cost of cameras
- v** Robots solving serious crimes
- vi** Lack of conclusive evidence
- vii** Cars and cameras
- viii** Advantages and disadvantages
- ix** A natural progression
- x** A feeling of safety

**1) Paragraph A \_\_\_\_\_**

**2) Paragraph B \_\_\_\_\_**

3) Paragraph C \_\_\_\_\_

4) Paragraph D \_\_\_\_\_

5) Paragraph E \_\_\_\_\_

6) Paragraph F \_\_\_\_\_

### Task 2

*Choose the correct letter, a, b, c or d.*

#### 7) Britain has already got

- a four million CCTV cameras.
- b more data about DNA than any other country.
- c the most sophisticated crime-fighting technology.
- d access to the genetic data of one in fourteen people living in Britain.

#### 8) Professor Press

- a works at the University of Manchester.
- b studies car-related crime.
- c is concerned about the negative impact of the use of CCTV.
- d feels that some marketing departments lie about the crime-reducing benefits of CCTV.

#### 9) The Microdrone is

- a a type of toy in the shape of a plane.
- b being used by the Metropolitan Police.
- c being used by the government.
- d able to film in the dark.

### Task 3

*Answer the questions below with full sentences.*

10) Give examples of 2 events where technology is used to watch crowds.

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11) According to the passage, who do we not want to use the Microdrone?

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#### Task 4

*Are the following statements true, false or not mentioned? Mark the correct option:*

12) The British authorities use too much technology to monitor their citizens. **T/F/NM**

13) Microdrone is currently not used to check drivers. **T/F/NM**

14) Technology should not be used to check on people's private affairs. **T/F/NM**

### Reading Comprehension text: High-tech crime-fighting tools

**A** Crime-fighting technology is getting more sophisticated and rightly so. The police need to be equipped for the 21st century. In Britain we've already got the world's biggest DNA database. By next year the state will have access to the genetic data of 4.25m people: one British-based person in 14. Hundreds of thousands of those on the database will never have been charged with a crime.

**B** Britain is also reported to have more than 4 million CCTV (closed circuit television) cameras. There is a continuing debate about the effectiveness of CCTV. Some evidence suggests that it is helpful in reducing shoplifting and car crime. It has also been used to successfully identify terrorists and murderers. However, many claim that better lighting is just as effective to prevent crime and that cameras could displace crime. An internal police report said that only one crime was solved for every 1,000 cameras in London in 2007. In short, there is conflicting evidence about the effectiveness of cameras, so it is likely that the debate will continue.

**C** Professor Mike Press, who has spent the past decade studying how design can contribute to crime reduction, said that, in order for CCTV to have any effect, it must be used in a targeted way. For example, a scheme in Manchester records every licence plate at the entrance of a shopping complex and alerts police when one is found to belong to an untaxed or stolen car. This is an effective example of monitoring, he said. Most schemes that simply record city centres continually — often not being watched — do not produce results. CCTV can also have the opposite effect of that intended, by

giving citizens a false sense of security and encouraging them to be careless with property and personal safety. Professor Press said: 'All the evidence suggests that CCTV alone makes no positive impact on crime reduction and prevention at all. The weight of evidence would suggest the investment is more or less a waste of money unless you have lots of other things in place.' He believes that much of the increase is driven by the marketing efforts of security companies who promote the crime-reducing benefits of their products. He described it as a 'lazy approach to crime prevention' and said that authorities should instead be focusing on how to alter the environment to reduce crime.

**D** But in reality, this is not what is happening. Instead, police are considering using more technology. Police forces have recently begun experimenting with cameras in their helmets. The footage will be stored on police computers, along with the footage from thousands of CCTV cameras and millions of pictures from number-plate recognition cameras used increasingly to check up on motorists.

**E** And now another type of technology is being introduced. It's called the Microdrone and it's a toy-sized remote-control craft that hovers above streets or crowds to film what's going on beneath. The Microdrone has already been used to monitor rock festivals, but its supplier has also been in discussions to supply it to the Metropolitan Police, and Soca, the Serious Organised Crime Agency. The drones are small enough to be unnoticed by people on the ground when they are flying at 350ft. They contain high-resolution video surveillance equipment and an infrared night vision capability, so even in darkness they give their operators a bird's-eye view of locations while remaining virtually undetectable.

**F** The worrying thing is, who will get access to this technology? Merseyside police are already employing two of the devices as part of a pilot scheme to watch football crowds and city parks looking for antisocial behaviour. It is not just about crime detection: West Midlands fire brigade is about to lease a drone, for example, to get a better view of fire and flood scenes and aid rescue attempts; the Environment Agency is considering their use for monitoring of illegal fly tipping and oil spills. The company that makes the drone says it has no plans to license the equipment to individuals or private companies, which hopefully will prevent private security firms from getting their hands on them. But what about local authorities? In theory, this technology could be used against motorists. And where will the surveillance society end? Already there are plans to introduce smart water' containing a unique DNA code identifier that when sprayed on a suspect will cling to their clothes and skin and allow officers to identify them later. As long as high-tech tools are being used in the fight against crime and terrorism, fine. But if it's another weapon to be used to invade our privacy then we don't want it.