

Listening

30 minutes

1. You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C). At the end of Part 1 you will have 1 minute to transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.

1. You overhear a woman recommending a campsite.

Why does she recommend it?

- A It's close to tourist attractions.
- B It's in an area of natural beauty.
- C It has a wide range of facilities.

2. On a radio programme, you hear some information about a future guest.

What will he be talking about?

- A organizing a mountain holiday
- B learning mountain-climbing skills
- C buying mountaineering equipment

3. You hear a man talking about a ceramics course he attended.

What aspect of the course did he find unsatisfactory?

- A the level of support from the staff
- B the quality of the materials
- C the cost for students

4. You hear part of a talk about how to look fit and healthy.

What is the speaker's advice?

- A check your weight regularly
- B build up your muscles
- C avoid certain foods

5. You hear the beginning of a programme about college canteens.

What point is being made about them?

- A The choice of food has improved.
- B Students like the food on offer there.
- C Teachers complain about the quality of the food.

6. You hear the weather forecast on the radio.

How will the weather change tomorrow?

- A It will get colder.
- B It will get sunnier.
- C It will get windier.

7. On the radio, you hear a sports journalist talking about an article she has written

What is the article about?

- A the history of sport
- B the benefits of sport
- C the lack of sports facilities

8. You hear a young man giving a talk about going camping.

What is his advice?

- A take a good variety of foodstuffs
- B go prepared for bad weather
- C choose the area carefully

2. You will hear a radio programme about the history of roller skating. For questions 9-15, complete the sentences. At the end of Part 2 you will have 1 minute to transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.

HISTORY OF ROLLER SKATING

The country where the first roller skates were probably made was (9) _____. In 1760, John Merlin went to a ball in London playing a (10) _____ whilst on roller skates. Unfortunately, John Merlin injured himself when he broke a (11) _____ at the ball.

In Germany, roller skating was used in a ballet called (12) _____. James Plimpton's invention helped roller skaters to control the the direction of their skates.

The first team sport to be played on roller skates was (13) _____.

In Detroit in 1937, the first (14) _____ in the sport took place. The use of plastics meant that both the design and the performance of roller skates improved.

The musical Starlight Express was seen by as many as (15) _____ in London. The speaker says that modern roller skates are now lighter and safer than ever before.

Reading

30 minutes

3. For questions 16 – 25, read the text below. Decide whether the statements about the text below are true (T), false (F) or there is no information in the text (N/S). The first one is done as an example. Transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.

MOST DIFFICULT TO LEARN

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Firstly, in a first language the differences are unimportant as people learn their mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language.

A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese – because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different – so the native language can affect learning a second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first are, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning writing will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day-to-day life.

Apparently, British diplomats and other embassy staff have found that the second hardest language is Japanese, which will probably come as no surprise to many, but the language that they have found to be the most problematic is Hungarian, which has 35 cases (forms of a noun according to whether it is subject, object, genitive, etc). This does not mean that Hungarian is the hardest language to learn for everyone, but it causes British diplomatic personnel, who are generally used to learning languages, the most difficulty. However, Tabassaran, a Caucasian language has 48 cases, so it might cause more difficulty if British diplomats had to learn it.

Different cultures and individuals from those cultures will find different languages more difficult. In the case of Hungarian for British learners, it is not a question of the writing system, which uses a similar alphabet, but the grammatical complexity, though native speakers of related languages may find it easier,

while struggling with languages that the British find relatively easy.

No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. Learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge, but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another. In the end, it is impossible to say that there is one language that is the most difficult language in the world.

	T	F	N/S
0. The question of how hard a language is to learn is relevant to both first and second language acquisition.		✓	
16. A mother-tongue language has a great impact on personal utterances.			
17. Portuguese is definitely easier than Chinese.			
18. A Japanese speaker may well find the Chinese writing system easier than a speaker of a European language.			
19. A teacher plays a greater role in the learning process.			
20. The Hungarian alphabet causes problems for British speakers.			
21. Hungarian is one of the hardest languages in the world.			
22. Hungarian has as many cases as Tabassaran.			
23. Many British diplomats learn Tabassaran.			
24. Writing substantially improves the ability of studying the second language.			
25. The writer thinks that learning new writing systems is easy.			

- 4. You are going to read a magazine article about the planets of the solar system. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A-H for each part (26-32) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. Transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.**

- A Too hot for life.
- B A place of contrasts.
- C Red for danger.
- D Gases in turmoil.
- E A treat for the amateur.
- F A distant wanderer.
- G an unseen influence.
- H Fact and fiction.

A FAMILY OF WORLDS

26

The solar system is a family of worlds. Nearest to the sun is Mercury, a place where the day is hot enough to melt some metals and the night sufficiently cold to make a rubber ball as brittle as glass. The planet has no atmosphere to scatter light so the sun glares down from a pitch black sky.

27

Venus, on the contrary, has an atmosphere so thick that no one on its surface could ever see the sun. though the sun is concealed, its energy reaches the planet's surface, turning it into a baking desert where nothing can live.

28

Beyond the earth and its moon we come to the planet Mars. Its famous redness is due to oxidization – a sort of rusting process that has taken place over millions of years. According to a now discredited

theory, intelligent creatures on Mars have dug canals to harness the small amounts of water released when the planet's polar icecaps melt in the Martian spring.

29

Jupiter is a giant ice-ball surrounded by an atmosphere of poisonous gases. It is an atmosphere full of storms and turmoil. The biggest storm of all – visible in the form of the Great Red Spot - has lasted for over 200 years and shows no sign of dying away.

30

Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are giant stepping stones leading us into the unseen coldness of outer space. Saturn is the most distinctive planet of the three, since it has the famous rings which almost everyone has heard about. They form a halo sight when observed through a powerful telescope, they can also be seen and enjoyed with a simple pair of binoculars.

31

Beyond Neptune orbits little Pluto. Too small and too far from the sun to receive much light, it reflects so little that it tells us very little indeed about itself. Its orbit sometimes brings it nearer to the sun than Neptune; at other times it swings out into the blackness of space as if it never means to return.

32

Could there be another planet even further away than Pluto? There are clues that the answer to this may be yes. A mysterious gravitational pull is disturbing the orbits of Neptun and Pluto, suggesting that an unseen world awaits discovery.

Use of English

30 minutes

5. For questions 33-42, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. Transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.

Maths is murder!

By the age of seven I knew that I was a (33)_____ at maths and I just didn't have the (34)_____ to conquer my problem. It all began when I was two and an aunt who was tired of my bad (35)_____ tried to keep me occupied. She found great (36)_____ and beauty in numbers and had endless (37)_____ when it came to explaining them. To my (38)_____ she spent an hour showing me how to write her address, 11 Smith Road. Later, I (39)_____ claimed that two straight bananas somehow made eleven.

After that I was lost. I knew that maths was a (40)_____ key to understanding the universe and that every great (41)_____ depends on mathematical formulae. But I'd (42)_____ turned my back on number and all its mysteries.

FAIL
PERSEVERE

BEHAVE
SIMPLE
PATIENT
ANNOY
FOOL

MARVEL
INVENT
PERSON

6. For questions 43-52, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE THE WORD GIVEN. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.

43. I can't move until I've sold my house.

unable

Until I've sold my house _____ move.

44. My parcel hasn't arrived yet.

received

I still _____ my parcel.

45. After this, I won't give any more warnings.

last

This is _____ give you.

46. The dry weather is killing all the plants in my garden.

dying

All the plants in my garden _____ the dry weather.

47. The mouse frighten him.

scared

He _____ the mouse.

48. He couldn't stop quickly enough to avoid the accident.

time

He couldn't _____ the accident.

49. It looked as if the carrots were bad.

appeared

The carrots _____ bad.

50. I was lost so I asked the way.

because

I _____ I was lost.

51. I'm hungry enough to eat two lunches.

so

I'm _____ two lunches.

52. The return fare is double the single fare.

twice

The return fare _____ the single fare.

Country study

7. For questions 53 - 60, look at the table and match the dates from the first column with the corresponding events in the history and culture of Great Britain and America from the second column (A-H). There is one extra event which you do not need to use. Transfer your answers to the Answer Sheet.

53	July 4, 1776	A	George Washington's inauguration
54	November 1, 1955	B	The Great Fire of London
55	October 14, 1066	C	The official start of the Vietnam War
56	November 22, 1963	D	Coronation of George VI and Elizabeth
57	July 1, 1961	E	The opening of the Channel Tunnel
58	April 30, 1797	F	Declaration of Independence in America
59	September 2, 1966	G	Assassination of John F. Kennedy
60	May 12, 1937	H	The Battle of Hastings
		I	Birth of Diana, Princess of Wales