

Model answer

To the Editor,

Last year I entered a regional tennis tournament. I was in the under-17 age group and the tournament took place at the biggest tennis club in the area. I didn't expect to do very well in the tournament but I decided to enter and see what happened.

When I got to the club, I was quite nervous because I had never played at such a big club. When I was getting changed before my first game, all the other players seemed much more confident than me.

I won my first game and I was really pleased about that. It made me much more confident and then I won my next game too. Eventually I reached the semi-final, but I lost that game. The other player was much better than me. She won the tournament and people say she's one of the best players in the country in that age group.

After the tournament I was very proud of what I had achieved and I realized that I am a good player. I'm planning to enter more tournaments now.

Yours sincerely,

QUESTION 4

Mark scheme

Content

The report should describe the situation regarding tourism in the place where the writer lives, including details of tourist attractions.

Communicative achievement

The report should be fairly formal or neutral. The reader should be clear about what attracts tourists/why tourists do not visit the place, and what is available for tourists.

Organization

The report should be divided into logical and clear paragraphs, each dealing with a different aspect of tourism in the place (e.g. tourist numbers, tourist attractions, facilities for tourists, etc.). The report may have a suitable title and each section may also have a title but this is not essential. Appropriate linking words and phrases should be used, e.g. to give examples and to connect related points and pieces of information.

Language

Appropriate verb tenses should be used for describing the situation, and a range of suitable grammatical structures should be used, e.g. relative clauses for giving information about places and aspects of tourism. Appropriate vocabulary connected with the topic of tourism is required.

Model answer

TOURISM IN THE CITY

Tourist numbers & publicity

This city is not a particularly popular place in the country for tourists to visit. However, some tourists do come here and the number has been increasing. The city authorities have been trying to attract more visitors and they are having success in doing this, with publicity that focuses on how inexpensive it is to stay in hotels here.

Main tourist attractions

The main attraction of the city is its old buildings, particularly the cathedral, which every visitor goes to. Guided tours of the building are very popular and there are often queues for these. The Grey House is also popular with tourists – this is an old house that has been turned into a museum which shows how people in the city lived over two hundred years ago. In the area which is the old city centre, there are also other interesting old buildings which tourists like to photograph.

Other attractions

Apart from the history of the city, another feature which attracts some tourists is the market, which is mentioned in all the guidebooks because it has a reputation for both high-quality goods and bargains.

Listening

PART 1

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 C | 4 B | 7 B |
| 2 B | 5 B | 8 A |
| 3 C | 6 A | |

PART 2

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 9 loan | 14 socially responsible |
| 10 an engineer | 15 multiple entries |
| 11 poorest people | 16 script |
| 12 one/1 minute | 17 passion |
| 13 product; service | 18 ten/10 |

PART 3

- | | |
|------|------|
| 19 F | 22 B |
| 20 C | 23 D |
| 21 A | |

PART 4

- | | |
|------|------|
| 24 A | 28 B |
| 25 C | 29 B |
| 26 A | 30 C |
| 27 A | |

Each correct answer receives 1 mark.

Speaking

Teachers should use their own judgement to award marks based on the assessment criteria on page 95.

TEST 1

Part One.

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

ONE.

You hear someone talking about football referees.

Man: You have to feel sorry for referees. I mean, they're under terrible pressure throughout the game, with players shouting at them, and cheating and all that. And of course, the fans of both sides give them a hard time – they just can't win. Sure, they make mistakes, plenty of them, but they're only human. They don't go out there thinking, 'I'm going to do really badly today,' they're doing their best. Some people think that there are referees who just want to draw attention to themselves, who think they're as important as the players, but that's not my view. I mean, who'd want their job, with all that criticism all the time? *repeat extract 1*

TWO.

You hear a famous chef talking about his week.

Chef: I had a bit of an odd week. I went to Birmingham to do a TV cookery show. I had to make my special recipe pancakes, but the pan they gave me in the studio wasn't nearly big enough, so it made things all a bit difficult. But it turned out all right in the end, they were just a bit smaller than usual! Later in the week I was on a radio show answering listeners' questions about cooking, and then I did a few interviews about my new book. *repeat extract 2*

THREE.

You hear someone talking about her career in dancing.

Woman: I just had to dance. When I was a girl, I was always putting on dancing shows for my parents. By the time I was seven I knew what I wanted to be, and that feeling never went away. I told my parents I wanted to do proper ballet. So I went to a ballet school and I've been dancing ever since. I used to have classes after school and on Saturdays. And, when I finished school, I went to a full-time dance academy for four years. Now I'm teaching dance, and I've never been happier. *repeat extract 3*

FOUR.

You hear someone talking on the phone at work.

Woman: So what time are you going to make it? You know it's a very important meeting and we can't really discuss the issue properly without you. Yes, I'll tell her you'll get here as soon as you can, but I know she isn't going to be very pleased. OK, I'll delay things as long as I can – I'll say you've got problems at home or something. No, I won't say you've overslept, I don't want to get you in trouble. *repeat extract 4*

FIVE.

You hear a radio presenter talking about a book.

Presenter: Have you ever wondered how many tons of food you eat in a lifetime, or how many miles of blood vessels there are in your body? No? Oh well, there are plenty more intriguing entries in this huge book of facts. It claims to have the most accurate and up-to-date information about every subject on Earth. I'm not sure it covers absolutely everything, but it certainly has lots of fascinating facts on pretty much any topic you can think of – you won't be able to put it down! *repeat extract 5*

SIX.

You hear part of an interview with a famous comedian.

Interviewer: What was your favourite subject at school?
Man: Maths, by far. I loved it, so I was good at it. I couldn't get enthusiastic about other subjects, but with maths I wanted to show off. I liked the logic of it.

Interviewer: Were you a good student?

Man: Yes, pretty much. I didn't cause a lot of trouble or anything like that. I was cheeky and I liked having a laugh with my friends, but I always managed to make the teachers laugh before they told me off. All in all, I had a great time at school. *repeat extract 6*

SEVEN.

You hear someone talking about a person he knows.

Man: I really don't see why I have to keep doing him favours. He never does any for me. I guess you were right about him all along – you always said he took advantage of other people. I didn't believe you then but now I can see what you mean. I can see now that I was totally wrong about him. It's a real shame, because I thought we were great friends for a while. But I'm just not going to put up with him any longer. I mean, he surely can't expect to behave like that and get away with it. *repeat extract 7*

EIGHT.

You hear a tour guide talking to a group of visitors at a museum.

Guide: OK, that's the end of my introductory talk and now you can wander around on your own for a couple of hours. We'll meet back here at 12.30. Before you go, a bit of advice. This is an enormous museum, packed full of fascinating things, and you can't expect to see it all in one go. So, if I were you I'd concentrate on one or two sections and look at them in detail. Have a look at the map – you've all got one and it's very simple and clear – and decide where you want to go. And split up into couples or small groups – it gets pretty crowded here and you won't have much fun if a lot of you try to stick together. *repeat extract 8*

That is the end of Part One. Now turn to Part Two.

You will hear someone talking about the sport of elephant polo. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have 45 seconds to look at Part 2.

Elephant polo player: Of course, polo is normally played on horses, and it's a very fast game. Well, we don't claim that elephant polo is the fastest game in the world, but we always maintain it's the biggest. The elephants do actually enjoy polo. Definitely. It's a lot of fun for them because they're social animals, and a polo tournament is a week when dozens of elephants meet up, many from the same family, like a reunion. And of course they get fed extremely well – better than in their normal life. They use up a lot of energy and get through masses of sugar cane, especially at half-time.

The players sit on elephants and hit a white wooden ball, using a long bamboo stick that has a polo mallet head on the end of it. The pitch is about three-quarters the length of a football pitch, and the goals are the same width as football goals. There's a basic saddle and the players are strapped onto the elephants. We've never had a serious accident. A mahout – an elephant handler – sits behind each player and guides the elephant. Sometimes the mahouts have their own games, guiding the elephant and hitting the ball as well. That takes incredible skill.

During a game, if the ball hits an elephant, that's fine. Their legs are quite thick and they do get in the way. Quite often they will kick the ball so that they can run after it. They're not allowed to pick up the ball with their trunks, though they sometimes try. That would be a free hit to the other side.

There are four elephants per team in a tournament, plus the referee's elephant – that's nine on the pitch at any one time. We usually have sixteen animals available on any given day, in four teams. There are two halves, called chukkas, in a game of elephant polo, the same as in normal polo. We play ten minutes of actual play. Whenever the whistle blows, the clock stops. A novice team might score one or two goals, if they're lucky, while an advanced team might score about ten.

The polo rules are that a man can only hold the stick with his right arm, even if he is left-handed. Women can use both hands. Using the stick is hard work, because it's long and the head is heavy. By the end of the game, your arm will be aching. But it's an easy game to pick up with a little practice.

During the game, you chase after the ball on your elephant, going quite quickly, and you can easily miss it, though the elephant will often help you out with his foot. The elephants usually supply the entertainment. They might decide to lie down across the goal for fun but that's an absolute no-no.

Ultimately it's about elephants charging up and down the pitch, scoring great goals themselves and having a lot of fun. If the elephants didn't enjoy it, or if there was any form of misbehaving, they would be removed from the game – sent off, if you like. It's not worth risking an elephant with an attitude problem.

You get all sorts. You get big elephants that are a bit older and wiser, and we use a lot of small ones that can be exceptionally quick. We try to remove what you might call the elephant factor by swapping elephants and mahouts with the other team at half-time. If you've got elephants that don't normally live together, there can be some tension. The sport always uses Indian elephants. The problem with African ones is that their ears get in the way. And they're much taller.

In the exam you will hear the recording twice. To listen again now, go to the beginning of the track.

That is the end of Part Two. Now turn to Part Three.

You will hear five different people talking about cities they have visited. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–H the opinion each person gives about the city. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use. You now have 30 seconds to look at Part Three.

Speaker 1: The place is always on TV and in films and in magazines, and so you get a mental picture of what it's like even if you haven't been there. You have this image of skyscrapers everywhere, streets full of traffic and people, everyone rushing around, talking fast and leading busy lives. You think of it as having a real buzz. And guess what? It was just like that. Everything I'd expected to find was there. In fact, it all seemed so familiar that it was as if I'd actually been there before.

Speaker 2: I discovered after I'd been there that you need to be really careful about when you choose to visit the place. There are very busy times and quieter times. Without realizing it, I chose one of the busy times, and wow, was it busy! The place was packed, and of course with the narrow streets it is famed for, that makes movement difficult. I just shuffled along with everyone else, going at their pace, so I didn't manage to see much. There's a great atmosphere there, and of course it looks wonderful, but I could have done with a bit more room to move. So I guess I didn't see it at its best.

Speaker 3: Everyone I've met who's been there says what a fantastic place it is, and I was expecting something really special. And I wasn't disappointed, though I must say the picture I'd had of it in my mind didn't turn out to be totally accurate. In fact, it not only lived up to my expectations, it exceeded them. People always associate it with its famous buildings, but it was the

less well-known places that struck me. In every little street, especially away from the tourist areas, there was something fascinating to see. It's those little streets that were really memorable for me.

Speaker 4: I'd been looking forward to going there for a long time and I finally managed it. I wasn't quite sure what to expect because people had told me that it wasn't the same as it used to be. Apparently, it's become much more touristy recently, but I didn't see any evidence of that. What did strike me was how confusing it is. Half the time I didn't know where I was and getting from A to B was always problematic. I normally have a good sense of direction, but I was always getting lost there. Once I did get to where I was trying to go, it was worth it, though.

Speaker 5: People always talk about what a marvellous place it is, and so eventually I decided to go and see for myself. It has the reputation of being a place you never forget, and lots of people say it's their favourite city. But, having been there, I can't see what all the fuss is about. Sure, the places that you see pictures of all the time, or that you see in films, are impressive enough, but I've seen better. It's a pleasant enough place, and it's certainly popular with tourists – there were plenty of them there – but I don't think it really deserves all the praise people give it.

In the exam you will hear the recording twice. To listen again now, go to the beginning of the track.

That is the end of Part Three. Now turn to Part Four.

You will hear an interview with someone who is involved in the music business. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer, A, B or C. You now have one minute to look at Part Four.

Interviewer: My next guest is James Hyland, the young Irish entrepreneur, who has been behind all sorts of music projects. The latest is Bubble TV, a music channel without advertising breaks. James, welcome.

James: Hi.

Interviewer: You're 23 now, but you launched yourself into the music world while you were still at school, didn't you? You were a very young starter!

James: Yes, I was 12 when I started my own radio station in my house. I played music I liked. The station was called Happiness. Not a good name I know, but I was young. I would have been happy if it had been just the neighbours listening, but it soon became clear that I'd attracted a lot of fans and I was invited to play at events. I ploughed all the money I made from that back into the station. It got very big and I got noticed.

Interviewer: weren't people amazed when they found out you were 12?

James: Yes, but they were far more amazed when they discovered that I was organizing concerts by some of the biggest bands on the British music scene when I was just 16. That also attracted a lot of jealous rivalry. At 12 people are pleased for you, people are happy and encourage you, but when you're just a little older and running a successful business, it can be more of a threat.

Interviewer: So how did your career in music progress as you got older?

James: When I was 16, I started working with a local radio station. I didn't stay too long as I didn't like having a boss. But I didn't just complain and carry on going into work. I ditched the job and set up my own studio at my home in Cork, in southern Ireland, and began producing commercials from there. Along the way, I'd already started promoting well-known bands. I managed to bring in some fantastic acts to play at festivals and concerts in Ireland.

Interviewer: Now not so long ago, you launched the Bubble TV channel, a 24-hour all-music channel with no advertising breaks, aimed at teenagers. James, you seem to be the sort of person who's too busy to be the couch potato type, but the idea came from watching TV, didn't it?

James: Yes, I was flicking through all the channels and noticed there were so many of them but only three dedicated to music. And there weren't any exclusively British channels – most were from the US with British commercials. I hate ad breaks, they interrupt whatever you're watching and spoil the mood, so I decided not to have any. However, I should point out that Bubble TV has sponsored segments, so companies are involved. But the sponsorship doesn't get in the way, you have to look for a change in the background logo during programmes to notice it.

Interviewer: Is it just music and nothing else?

James: Although it's mainly music, we have three presenters, who do slots called Juice. They interview bands and go to gigs and festivals. And bands can't just promote their new song or whatever, it's got to be fun. They have to spill the juice – the gossip – in just three-minute slots! It has to be entertaining.

Interviewer: Now, you're constantly coming up with fresh ideas. Do you sleep with a notebook by the bed in case you dream up a best-selling idea in your sleep?

James: Absolutely. I text myself with my ideas as I have them, then each day I go through my texts to see what ideas I have sent myself.

Interviewer: So what's next?

James: Aah, I have several ideas ... but I'm not telling you!

Interviewer: OK, fair enough! Well, finally, have you got any tips for would-be entrepreneurs listening now?

James: Don't give up at the first sign of hardship. I've had my fingers burnt and lost money through some of my schemes in the past, but I've never let it get me down. I've had setbacks – but you can't dwell on them. You just move on.

Interviewer: James, thanks.

James: You're welcome.

In the exam you will hear the recording twice. To listen again now, go to the beginning of the track.

That is the end of Part Four.

TEST 2

Part One.

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

ONE.

You hear part of an interview with a sportsman.

Interviewer: There's been talk of you being picked for the national team again. Is it hard for you to put that to the back of your mind during games, when you know that the national coach could be watching?

Sportsman: Playing for your country is as big as it gets, and it'd be great to do that again. But at the same time you have to worry about the job on the day, and that's playing for your club. I've learned over the years that your focus should be on the game you're playing in and nothing else. *repeat extract 1*

TWO.

You hear the introduction to a radio programme.

Presenter: Now, what do you do if you want to know what the weather is going to be like? You probably turn on the television or look on the Internet. But meteorology is a relatively recent science, and not so long ago people, especially farmers, had to rely on their own knowledge of the seasons. And no season was more important than spring. Many different rhymes and sayings were used for predicting the weather, and each month had its own sayings. *repeat extract 2*

THREE.

You hear a man talking about reading aloud to children.

Man: It doesn't really matter what you read to kids, they appreciate anything. I've been reading a book about history to my seven-year-old. He doesn't understand a word of it, but insists on having it every night. Having said that, it does make a huge difference if you can find a book that you all enjoy together. My favourite is a series of short stories about a mad inventor who creates ridiculous machines. It's great to be able to read something that genuinely makes your children laugh. *repeat extract 3*

FOUR.

You hear someone talking about work.

Man: So that's it. After all the months of worrying about it and discussing it with other people, I've finally done it. To be honest, I'm not sure how I feel. A bit anxious about the future, sure, because I really don't know how things are going to go. But I simply had to get out. You can't go on putting up with the sort of things I had to put up with. I still can't help thinking that it shouldn't have come to this. But it did, and I've dealt with it and it's time now to start looking ahead. *repeat extract 4*

FIVE.

You hear someone talking about his childhood.

Man: When I was a kid, I was always jumping out of windows and things and climbing trees. I had numerous injuries from things like that. Also, I went through a phase of wearing all my clothes back to front. Even to this day I don't know why I did it. In fact, I occasionally still do. I put my clothes on back to front and just sit there on my own because it reminds me of when I was a kid. *repeat extract 5*

SIX.

You hear someone talking about something that happened at a party.

Man: Yes, it was completely unexpected. I had no idea he felt so strongly about it. I mean, as far as I'm concerned I just made an innocent comment and he suddenly went mad. He was shouting at me and pointing his finger and I thought at one point he might even get violent. How silly. He just succeeded in making a complete fool of himself. Everyone else was looking terribly worried but I thought it was all highly entertaining. Some of those insults he was shouting at me – so ridiculous. I expect he'll apologize eventually but I really don't care. *repeat extract 6*

SEVEN.

You hear part of a talk about blues music.

Woman: Of course, without blues, you simply wouldn't have any of the various forms of popular music that have swept the world over the past few decades. Rock'n'roll, soul, rap, hip-hop – they all owe their existence to the style of music that was created in a small part of the Deep South of the US – the Mississippi Delta. The musicians who developed the style were all more or less totally unknown outside their own area, although fortunately they made plenty of recordings that are still available today if you want to find out more. And you should, if you want to find out where a lot of today's music came from. *repeat extract 7*