



Test A

Cambridge English. Certificate in Advanced English. Listening. Test A. I'm going to give you the instructions for this test. I'll introduce each part of the test and give you time to look at the questions. At the start of each piece, you will hear this sound. (X). You'll hear each piece twice.

Turn to Part 1

Part 1

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1 – 6, choose the answer A, B or C which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

Extract 1

You hear a woman talking to a waitress in a restaurant.

Customer: It really is a shame. He's had a day of interminable meetings and was really looking forward to a nice relaxing meal.

Waitress: Yes, it is unfortunate. Ever since those roadworks appeared, it's been terrible for people trying to get here. It's doubled the journey time in some cases. I've started advising customers to take public transport.

Customer: I did tell him to try to find an alternative route but he was worried he might lose his way.

Waitress: Well, please don't worry. Meanwhile, can I interest you in a drink at our bar? I'm sure he won't mind if you start without him.

Customer: Lovely. Thank you.

Waitress: In fact, our special today is slow roast ham. Most people don't order it because of the lengthy preparation time but given your circumstances, perhaps you'd like to try it.

Customer: Why not? He'll get here eventually I suppose.

Extract 2

You hear a tour guide talking about a painting.





Guide: “The Tribulations of Saint Sebastian” is one of his lesser-known works. It shows the famous martyr at prayer, surrounded by angels. Commissioned by the city’s mayor, it was nevertheless a labour of love for the artist. He is said to have worked day and night on the piece, an experience which is said to have permanently affected his health. In the background, we can see the famous battle of White Mountain, an event for which the artist himself took to the field, no doubt inspired by religious faith. Also in evidence is the famous St Clara church, which still stands today and served as a home to many of the artist’s works until their purchase by the royal family in 1778.

Extract 3

You hear two colleagues discussing a building project.

A: The problem has always been the location of the place. I mean you can see the difficulties we have had with supplies and logistics. Those issues alone have set us back nearly six months.

B: You’re not wrong. I’m amazed we managed to acquire the labour, considering how out of the way we are. If we weren’t paying top rates, we would have serious problems.

A: We’ll see how that goes when winter comes back around. You think things are difficult now, just wait until the snow sets in.

B: You’re right there. But I guess that’s the point. Those mountains are sure to bring in lots of people for the skiing.

B: Right! With any luck, they’ll come for the sport and stay for the bargains.

Part 2

You will hear a student called Lily Lester, talking about her time working as a volunteer at a homeless shelter. For questions 7 – 14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have 45 seconds to look at part 2.

This Christmas, I decided to volunteer at a local shelter for the homeless. It all started one evening a few months ago when I saw a man sleeping under a shop doorway with his pet dog. It was a sight that really affected me and it got me thinking about how I could help



those less fortunate than me. My family usually goes away for the Christmas holidays as we have family abroad, but this year, I decided to stay in London and look for somewhere where I could work as a volunteer, helping the homeless.

It didn't take me long to find somewhere that was looking for help, in fact, with just a quick Internet search, I found three shelters within a short distance of me that were asking for Christmas volunteers. I was shocked at how much need there was. I signed up at a shelter that was run by my local church and offered to work in the kitchens, cooking and serving. When the time came, I was a bit nervous as I didn't really know what to expect. I think my parents were a bit worried about the whole thing too but they didn't say anything. As it turned out, I needn't have worried. Everyone was so friendly and made me feel welcome from the moment I walked into the building.

The work was quite hard but really enjoyable. I could see how much of a difference our efforts were making to everyone and in that sense it really lifted my spirits and gave me a sense of purpose.

Of course, there is another side to it. I couldn't believe how many people were dependent on our help. Over a period of four days, hundreds of people came through the door, all of whom needed something to eat and a place to stay out of the cold. I was really shocked at the level of need in our city and a little ashamed that I hadn't been aware of how lucky I am.

One person in particular really sticks in my memory. Her name was Annie and she must have been in her eighties. She pushed everything around in an old shopping trolley and wore huge pink ribbons in her hair. She was a very eccentric character and great fun. Despite her obviously hard life, she loved to make other people laugh and was always so aware of other people's needs.

The day consisted of serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, which we had to prepare and serve. This side of things wasn't too much work but the cleaning up after each meal was an immense task and really tired me out. Fortunately, there were lots of us to share the work and everyone did their part.

Besides a few minor arguments between some of the guests, everything went really well and I came away from the experience with a true sense of achievement.

I think volunteering is something we should all do from time to time, not just to help others, but also to help ourselves. We are often so wrapped up in our own worries that we can forget just how fortunate we are. And for me, working with the homeless was truly inspiring. It gave me a special insight into the resilience of humanity in the face of

adversity. I would definitely recommend the experience to anyone and I'll certainly be going back next year.

Part 3

You will listen to two film producers discussing their latest film. For questions 15 – 20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

Interviewer: I'm here today with Tom Merlin and Carla Webb, producers of the acclaimed film, "A Tunnel In Time". Tom and Carla, the film has caused quite a stir due to its exceptionally imaginative ideas. Could I ask where you got your inspiration from?

Tom: Well, the concept of time travel is not new, of course. You can see the basis of our ideas in other works, both in the works of directors such as Steven Spielberg and authors such as H G Wells. But what spawned the idea of the story initially was the introduction of cutting-edge technologies in our own world. What we were hoping to do was to take long established ideas that have advanced our world, and give them an unfamiliar twist.

Carla: In a sense, that's the premise of the whole film: familiar ideas but in reverse. Even something as integral as the plot is turned around for effect. Perhaps it sounds harmless but when you apply this trope to certain things, you run the risk of upsetting people, which is exactly what happened, incidentally, when we killed off our main protagonist in a particularly gruesome manner. Of course, killing off a top billed actor's role is liable to confuse people, which is always a risky thing to do when telling a story. And in addition to that, the story starts with several spoilers, which intentionally give away the ending.

Tom: Looking back, it's a surprise anyone came to see it.

Interviewer: So, tell me about production. I'm told that filming wasn't without its difficulties.

Tom: Certainly not. As we've said, the story jumps around in time quite a lot, but there's also the issue not just of time but of place. Even before the cameras started rolling, there were real challenges in terms of finding locations. The script was very specific about the sort of features they would need such as stalagmites or frozen waterfalls and so on.

Artificial imagery was really the only option open to us, but this too became a challenge of a different sort as we had to devote more time than we originally planned to set design and computer-generated environments. The main obstacle was that, at the time at least, the technology wasn't quite in place for our needs to be fully met.

Interviewer: You surprise me. I've seen the film and the worlds you've created are just breathtaking.

Carla: We wanted to create a really detailed world, one which the viewer would want to explore and be part of. The greatest science fiction films inspire as much with the environments they portray as with the stories they tell. But despite the story's dark tone, we avoided the temptation to create a grim dystopia. There is light and dark in everything and it was important to us that we created a multi-dimensional concept that people could believe.

Tom: What worried some of us at the design stage was the age-old issue of style over substance. So, while the environment obviously plays an important role, it's the story that is the real power of the film. Even in the early stages of overseeing the script, I found the whole concept of the story, its foundational message, to be endlessly fascinating. Could time really be a resource, like water or oxygen? And if so, how best could we harness it to our advantage? This opens up wider questions about how we perceive our environment. If time itself can be reimagined, can anything be objectively true, indeed, what is truth?

Carla: Which is the theme of our next project.

Interviewer: Is that so?

Carla: Yes. We're currently working on a script together which looks at the idea of speaking things into existence. What if we were to make things real merely by saying so? Could we survive in such a world? Would there perhaps come some form of order out of the chaos that we imagine would ensue? Once again, things we take for granted only need to be turned on their head for our whole universe to become unrecognizable. It's an idea I'll never tire of.

Tom: And we hope audiences never tire of it either.

Interviewer: I'm sure they won't. Tom and Carla, thanks very much for coming in to talk to us today.

That is the end of Part 3

Now turn to Part 4.

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about a dangerous experience they had. For questions 21 – 25, choose from the list, A – H, what happened to each

speaker. For questions 26 – 30, choose from the list, A – H, how each speaker felt after the experience. While you listen, you must complete both tasks.

Speaker 1

We thought it would be a fun adventure to get there on our motorbike. Well, it was an adventure alright, but I wouldn't call it fun. I'd only ever ridden my bike in town and during the summer, so a trek across the Pyrenees in autumn was a very different kettle of fish. I'd been prepared for dangerous drivers and perhaps even the odd wild animal that could have crossed our path, but the gale force winds really took me by surprise. We very nearly got blown clear off the road more than once. Next time, I'll be sure to study the route more closely... and of course have a look at the forecast before I set off.

Speaker 2

It all happened so fast. One minute I was standing on the metro, reading my book, the next, I was all over the platform with my belongings all over the place. It was such a shock. He must have hit me with such force because I don't even remember falling. It was more a case of wondering why I was suddenly on my back looking up at all these concerned faces. Initially, I thought I'd fainted or something. Well, I can laugh about it now, but it was a horrible experience. It's more than what was taken... although losing my phone and all my cards was no small thing... it was the sense that someone could do that to me, without any concern for me and then just make off with whatever they wanted. These days I just won't tolerate of that sort of act. The experience has certainly changed me because I was very forgiving before it happened.

Speaker 3

I'm getting on a bit now so this was a while back. I was somewhat reckless as a young man... aren't we all?... and felt somewhat invincible. They warned me against venturing out, what with all the snow and ice, but I ignored them of course. Well, that night, I learned a very important lesson: that rubber doesn't stick to a frozen road. I wasn't exactly pushing it, but even so, I lost my grip and went sliding off into the path of an oncoming truck. My guardian angel must have been on duty that night because I don't know how I survived. I



missed him by a whisker and came to a halt on the pavement. It was absolutely terrifying. I'm amazed I managed to keep my dinner down, frankly. These days, I always think twice about getting behind the wheel in extreme weather. It just isn't worth it.

Speaker 4

It's impossible to understand just how huge the country is until you leave the cities behind. The wilderness is endless. And within mere hours of travelling through the thick forests and endless ravines, you suddenly realize just how unimportant you are. You find yourself admiring the old pioneers, who ventured out here with nothing but their own courage and a few layers of clothing. He nearly forced us off the road when we saw him. He was immense and ferocious and utterly unperturbed by the blizzard and the biting cold. One look at him and we knew he wasn't going to move until he was good and ready. So we sat in the jeep and waited, for what seemed an eternity, hoping that he wouldn't get take a sudden dislike to us and give us a taste of his claws. He really was magnificent though. Ever since that day I often find myself reflecting on the value of life and our place in creation. That experience has made me reevaluate how I see the world... and even the heavens.

Speaker 5

It's become something of an urban myth, the fish that can kill you, so being me, I was extra keen to try it. I mean, this is the stuff that stories are made of. Well, that fish lived up to its reputation alright! I had to sign a disclaimer and was warned that on average, seventeen people die every year from ingesting it. But I was assured, that with correct preparation, the risks were minimal. My husband didn't look too convinced, but I was determined to give it a go. I have to say, once it arrived, I wondered what all the fuss was about. It didn't taste much different to cod and I walked out of the establishment feeling absolutely fine. It was a different story two hours later, when I found myself in the back of an ambulance, ploughing through traffic on its way the emergency room. I'm told that at one point there was a real chance I could have died. I felt really silly, to be honest. If I'd just chosen the squid like my husband, I wouldn't have ended up like that, and wasted the time of those wonderful doctors and nurses who save lives every day. If it hadn't been for them, it would have been the end for me. I promised myself that day that I would never take healthcare professionals for granted again.



