

FL1 Transcript

First Certificate in English

Listening

I am going to give the instructions for this test. I shall 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 will hear each piece twice.

Look at part one.

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

Question one.

You hear two friends talking about a film they have just seen.

A: So, you enjoyed the film then?

B: Oh yes. I thought it was great.

A: I wish you had told me you'd seen it before. I would have suggested something else.

B: Oh no, it's fine, really. In fact it gets better every time I see it.

A: How many times have you seen it?

B: More than I can remember! But I'll never get bored of it.

A: That's relief! I'd have hated to make you sit through a film you didn't want to see.

B: The sequel is coming out next month. I can't wait.

A: I think I'll pass. One visit to outer space is enough for me.

Question 2.

You hear two neighbours discussing the weather.

A: I heard nothing about it. If I'd known I might have been able to limit the damage.

B: There was a warning, but they were saying that it would only affect Northshore, which has got to be twenty miles from here.

A: At least.

B: It never occurred to me that we would be affected. If I'd thought for a moment that we were at risk, I would have warned you.

A: It's not your fault. You can't be expected to see into the future. And in any case, rainfall of that volume is unheard of around here. I'm not sure I would have taken it seriously even if you had warned me.

B: No, maybe not.

Question 3.

You hear two people talking about a holiday destination.

A: It's not the same as it was. Not at all.

B: Too many people, I imagine.

A: It's not that so much. When I first visited I felt quite at home and surrounded by people with similar interests, you know people interested in the history of the place and so on. But over the years it seems to have changed its focus a bit.

B: Really? How?

A: Well, you notice how many younger people there are there now. I mean, that doesn't bother me so much, but there are a lot more bars and clubs designed to appeal to the partying crowd, and I find myself missing the good old days of peace and quiet.

B: Really? That's a shame.

Question 4.

You hear two friends discussing a chess tournament.

A: So, you've signed up then?

B: Yes, I have. Although I don't expect to do very well.

A: I imagine there'll be some strong players there this year.

B: Oh, the competition is always high. That will never change. But my game isn't what it used to be.

A: Yes, I know what you mean. I feel somewhat out of practice myself.

B: Well, I'll be interested to see how it goes. It's been a while since I've played in a tournament.

A: Same here. I generally only play online these days.

Question 5.

You hear two colleagues discussing the office party.

A: Last year, we were outside as the weather was so good.

B: I don't expect we'll be so lucky this year.

A: I agree. But if the rain does stay away it would be nice to be outside again.

B: There's no harm in planning for both outcomes. So, if the weather's good, we can be outside and if it rains, we'll have somewhere to stay out of the wet.

A: Won't that take a lot of preparation?

B: No more than usual, and it would be a shame to be stuck indoors if the sun comes out.

A: OK. Do we have everything we need then?

B: There's not much to it. Tables and chairs and so on. Who's getting the food?

A: Petra said she'd do it. I hope she buys enough. We ran out last year.

B: Yes but that wasn't her fault. She wasn't even here last year. I doubt she'll make the same mistake.

Question 6.

You hear two students discussing a photography exhibition.

A: It all seemed rather ordinary to me.

B: Really? I thought his work was fantastic.

A: Oh, I don't doubt his artistic ability. But there didn't seem to be anything new on offer. I mean, he's clearly very skilled, but where was the imagination? The creativity?

B: There's a lot to be said for exploring familiar themes. In fact, I get a bit tired of art trying to be so new and unique all the time. Many of the themes we know so well remain popular for a reason.

A: Maybe. But I really don't need to see more sea shores and cliffs. I mean, that whole thing has been done to death!

B: Yes. I agree with you there. I was surprised he decided to focus so much on that. But there's nothing wrong with sticking with traditional themes. In fact I like it. His recent portraits were amazing and very traditional.

A: I didn't see them.

B: You should look them up online. They might change your mind.

Question 7.

You hear two teachers discussing the school play.

A: The music is great. We asked a local jazz musician to come in and help us with the arrangement.

B: Yes, I heard. He's quite well-known apparently.

A: He is. I mean, I'm no expert on jazz but he's released a number of records. And the kids are clearly really impressed.

B: So, he volunteered, did he?

A: Well, not exactly. I think he was persuaded to help by his nephew, who used to be a student here.

B: I see. It's very good of him to help.

A: Absolutely. And he's put in so much work. I don't know how we'll ever thank him.

B: Well, the music is sure to be great. How's the rest of it going?

A: Ah, well that's another story. With only a week to go, no one seems to know their lines yet.

B: Oh dear!

8.

You are listening to an automated message after calling a shop.

Thank you for calling Higgins Toys. Our opening hours are from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday except during the months of July and August when we have reduced opening hours from 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday. If you have any queries, please leave a voice message here or send us a message via our website at higginstoys.com and we will reply within 48 hours.

That is the end of Part 1.

Now turn to Part 2.

Part 2

You will hear a man called Andy Tomlinson, who works as a postman, talking about his job. For questions 9 – 18, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. You now have forty-five seconds to look at Part 2.

Hello, everybody. I'm here to talk to you today about my job working as a postman. At first glance, being a postman might seem like a straightforward job—just delivering letters and parcels. However, the role extends far beyond that. My day begins with the sorting of mail at the local sorting office. This process involves categorizing letters and packages according to their destination. Once the sorting is complete, I start my daily routes. I've become a familiar face on these routes, having followed the same itinerary for nearly ten years, and many of the locals know me by name. It can be a difficult job at times. . The quantity of mail, the unpredictable weather, and the need for precision all make the job both physically and mentally demanding. Postmen need to be resilient, adaptable, and possess a strong commitment to customer service. While it's a job that has remained largely unchanged for centuries, we have also taken advantage of technological advancements. The integration of GPS, handheld devices, and automated sorting systems has made processes more efficient. However, the personal touch and dedication to customer service remain at the heart of the profession. These days focus on sustainability is an important part of the job. We are expected to obey initiatives that reduce carbon footprints such as adopting electric vehicles, optimizing delivery routes, and promoting eco-friendly packaging. Despite the challenges, being a postman is a rewarding occupation. The joy of delivering a long-awaited letter, the smiles exchanged with residents, and the sense of accomplishment after completing a demanding day make the job truly fulfilling. Postmen take pride in being the a vital part of human connection, assisting society one delivery at a time. In conclusion, the role of a postman is much more than a job—it's a commitment to connecting communities and ensuring the flow of communication. We love our job and enjoy being part of the local community. So, the next time you see a postman on your street, take a moment to say hello.

That is the end of Part 2.

Now turn to Part 3.

You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about a time when they met a famous person. For questions 19 – 23, choose from the list (A – H) what each speaker felt upon meeting the person. 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 3.

Speaker 1

It was excited before I met him, for sure. I've never met a famous person before and I love his films. However, it's not that he was unfriendly and he certainly wasn't rude, it's more that he was clearly uncomfortable talking to his fans, which made us feel uncomfortable too, of course. I never expected him to be like this, and really it was a bit of a shame all things considered. I really thought it would be a more positive experience.

Speaker 2

After the show, my daughter asked me if we could stay behind and ask Nina Hawkins to sign an autograph. I was a bit reluctant at first because you never know how celebrities are going to be with children and I didn't want my little girl to get upset, but as it turned out, Nina couldn't have been nicer. She spent quite a while with my daughter, asking her about herself and talking about the show. I just wish I had had the chance to thank her but she left before I was able to.

Speaker 3

Some years ago I was working as a driver for a television studio. I hadn't been there for long before none other than Geoff Hall, the famous football manager, climbed in the back. He was perfectly nice and everything but to be honest, he really didn't seem to want to talk about his job much and instead seemed far more interested in going on about my car, which I could have done without as I spend enough time in it and frankly there's nothing that interests me less.

Speaker 4

When I was a student, I had to interview Hannah Wilson for the University Radio. I had always admired her. She's a very successful and well-known writer and I was surprised she had agreed to the interview. Her decision became even more mysterious as it soon became clear that she really didn't want to be there, gave one word answers to most of the questions and seemed to find the whole thing very tiresome. I was glad to see the back of her to be honest.

Speaker 5

It was quite educational to be honest. Julian Frith has made me laugh since I was a kid. He's just got this way about him that makes me crack up every time. So when I heard he was coming as a guest to my nephew's wedding, I was very much looking forward to meeting him. He was very pleasant and we had a lovely chat, but he wasn't anything like he is on the television. He was a very quiet person, timid even. In fact there seemed to be something quite melancholic about him. I felt a bit sorry for him to be honest.

That is the end of Part 3

Now turn to Part 4

You will hear part of a radio interview with a man called Sean Jenkins, who works as a tour bus driver. For questions 24 – 30, choose the best answer (A, B or C). You now have one minute to look at Part 4.

Interviewer: I'm here today with Sean Jenkins, a tour bus driver. Hi Sean.

Sean: Hi Anne.

Interviewer: So tell us about what you do.

Sean: Well, basically my job consists of transporting groups of tourists around the country. I work for a package tour company which caters primarily for groups of tourists from Asia who

are keen to see as many sights as possible in as little time as possible. So, generally, our itineraries involve a fair bit of travelling.

Interviewer: What would you say are the challenges of your job?

Sean: There are a few things I have to stay aware of. For example, basic vehicle maintenance is of course very important, as is safety in general. But in terms of what really tests my abilities, I'd say that keeping to our tight schedules is number one.

Interviewer: So, you're always in a rush?

Sean: Oh no. That's the point. When you do what I do, you can't rush. Not only for safety reasons but also because we want our clients to feel relaxed and have fun, and they won't if we are constantly rushing them. Organisation is key. Time management and planning is the basis of every successful tour.

Interviewer: What do you like most about your job?

Sean: I love being outside and out on the road. I also enjoy the social side of my job, meeting people from all over the globe. But above all, it's the privilege of spending so much time in some of the most beautiful places in the UK, places most people only visit once in their lives if at all. Castles, ruins, natural parks... there really is nothing like it.

Interviewer: What's the most unusual place you have visited as part of your job?

Sean: Sometimes we are asked to take a party to the islands of Scotland. This can be quite a challenge as it involves one or more boat trips of course, and we have to make sure that our timing is right or else we'll get trapped on an island. A couple of years ago, a ferry was cancelled and we had to spend the night on a remote island in the Hebrides. As it turned out, it was a great experience for everyone. The locals came together and provided accommodation for us and showed us a great evening in the local pub. All in all, we were happy the ferry had been cancelled!

Interviewer: How has your job changed over the years?

Sean: In many ways it's the same job it was when I started 12 years ago. One thing I have noticed is how much more informed our clients are about the places we visit. The tendency now is usually for people to really do their homework before visiting. In many cases, our clients know more about the places we visit than the tour guide does... though I probably shouldn't say that!

Interviewer: What would you say to someone thinking of getting into your industry?

Sean: Well, first of all I'd tell them it's a great career, full of variety and great experiences. In terms of preparing for the job, I would recommend getting driving experience wherever you can as most companies insist on at least 2 years professional driving experience before they'll take you on. But companies are always looking for drivers as there is a lot of demand these days. The tourism industry is as healthy as it has ever been and it's been great to be part of such a colourful and positive business. I'd encourage anyone who's thinking about it to give it a

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