

**Part I LISTENING**

**35 min**

*Task 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 the task you will have 2 minutes 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. You overhear two friends talking about global warming.**

**How does the girl feel about it?**

- A pessimistic about the future
- B surprised at the effects it's having
- C unconvinced that there's a problem

**3. You overhear a young couple talking about moving to the country.**

**Why does the man object to the idea?**

- A He wouldn't be able to work there.
- B He'd miss the facilities of the city.
- C He wouldn't be near to his friends.

**4. You hear a part of a radio programme about food.**

**Why should listeners call the programme?**

- A to take part in a recipe competition
- B to find out about a cookery course
- C to ask questions about cooking

**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 a young woman talking about her career.**

**Why did she accept a job in a bookshop?**

- A She needed a steady income.
- B She thought it would be enjoyable.
- C She hoped to improve certain skills.

**7. You hear part of a programme about a clothes designer.**

**What does the woman like about the clothes he designs?**

- A They are practical.
- B They are colourful.
- C They are original.

**8. You overhear a discussion about the sport of snow-kiting.**

**What does the man say about it?**

- A It's easier to learn than other winter sports.
- B It's more dangerous than other winter sports.
- C It requires less equipment than other winter sports.

*Task 2. You will hear a radio programme about the history of roller skating. For questions 9-18, complete the sentences.*

**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 (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of their skates.

The first team sport to be played on roller skates was (14) \_\_\_\_\_.

In Detroit in 1937, the first (15) \_\_\_\_\_ in the sport took place.

The use of plastics meant that both the (16) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of roller skates improved.

The musical Starlight Express was seen by as many as (17) \_\_\_\_\_ in London.

The speaker says that modern roller skates are now (18) \_\_\_\_\_ than ever before.

## Part 2. READING

45 min

**Task 3. You are going to read an article about studying abroad for a year. For questions 19-24, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

### **A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A YEAR ABROAD**

*Like many students before her, studying abroad affected Sarah Morrison greatly.*

As I sat staring out at California's spectacular Big Sur coastline, I felt fortunate to have a sister who had persuaded me to spend a year of my degree abroad. It seems that there are not enough older siblings explaining just how easy it is to take part in an international exchange.

While most universities offer worldwide exchanges, where students swap places with others from all over the world for a semester or a year during their degree, the number and quality on offer, together with the cost and time spent abroad, vary dramatically.

A deciding factor for me in choosing to study at the University of Edinburgh was the fact it offered more than 230 exchange places at overseas universities in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, China, South Korea, Japan, Singapore and South America.

Despite all this choice, I still found that deciding to spend a year abroad was something of a novelty, with most of my friends giving more thought to embracing Edinburgh than packing their bags to leave a city that had only just become their home. Yet, fortified by my sister's advice and a Californian friend who told me I would love the coast, I applied to spend my third year at the University of California, Berkeley – never guessing that this would affect almost every future decision I would make.

From the start of your exchange, you are aware that the time you have in your new country is limited and not to be wasted. Your experience is shaped by a predetermined start and end, which immediately increases the significance of the time in between.

From the first week I arrived, I started to work at The Daily Californian, Berkeley's student newspaper. I moved from an international house with more than 600 students from all over the world into a co-operative house where 60 of us shared responsibility for management of the building. I met people from Calcutta, Cairo and Chile, and learnt that holding on to any stereotypes I might have about Americans would be about as useful as assuming that all European people lived on farms.

The grades I earned at Berkeley didn't actually count towards my degree classification at Edinburgh. However, I studied under a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, signed up for student-led seminars and took an African American literature class that shaped my

dissertation in Edinburgh. Whether I was learning about contemporary poets on a tour of San Francisco or reporting on the President's speech in San Francisco for the next day's newspaper, my stay there enabled me to return to Edinburgh with an increased sense of awareness about what I wanted to gain from my English literature degree.

While the expense might seem like an initial barrier to international exchanges, in reality they can actually save student money. Visas, health insurance and flights to the chosen country will have to be bought, but a student will usually only be charged 25 to 50 per cent of their home university's annual fees. A student travelling abroad is entitled to a larger student loan, and grants are available at many institutions for students going on an exchange.

Taking part in an exchange may not appeal to all students. You have to research the options independently, apply almost a year before you go away and be aware of the grades required in the first year to qualify for a place on **one**. Even so, Edinburgh's international exchange officer, Helen Leitch, says: 'If I had a pound for every time that students told me it was the best experience of their life, I would be a very wealthy woman indeed.'

**19. One reason Sarah became a student at Edinburgh University was that**

- A she could first study abroad and then move to Edinburgh.
- B her sister had previously studied at Edinburgh.
- C she could do part of her studies at a suitable university abroad.
- D most of the students at Edinburgh spend a year at an overseas university.

**20. How did Sarah feel when she went to Berkeley?**

- A She was pleased to find the people were exactly as she had expected.
- B She knew she wanted to make the most of her stay there.
- C She wanted to get a job rather than begin studying immediately.
- D She began to wish her stay there could be a little shorter.

**21. What does Sarah feel she achieved at Berkeley?**

- A She formed a clearer idea of what her long-term aims were.
- B She took the first steps towards becoming a teacher.
- C She developed her poetry-writing skills significantly.
- D She ensured that she would graduate with a first-class degree.

**22. What does Sarah say about the cost of an international university exchange?**

- A As a student you can get reduced rates for health insurance.
- B Your fees may be cut by half for every year of your course.
- C It can be cheaper overall than studying in your own country.
- D Taking cheap flights abroad can save you a lot of money.

**23 What does ‘one’ refer to in the last paragraph (underlined)?**

- A** an international exchange as part of a university course
- B** a research degree at a university in another country
- C** a university course that is paid for by the government
- D** the first year of a university course in your own country

**24 What does Helen Leitch suggest in the final paragraph?**

- A** Students who do international exchanges often go on to become extremely rich.
- B** Most students who’ve done an international exchange believe it was highly worthwhile.
- C** Only students from rich families can afford to do an international exchange.
- D** She should be paid a far higher salary for organizing international exchanges.

**Task 4. For questions 25-38, read the text and deal with the tasks after it.**

**THE STUDENTS’ PROBLEM**

**(A)** The college and university accommodation crisis in Ireland has become ‘so chronic’ that students are being forced to sleep rough, share a bed with strangers – or give up on studying altogether.

**(B)** The deputy president of the Union of Students in Ireland, Kevin Donoghue, said the problem has become particularly acute in Dublin. He told the Irish Mirror: “Students are so desperate, they’re not just paying through the nose to share rooms – they’re paying to share a bed with complete strangers. It reached crisis point last year and it’s only getting worse. “We’ve heard of students sleeping rough; on sofas, floors and in their cars and I have to stress there’s no student in the country that hasn’t been touched by this crisis. “Commutes – which would once have been considered ridiculous – are now normal, whether that’s by bus, train or car and those who drive often end up sleeping in their car if they’ve an early start the next morning.”

**(C)** Worry is increasing over the problems facing Ireland's 200,000 students as the number increases over the next 15 years. With 165,000 full-time students in Ireland – and that figure expected to increase to around 200,000 within the next 15 years – fears remain that there aren’t enough properties to accommodate current numbers.

**(D)** Mr. Donoghue added: “The lack of places to live is actually forcing school-leavers out of college altogether. Either they don’t go in the first place or end up having to drop out because they can’t get a room and commuting is just too expensive, stressful and difficult.”

**(E)** Claims have emerged from the country that some students have been forced to sleep in cars, or out on the streets, because of the enormous increases to rent in the capital. Those

who have been lucky enough to find a place to live have had to do so ‘blind’ by paying for accommodation, months in advance, they haven’t even seen just so they will have a roof over their head over the coming year.

**(F)** According to the Irish Independent, it’s the ‘Google effect’ which is to blame. As Google and other blue-chip companies open offices in and around Dublin’s docklands area, which are ‘on the doorstep of the city’, international professionals have been flocking to the area which will boast 2,600 more apartments, on 50 acres of undeveloped land, over the next three to 10 years.

**(G)** Rent in the area soared by 15 per cent last year and a two-bedroom apartment overlooking the Grand Canal costs €2,100 (£1,500) per month to rent. Another two-bedroom apartment at Hanover Dock costs €2,350 (almost £1,700) with a three-bedroom penthouse – measuring some 136 square metres – sits at €4,500 (£3,200) per month in rent.

**(H)** Ireland’s Higher Education Authority admitted this was the first time they had seen circumstances ‘so extreme’ and the Fianna Fáil party leader, Michael Martin, urged on the Government to intervene. He said: “It is very worrying that all of the progress in opening up access to higher education in the last decade – particularly for the working poor – is being derailed because of an entirely foreseeable accommodation crisis.

*Choose the most suitable paragraph headings from the list of headings (25-32) and write the correct letter, A–H, to match the number of the heading and the letter of the paragraph (e.g., 24 - J)*

- 25. Cons of the commuting
- 26. Thing that students have to go through
- 27. Commutes have become common in Ireland nowadays
- 28. Danger of the overflow
- 29. Cause of the problems
- 30. Pricing data
- 31. Regression
- 32. Eyeless choice

*For questions 33–38, define whether the following statements agree with the information given in the text “The Students’ Problem”.*

**Write**

**TRUE (T)** if the statement agrees with the information,

**FALSE (F)** if the statement contradicts the information,

**NOT GIVEN (NG)** if there is no information on this.

33. The accommodation problem in Ireland is especially bad in Dublin.
34. Commutes are considered ridiculous.
35. The number of students in Ireland is not likely to increase in the future.
36. Due to the opening of the new offices around Dublin, the number of local restaurants will go up significantly over the next 3 to 10 years.
37. The rent price went up by 15% last year.
38. Michael Martin stated that crisis could have been omitted if the government reacted properly.

**Part 3. USE OF ENGLISH**

**60 min**

*Task 5. For questions 39-46, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.*

**THE STORY OF GOLD**

The story of gold is an adventure involving kings, queens, pirates, explorers, conquerors, and the native peoples they conquered. Throughout history, gold has woven a magic spell over those it touched. Gold is beautiful and rare; a soft shiny metal that can be moulded into many (39) ... . It has been used for money, jewellery, and to decorate special buildings such (40) ... palaces and places of worship. (41) ... the precious metal was discovered, prospectors rushed to mine it, starting new cities and countries as they went. Gold and the people who love it have helped shape the world we live (42) ... today. Gold is one of many elements, or substances that cannot be changed by normal chemical means, that are found in the Earth's crust. Gold has a warm, sunny colour and (43) ... it does not react (44) ... air, water, and most chemicals, its shine never fades. In its natural (45) ... , gold is soft and easily shaped. When heated to 1,062 Celsius it melts and can be poured into moulds to form coins, gold bars, and other objects. Stories have been told, movies (46) ... and legends born about the discovery of the world's great gold deposits. It is a saga of dreams, greed, ambition and exploration.

39. A) formats    B) outlines    C) shapes    D) lines
40. A) as    B) like    C) many    D) to
41. A) Whoever    B) However    C) Forever    D) Wherever
42. A) at    B) in    C) for    D) on
43. A) yet    B) despite    C) because    D) so

44. A) with      B) in      C) of      D) at  
45. A) estate    B) stage    C) state    D) position  
46. A) done      B) made    C) composed D) built

**Task 6. For questions 47-54, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.**

<b>CRUISING THROUGH HISTORY</b>	
To understand how cruising developed into a (47) ... industry, you have to take a brief look at the past. Today's cruise industry (48) ... has its roots dated to the early 1840s. Among the earliest cruise passengers was author Charles Dickens, who booked passage in 1842, along with 86 fellow (49) ... , on a mail ship called <i>Britannia</i> (operated by Canadian Samuel Cunard, (50) ... of the Cunard Line).	47 SUCCESS 48 ACTUAL 49 TRAVEL 50 FOUND
Writing in <i>American Notes</i> about his journey from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia and Boston, Dickens describes the cramped quarters, coffinlike cabins, and passengers, (51) ... himself, getting (52) ... (although he claims that he just felt woozy). Conditions had somewhat improved by the time Mark Twain took a transatlantic voyage on the steamship <i>Quaker City</i> in 1867. Twain described his cabin as having "room to turn around in, but not to swing a cat in, at least with entire (53) ... to the cat. " Well, at least he didn't get sick. In <i>The Innocents Abroad</i> , Twain wrote, "If there is one thing in the world that will make a man (54) ... and insufferably self-conceited, it is to have his stomach behave himself, the first day at sea, when nearly all his comrades are seasick.	51 INCLUDE 52 SEA 53 SECURE 54 PECULIAR

**Task 7. For questions 55-61, 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.**

55. It wasn't Mark that you met in the shop.

**HAVE**

It \_\_\_\_\_ Mark that you met in the shop.

56. Nobody took any notice of his bad behavior

**ATTENTION**

Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ his bad behavior.



57. Tomorrow's conference is postponed and it will be held next month.

**PUT**

Tomorrow's conference has \_\_\_\_\_ until next month.

58. In his opinion, these two kinds of art are totally different from each other.

**COMPARISON**

In his opinion, there is \_\_\_\_\_ these two kinds of art.

59. She prefers watching TV to reading books.

**RATHER**

She \_\_\_\_\_ read books.

60. What do you think of the new health centre?

**ASKED**

She \_\_\_\_\_ of the new centre.

61. It's believed that he was the most handsome boy in our school.

**TO**

He is \_\_\_\_\_ the most handsome boy in our school.

**Task 8. For questions 62-70, match the idioms with their definitions (A-I).**

62	a blue fit	A	an extremely, or too, ornate portion in music, painting, architecture etc
63	a red herring	B	formalities of business
64	red tape	C	visionary hallucinations
65	a grey eminence	D	an official who takes part in the opening ceremony of the British Parliament
66	a white elephant	E	a diversionary topic to deflect attention from the truth
67	pink elephants	F	an influential background figure in government
68	a purple patch	G	something useless, seldom used
69	Black Rod	H	extreme annoyance, alarm or irritation
70	black frost	I	cold winter weather without snow

**Part 4. WRITING**

**40 min**

**Task 9.**

You have found the following text on the Internet. Comment on this piece of information:

*I know some people hate spending their vacation in their own country. They say, it is too boring.*

*I cannot agree with them! There're so many ways to enjoy oneself in the homeland.*

*Vera Linden*

Write 150 -170 words. Remember to

- make an introduction;
- express your personal opinion for and against spending holidays in the homeland and give reasons for your opinion;
- make a conclusion.

Write in your own words. DO NOT quote from the given text.