

1.

You will hear people talking in six different situations. For questions 1-6, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

Question 1

You hear a professional musician talking about his work.

Man: I've been a member of this orchestra for the last six years - I play the double bass. In my student days I was a bass guitarist in a band that did covers of all the top songs, but I don't get the chance to do that anymore. Our schedule's pretty tough because we do a lot of concerts abroad. When I'm not touring, I try to get to a few jazz gigs, just to see how my instrument is being played.

[The recording is repeated.]

Question 2

You hear a man and a woman talking about a band.

Woman: That was a great concert we went to on Saturday. I've just downloaded their new album, by the way.

Man: Have you? And is it as good as the last one?

Woman: Not sure yet - it's very different. There's nothing familiar from their concert either! The lyrics contain some really powerful images though, worth listening to properly.

Man: Sounds like it will take a bit of time to get into it. Can I borrow it sometime?

Woman: Yeah, OK.

[The recording is repeated.]

Question 3

You hear a boy and a girl talking about their guitar lessons.

Boy: How are you getting on with your guitar classes this term?

Girl: It's fun. We've got a new book and the pieces are a lot longer than before, so I'm having to do more practice. How about you?

Boy: Not too good. There are too many in our class now - it used to be just four, but now, with eight of us, I don't feel I'm making as much progress somehow, even though I do loads of practice.

Girl: Well you should ask to move to our class. You're free on Wednesday evenings, aren't you?

Boy: I am, that's a good idea, thanks.

[The recording is repeated.]

Question 4

You hear part of radio interview with a female singer.

Man: So you're able to make a good living from your music, which is fantastic. What part of your work earns you the most, would you say?

Woman: Well it used to be the case that my recordings brought in a lot, especially the ones I did without my backing band, but with so much downloading and file sharing, that side has dropped a bit.

Man: And how about your live appearances with the band - you play some very big venues, don't you?

Woman: Yes, but when we tour there's never much profit from the ticket sales once all our expenses have been paid. Where I've been really lucky recently is being approached to record a couple of my own things for TV commercials, and they bring in an absolute fortune! Just singing solo, which I love best.

[The recording is repeated.]

Question 5

You hear a composer talking about his latest work.

Man: It's been a challenge to get the piece finished but I'm happy with how it has turned out. I hope it will influence the next generation of composers - I see in my own students that they need to think outside the box if they are to deliver truly modern music. The piece is going to be performed for the first time next month in New York, which is appropriate, as it was the daily noise of the traffic and the crowds there that proved to be such a major contribution to the mood of the piece. The whole use of percussion and brass comes from that experience, so different from the peaceful farm where I grew up.

[The recording is repeated.]

Question 6

You hear a man and a woman talking about an open-mic night.

Woman: Hi, Chris, I missed the open-mic night this week - how was it?

Man: Great. The house band was good, although their bass guitarist wasn't up to his usual high standard. I think he may have been ill.

Woman: Oh dear. And did that Scottish girl with the electric violin play again? Hers was the best performance by far last time.

Man: Sadly not - she doesn't live in the village, you know. The real highlight was this teenage kid who brought his keyboard along. He was a bit nervous so he just played with the band to begin with, but then they let him do two of his own songs. He's got a future in music, I'd say.

Woman: There're so many talented musicians around here.

Man: Yeah, We're very lucky.

[The recording is repeated.]

2.

W = Woman

M = Man

W: So come on then, favourite movie of all time.

M: I would have to say, 'cos I love action films, uh, that it would be Speed - have you ever seen that?

W: Speed?

M: Yeah it's with Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock.

W: Oh, I like her.

M: She's very good isn't she? So yeah, I just love any kind of action film. And I remember watching it when I was really young and watching it with my dad. And it's the sort of, like, a family-friendly action film, because it's not too violent, it's not too gory but it's just really tense. And I remember just like watching it, we had a cushion, me and my dad, and I was just like what's gonna happen next? Have you seen it?

W: No! I haven't I, I think I've seen bits of it, like trailers and things but ...

M: OK, it's ... erm ...

W: No, I knew she was in it.

M: Yeah, so basically, he, there's a baddy in it, as every action film has a good baddy, and he's got no thumb. I remember that, that was like a memorable bit of it, he had no thumb. And so they sort of hijack this ... this bus. And it's set that it can only drive at a certain speed - hence the name. And so it's just basically driving through, through the city and it can't stop otherwise there's a bomb and it's gonna blow it up. So, and there's a, Keanu Reeves he's, he's the goody, he's a policeman. And he's ... he jumps on board the bus to try and stop this bomb from going off. And, it's just all the different characters on the bus. It's just really ...

W: The whole film is on the bus?

M: Yeah and, but it's, it's, well not at the beginning, it sort of goes onto the bus. But it's just I remember it being so tense and gripping, cos you just didn't know what was gonna happen. You didn't know.

W: It sounds really uncomfortable to watch, was it not?

M: It ... it's ... I just like that kind of that feeling of like pure suspense 'cos you just have no idea if it's gonna end well or not. And it did end very well. You have to watch it.

W: Well yeah, as long as there's, you know, a point when you can relax, cos I don't like feeling like that the whole way through a movie, anxiety.

M: Yeah, because you know when it's like driving along, and it, 'cos I think it has to stay at fifty miles per hour. And so if there's, driving along a motorway and it's, there's traffic and stuff you have to change the route and things, so you just don't know where it's gonna go.

W: Oh, OK.

M: And then they get to a bridge that's, hasn't finished being built. So you're not sure how they're gonna get over the bridge and stuff like that. So there's lots of moments where you just think, I have no clue what's gonna happen.

W: Good stunts?

M: Very good, and I heard that he did all his stunts himself, Keanu Reeves.

W: Yes, they always say that.

M: He likes a bit of action, doesn't he? So, and I think it always helps to have a very good heroine in a film and she's, she's beautiful, don't you think?

W: Yes, I love her. I think she's very funny, but tell me there's some comedy in there.

M: There's not a huge amount of comedy. It's one of your traditional sort of American blockbuster action films. So yeah but it's, it's just, it's - there's not many action films with comedy in though are there?

W: I think that's why I don't watch them.

M: Oh really?

W: Yeah.

M: What's your sort of, your favourite type of film?

W: I don't like to feel uncomfortable, so it's just comedy.

M: Watch Speed.

W: Mm, um OK.