

JUNIOR LYCEUM ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2000
Educational Assessment Unit – Education Division
Form 4

Listening Comprehension

Teacher's Paper

Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination

The teacher should instruct the candidates to answer the questions on the paper provided. The following procedure for reading the Listening Comprehension passage is to be explained to the candidates immediately before proceeding with the examination.

You have been given a sheet containing the Listening Comprehension questions. You will be given three minutes to read the questions based on the passage. I shall then read the passage at normal reading speed. You may take notes during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to enable you to answer some of the questions. The passage will be read a second time and you may take further notes and answer the rest of the questions. After this second reading you will be given a further three minutes for a final revision of answers.

- a. 3 minutes - Read questions
- b. 3 minutes - First reading aloud of passage while students take notes
- c. 3 minutes - To answer questions
- d. 3 minutes - Second reading of passage and possibility to answer questions
- e. 3 minutes - Final revision

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Throwaway Aircraft

Today, an aircraft design can be around for up to 55 years – five years in development, twenty in production, and thirty more in service. More frequent changes in aircraft design can take advantage of the latest technologies, just as cars do. This, together with the pressure of economic factors and stricter environmental laws, might create a brand new aeroplane – the throwaway aircraft.

Airlines choose an aircraft depending on how much it costs to run. Consider the advantages of a short-life aircraft with low running costs. It will be a super-reliable machine. It will need no maintenance. It will be able to last up to 10 years. At the end of its life it can be thrown away – or rather be scrapped for recycling. And its replacement will be less polluting, quieter, even more reliable. More importantly for the airlines it will be cheaper to buy and run.

The throwaway aeroplane will use new materials. A newly developed coating on its outside will give protection against corrosion 10 times better than the coating used today. And strange as it may seem, diamonds may prove to be an aircraft designer's best friend. A diamond coating will mean truly scratch-free windows unlike today's acrylic windows which need to be replaced regularly. However, this technique is not available yet.

Building to a known life span is nothing new. During World War II, military aircraft were built for a very short life. What was the point in building aeroplanes to last longer if they were more likely to be shot down than wear out?

Today, however, better manufacturing techniques and improving reliability suggest that aircraft could eventually be built for a guaranteed short life. They would need no maintenance and satisfy modern safety levels. With environmental and economic pressures on the airline manufacturers growing day by day, it will not be too long before we are all flying in disposable aircraft.

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Listening Comprehension

Time: 15 minutes

Name: _____

Class: _____

1. Write if the following sentences are TRUE (T), FALSE (F) or NO INFORMATION GIVEN (NIG). **(3 marks)**

- a. Nowadays aircraft windows are protected by a diamond coating. _____
- b. The exterior of aircraft today is not protected against corrosion. _____
- c. Production of the disposable aircraft will start in twenty years' time. _____

2. Fill in the blanks with ONE word from the text you have just been listening to. **(2 marks)**

- a. The latest _____ are used in the design of aircraft.
- b. Aircraft for military use during World War II were _____ for a short life.

3. Four of the following statements are true. Tick (✓) the four correct answers. **(2 marks)**

The throwaway aircraft

- a. will be less polluting. _____
- b. will be cheaper to run. _____
- c. will inevitably be shot down. _____
- d. can be recycled. _____
- e. will be reliable. _____

4. Match Column A with Column B by putting the correct letter in the space provided below. **(3 marks)**

A	B
i. 10 years	a. life-span of present-day aircraft
ii. 30 years	b. time spent in developing an aircraft
iii. 5 years	c. life-span of a throwaway aircraft

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

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English Language

Time: 2 hours

Name: _____

Class: _____

A. Fill in each space with ONE word. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

The end of the Dinosaurs

About 66 million years (0) ago, seventy per cent of all living creatures, including the dinosaurs, are believed to have disappeared (1)_____ the surface of the Earth. Scientists believe that this may (2)_____ been caused by a natural disaster on a very large scale. One possible (3)_____ is that the earth was (4)_____ by an enormous asteroid about six miles in diameter as it travelled (5)_____ space. The side effects of this disaster (6)_____ have been the destruction of the ozone layer, acid rain, global warming and the pollution of the atmosphere (7)_____ dust which blocked out the sun. Either one or a combination of these effects could have (8)_____ to the disappearance of the various species. Scientists are currently searching for the site of the crater (9)_____ the asteroid must have (10)_____.

B. Re-write each sentence so that it has the same meaning as the sentence printed before it. (10 marks)

Example:

1. Malta has never had a drier winter.

It _____.

2. They were still cleaning the room when their mother arrived.

The room _____.

3. She started working as a secretary five years ago.

She has _____.

4. The student asked the teacher how she managed to remember so many telephone numbers.

The student asked the teacher, “_____?”

5. Mark didn't put on a coat although he was cold.

In spite of _____.

C. Fill in the spaces with ONE word formed from the word in brackets. The first one has been done for you. (5 marks)

Science has improved farming methods (0) dramatically (drama) over the last 100 years. But at what price?

Following the scare in Europe over mad cow disease and (1) _____ (contaminate) beef, (2) _____ (shop) are far more nervous about the food they buy especially if it has been (3) _____ (modify) by science. Therefore, because of the (4) _____ (fail) of their (5) _____ (govern) to take any steps, supermarkets in Britain have been forced to take the lead. They have insisted that (6) _____ (supply) label their products if they have been genetically modified.

The (7) _____ (support) of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) say that food products can be made (8) _____ (resist) to pests, disease and drought. They also believe that (9) _____ (produce) can be increased. With such crops, harvests need never fail again. Hunger will become a thing of the past. However, many people, including (10) _____ (science), are very worried.

D. Comprehension - Read the following passage carefully. (30 marks)

The Walkman Story

5 There is a legend that Akio Morita, chairman and co-founder of Sony, exasperated with his children's constant playing of rock music at top volume, instructed his company engineers to come up with a device which would render their music inaudible to all but themselves. Such is the mystery surrounding the genesis of the Walkman, even Sony will not confirm or deny the story. One fact is certain: in the late 1970s, a number of Sony engineers devised a machine which has permanently revolutionised the way many of us listen to music.

10 Launched in 1980, the Sony Walkman was the source of much incomprehension. Who on earth would want a cassette recorder that didn't record anything and could only be listened to by a single person wearing headphones? But despite the world's incredulity, Sony's chairman knew he was onto a winner. Morita personally insisted on the name 'Walkman', going against his advisers, who pointed out that the phrase was meaningless in English. He knew it was easy to pronounce in almost every language, was short and catchy, and summed up the essence of the new device – portability.

15 Such was the opposition that for two years the machine was called the 'Stowaway' in Britain and the 'Soundabout' in America. Eventually Morita put his foot down and 'Walkman' was

introduced as the new international brand name, a name which is now registered and owned by Sony.

20 Now, more than a decade after its launch, the personal stereo has become part of our life. More than 200 million have been sold worldwide and about 22 million Britons own one, with figures rising daily. Innovations such as compact disc Walkmans, recording Walkmans and new lightweight ear-pieces have further enhanced its attractions to music lovers. As size, weight and cost have been reduced, sound quality and practicality have increased. In fact, some of the early machines now look positively cumbersome and primitive.

25 Although Walkmans enjoy unrivalled popularity among the young, there are several warnings about their potentially harmful effect. Figures released by the American Deaf Research Fund Association report a 30 per cent rise in deafness in the last ten years, with over 20 million people in the United States now experiencing hearing problems. Similarly the BBC has discovered that 50 per cent of applicants for studio work in radio fail its initial hearing test,
30 which compares with only 10 per cent a decade ago. In both cases the misuse of personal stereos has been pinpointed as a possible cause.

Socially, the Walkman habit has had similarly negative side-effects. By playing their personal stereos at full volume in confined spaces, listeners frequently disturb and annoy those around them, especially as the 'leaking' sound tends to consist of a repetitive and
35 exaggerated bass line or beat, guaranteed to drive bystanders crazy. Such is the problem on London's underground railway system that the authorities have been forced to put up posters advising passengers to 'Keep Your Personal Stereo Personal'. And the use of Walkmans by cyclists and motorists has been cited as the cause of a number of serious road accidents and numerous near-misses.

40 There is no doubt that modern society has a problematic relationship with the Walkman. However, like deodorant or videos, it is hard to imagine how we ever lived without them.

(Adapted from *The Daily Telegraph*)

Underline the answer that you think fits best in questions 1 and 2.

1. When it was launched in 1980 the Walkman **(1 mark)**
- a. puzzled a lot of people.
 - b. was only bought by single people.
 - c. became an immediate international success.
 - d. was popular only in Britain and America.

2. London Underground has put up posters advising people that **(1 mark)**
- a. Walkmans cause accidents.
 - b. Walkmans are an attraction to pick-pockets.
 - c. playing Walkmans too loudly annoys other passengers.
 - d. bystanders envy passengers with Walkmans.

3. Are the following statements about the text TRUE (T), FALSE (F) or NO INFORMATION GIVEN (NIG)? **(4 marks)**

- a. Akio Morita was the inventor of the Walkman. _____
- b. The 'Stowaway' was the name given to Walkmans in Britain from 1980 to 1982. _____
- c. Studies showed that the Walkman definitely caused physical side effects. _____
- d. The Walkman is the fastest-selling device today. _____

4. What supposedly led to the invention of the Walkman? **(2 marks)**

5. What is revolutionary about listening to music on a Walkman? **(2 marks)**

6. Give THREE reasons why Morita insisted on the use of the name Walkman for this new invention. **(3 marks)**

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

7. How has the Walkman evolved in the last ten years? **(4 marks)**

8. Find words in the passage which mean the same as the following: **(3 marks)**

- a. not loud enough to be heard _____
- b. origin and beginning of something _____
- c. lack of belief _____

9. What do the following refer to in the passage: **(2 marks)**

- a. late 1970s (line 6) _____
- b. 1980 (line 8) _____
- c. 200 million (line 20) _____
- d. 22 million (line 20) _____

10. In about 60 words, write about the negative effects of the Walkman. **(8 marks)**

E. Composition - Write a composition of about 350 – 400 words on ONE of the following: (40 marks)

1. The best week of my life.
2. You and your English pen-friend visited Gozo. On your way back to Malta by ferry boat you accidentally forgot several personal items on the boat. Write a letter to the General Manager of the Gozo Channel Company of Mgarr Harbour, Gozo explaining your mishap. Give a detailed description of your lost property and ask how you can get your belongings back. Do not forget to lay out your letter properly.
3. Are advertisements on T.V. really necessary? Discuss.
4. Write an article for the leaflet issued by your local council about some of the attractions of the locality where you live.
5. Write a story based on the words and phrases below:
 - ◆ a broken glass bottle
 - ◆ police report
 - ◆ midnight
 - ◆ a hysterical woman
 - ◆ investigation
 - ◆ bar