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**FORM 4                      English Listening Comprehension                      TIME: 15 minutes**

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**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. I shall first read through the questions and then read the passage at normal reading speed. You may take notes on the blank sheet provided during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to allow 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 - Teacher reads out the questions
- b. 3 minutes - First reading aloud of passage while students take notes
- c. 3 minutes - Students may answer questions
- d. 3 minutes - Second reading of passage and possibility of answering questions
- e. 3 minutes - Final revision

**Teacher's Paper**

**The Guinness Book of Records**

What is it that makes the Guinness Book of Records such a fascinating read? Is it the volume of incredible and amazing facts? Or is it a secret desire to become a record holder oneself? Whatever the reason, more than 50 years after it appeared for the first time, the Guinness Book of Records remains one of the world's best-selling books ever.

Many of the entries relate to the natural world. For example, did you know that the oldest living thing on earth is a pine tree that is over 4,700 years old?! Thousands of tourists flock to the USA's White Mountains to visit this pine tree every year. The tallest and thickest trees in the world are also found in America. These are the famous redwood trees of the Sierra Madre mountains. Some of the trees are as tall as European cathedrals. Others are so wide that you can drive a car through a tunnel cut out through their middle!

Readers of all ages love to learn the fact that the largest eye ever recorded was 40cm wide and belonged to a giant squid found in the Atlantic ocean near Canada in 1878. Furthermore, old and young alike are amazed to learn that, at approximately 9kg, the biggest animal brain belongs to a whale which hunts giant squid deep down in the ocean.

The records of the incredible things that people can do are interesting, remarkable and at times silly. For instance, a man called Andy managed to eat 226 baked beans with a cocktail stick in London in 1996. He did this in the fastest time ever. On the other hand, you can read about a man called Rudi, who holds the record for balancing the greatest number of teacups on his head while riding a bicycle.

The popularity of the Guinness Book of Records is growing every year. More and more people seem willing to spend an incredible amount of time and energy to secure their place in its records. Some records reveal enormous determination and talents while others simply involve people who want to show how crazy they can be. To gain your place among this category of record holders, you have to be extremely imaginative and inventive.

**FORM 4                      English Listening Comprehension                      TIME: 15 minutes**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. State whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). (2 marks)**

- (a) The Guinness Book of Records is very interesting to read. \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) The Guinness Book of Records contains facts that are hard to believe. \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) The Guinness Book of Records was first published 50 years ago. \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) According to the passage, the oldest living thing on earth is a fish. \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Write down ONE word from the passage which means the same as: (2 marks)**

- (a) go to see: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) well-known: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Fill in with information from the passage. (4 marks)**

- (a) Where the Sierra Madre mountains are found \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) The width of the largest eye on record \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) The year in which this giant eye was found \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) The weight of the biggest animal brain ever \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Fill in with a suitable word from the passage. (2 marks)**

- (a) Andy ate 226 baked beans with a cocktail \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) Rudi balanced \_\_\_\_\_ on his head while riding a bicycle.  
(c) Every \_\_\_\_\_ the Guinness Book of Records is becoming more popular.  
(d) Some record holders find themselves in the Guinness Book of Records by behaving in a \_\_\_\_\_ way.

FORM 4

ENGLISH

TIME: 2hours

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Oral Assessment	Listening Comprehension	Written Paper	TOTAL

**Section A. – Language**

**20 marks [     ]**

**A. Fill in the blanks with a word formed from the one in brackets. The first one has been done for you.**

**5 marks [     ]**

When Richard Branson left school at the age of seventeen, his headmaster made a (0) **prediction** (predict) – he would either go to prison or become a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (million). He avoided going to prison and became one of the most popular and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (success) businessmen in Britain. Branson has won the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (admire) of British teenagers, who have voted him as the businessman they think of most (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (high). Branson is the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (found) of the *Virgin* group, that includes airlines, music, soft drinks and clothing. His mum always told him that being shy was a (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (weak) and when he was only four years old she left him half a mile from his grandparents' house and told him to walk there alone. Later that night he was found a mile away in the wrong (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (direct), tired but (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (cheer). In the 1970s, Branson opened a record store on London's busy Oxford Street. This store was a success and within a year there were fourteen *Virgin* record stores in Britain, making the business one of the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (large) chain stores in the country at the time. Branson made several attempts for a balloon flight record around the world, but all these attempts were (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (success).

**B. Fill in the blanks with a suitable preposition. The first one has been worked out for you. 5 marks [     ]**

Britain's red squirrels are one day (0) after the other fighting (1) \_\_\_\_\_ survival. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the last few decades the number (3) \_\_\_\_\_ red squirrels has gone (4) \_\_\_\_\_ steadily. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ many parts (6) \_\_\_\_\_ England, the red squirrel is already extinct. Believe it or not, it is a close relative, the grey squirrel, which is responsible (7) \_\_\_\_\_ this decline. Grey squirrels have spread (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the country (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the expense (10) \_\_\_\_\_ their red-coated cousins.

**C. Fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the verb within brackets. The first one has been done for you. 5 marks [     ]**

In 400BC the great Greek philosopher, Plato, (0) wrote (write) about an ancient city of great beauty and richness. The city (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the finest temples and monuments and (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (fill) with beautiful treasures. Suddenly, without warning, floods and earthquakes (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (destroy) the city together with all its inhabitants. Atlantis seems (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (disappear) without trace. Since the time of Plato, the story of Atlantis (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (haunt) archaeologists. In recent years, there (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) several claims that Atlantis (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (found). However, none of the findings give proof that Atlantis really (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (exist). Atlantis (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a mystery even today. The truth about the lost city (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (continue) to puzzle archaeologists for many years to come.

**D. Fill in each blank space with a suitable word. The first one has been worked out for you. 5 marks [     ]**

Maps are wonderful (0) things. Today, we simply take (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for granted and expect them to be easily available in our local shops. If we are going on (2) \_\_\_\_\_, for example, we are quite likely to buy a map of the area we will go to. If we are going on a journey, we simply log on to a free map website on the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to check out the (4) \_\_\_\_\_ before we set off. It was not always so (5) \_\_\_\_\_. The history of mapmaking is long and full of surprises. The earliest maps that have survived tell us about how (6) \_\_\_\_\_ civilisations saw their world in the universe. We know for a fact that the art of making maps (7) \_\_\_\_\_ back to 2300BC. The Babylonians (8) \_\_\_\_\_ maps that showed settlements, crop fields and water sources. Not surprisingly, today, maps of this (9) \_\_\_\_\_ are considered to be of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ value.

**E. Comprehension**

(30 marks)

**Read this passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Venice, a city in northern Italy, is famous for its canals, stunning villas, historic palaces and wonderful churches, among other buildings. The city is built on a number of small islands, 118 to be precise, in the shallow Venetian lagoon at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea. Some 400 bridges pass over the city's 150 canals to link the islands together. You can only reach the oldest parts of town by boat or along footways which end up at the water's edge.

The gondola, or water taxi, is the traditional and best known form of transport in Venice. Today these beautiful boats survive only thanks to the trade provided by the millions of tourists that visit the city each year. The residents of Venice use the 'vaporetto', a type of engine-driven water bus. This enables them to cross the major canals, like the Gran Canal, which are too wide for footbridges. A trip on a 'vaporetto' is also much cheaper than hiring a gondola for your transport needs in Venice.

Venice lies on marshy land. As a result, its buildings are all **constructed** on closely spaced wood piles. The wood piles penetrate a soft layer of sand and mud until they reach a hard layer of compressed clay further down. Most of these piles are still intact even after centuries in the lagoon's muddy waters. Miraculously, the foundations of some of Venice's most beautiful palaces and villas are still in good shape.

For **centuries**, Venice has experienced flooding known as "acqua alta". This happens mainly in winter as a result of the high waters of the Adriatic tides. However, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, people started worrying that Venice was actually sinking below sea level. The ground floor levels of many old houses flooded regularly and the foundations of some buildings began to give way. Experts realised that local factories pumping water from natural underground **reservoirs** could be the reason why certain buildings had begun to have problems with their foundations. A **ban** against any pumping from the underground reservoirs has helped control the problems although the flooding has continued to cause damage to many of Venice's unique buildings.

Some scientists claim that the city is no longer sinking. But not all agree. In fact, some experts in the matter have said that if no radical solutions to the problem are found, Venice will sink beneath the waves without trace. Some archaeological research has concluded that Venice is sinking about 10cm a century. So far, engineers have been able to keep pace with this rate through the various solutions they have tried to work out. However, no one doubts that climate change is influencing Venice negatively. Hundred years ago, St. Mark's Square used to flood about ten times a year. Today, it floods around sixty times. While environmentalists and historians talk about the best way to **protect** Venice, engineers continue to look for new ways of saving the city from destruction. This will benefit future generations of **residents** and visitors.





6. Give two reasons why the residents of Venice use the 'vaporetto'. 2 marks [   ]

i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why did the Venetians use wood piles when building their city? 2 marks [   ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Mention two things which made people in the 20<sup>th</sup> century worry that Venice was sinking below sea level. 2 marks [   ]

i) \_\_\_\_\_

ii) \_\_\_\_\_

9a. How did local factories possibly damage certain buildings in Venice? 2 marks [   ]

\_\_\_\_\_

9b. What action was taken as a result? 1 mark [   ]

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is the worst danger for Venice if no solutions to the problems are found? 2 marks [   ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Mention one way in which climate change is influencing Venice negatively. 2 marks [   ]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

P.T.O.



12. You have just downloaded from a reliable website a three-day programme of activities you can follow while touring Venice. However, you can only afford a one-day stay in the city. Answer the questions that follow the information below. 6 marks [ 1 ]

<b><u>Day 1</u></b>	St. Mark's Square & St. Mark's Basilica; a 30-minute ride on a gondola. Lunch at a Venetian restaurant; a visit to the famous Rialto Bridge on the Gran Canal. <b>Price: €100</b>
<b><u>Day 2</u></b>	The main sights of Venice from the sea on board a 'vaporetto' <b>Single ticket: €6</b> (valid 1hr 30mins) <b>One-day ticket: €20</b> (valid from 08:00hrs till 20:00hrs)
<b><u>Day 3</u></b>	The main museums & churches of Venice. Experienced Guide available all the time. <b>Price: €50</b> (including guide)

a. Underline what you consider the most varied programme:

- i) Day 1
- ii) Day 2
- iii) Day 3

Give one reason for your answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. If you are interested in art, which programme will you follow first?

- i) Day 1
- ii) Day 2
- iii) Day 3

Give one reason for your answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. Which programme will help you see most of Venice at the best price?

- i) Day 1
- ii) Day 2
- iii) Day 3

Write one valid explanation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**F. Composition**

(30m)

**Write between 180 and 200 words on ONE of the following:**

1. One day, you and your friend were walking by a jewellery shop. Suddenly, you saw two people with guns running out of the store. Write a story of what happened next.
2. Salesman: May I help you, sir?  
John: Yes. I'm thinking of buying a...  
Continue this conversation.
3. Write a short story called "An Unexpected Visitor", which will appear in your school magazine.
4. A friend of yours is always complaining that he is often bored and finds nothing interesting to do. Give your friend some advice on how he/she can spend his/her free time.