

Specimen Paper Answers – Paper 2

Cambridge IGCSE™ / Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) English as a Second Language 0510 / 0511 / 0993 / 0991

For examination from 2024



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Introduction

These specimen answers have been produced by Cambridge ahead of the examination in 2024 to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language 0510 / 0511 and Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) English as a Second Language 0993 / 0991. We have selected questions from Specimen Paper 2.

The marks given are for guidance only and are accompanied by a brief commentary explaining the strengths and weaknesses of the answers. Comments are given to indicate where and why marks were awarded, and how additional marks could be obtained.

The mark schemes for the Specimen Papers are available to download from the [School Support Hub](#).

2024 Specimen Paper 02

2024 Specimen Paper Mark Scheme 02

Past exam resources and other teaching and learning resources are available on the [School Support Hub](#).

Details of assessment

All candidates take three components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:

Paper 1 2 hours
 Reading and Writing 70%
 60 marks
 Candidates respond to six exercises: four reading and two writing
 Structured and essay style questions
 Externally assessed

and:

Paper 2 Approximately 50 minutes
 Listening 30%
 40 marks
 Candidates listen to five exercises of short and longer texts
 Multiple-choice style questions
 Externally assessed

Marks for the Speaking component do not contribute to the overall grade candidates receive for the written components. Instead, where candidates perform to an appropriate standard, certificates record separately the achievements of candidates, with grades 1 (high) to 5 (low) for speaking.

Candidates must also take:

Paper 3 Approximately 10–15 minutes
 Speaking Separately endorsed
 40 marks
 Candidates take part in an interview, short talk and discussion
 Internally assessed and externally moderated

Exercise 1

Question 1

What do the boy and girl decide to do in the afternoon?

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (walking up the hill). The boy suggests 'walking up the hill behind the hotel' and the girl agrees, even though she expresses this using a negative structure: 'That's not a bad idea! The view will be great.'

For this question, it is important to listen for agreement between both speakers.

Common mistakes

B (going to the hotel pool) is not correct. The girl says, 'Well, if it was up to me, I'd go to the hotel pool...'. The boy doesn't actually agree, but instead makes the suggestion about walking up the hill.

C (a bike ride by the river) is not correct. The girl suggests they do that another day when they also go surfing.

D (going surfing) is not correct. The girl says, 'Let's do that another day...'.

Question 2

Where does the man think he lost his wallet?

Specimen answer

D

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **D** (on the train). The man says, 'It must've fallen out while I was on the train.'

Candidates need to listen carefully as the speaker talks about each of the locations to work out where he left his wallet, ruling out three of them.

Common mistakes

A (at the supermarket) is not correct. He says, 'when I stopped at the supermarket ... I realised it wasn't there...', so this is not where he lost it. He had *already* lost it by then.

B (at the petrol station) is not correct. He says, 'I know I had it this morning, because I filled up the car with petrol first thing.' so he used it to pay when he was there.

C (at the office) is not correct. He says, 'I definitely put it in my pocket when I left the office,' so he still had it at that stage.

Question 3

Who will give the first talk at the school?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (an artist). The doctor's talk will come 'before either of' the talks by the journalist or the chef, but will 'follow a short one by an artist' – so the artist's talk will be first.

The question is about which speaker will be *first*, so candidates need to listen carefully for sequence words that tell them the order of events – in this text they are 'before' and 'follow' (= after).

Common mistakes

A (a doctor) is not correct. As above, his talk will 'follow a short one by an artist'.

C (a chef) is not correct. The speaker says the doctor's talk will come before his, so the chef's talk won't be first.

D (a journalist) is not correct. The doctor's talk will also come before his, so the journalist's talk won't be first.

Question 4

Which photo did the boy enter in the competition?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B**, as it shows the only photo with someone sitting under the tree. The boy says he chose ('went for') that one, 'where my brother is sitting under the tree looking up at it'.

The boy mentions a number of positive points about the tree, including one photo that he loves – but question specifically focuses on which photo he chose for the competition.

Common mistakes

A is not correct. The boy mentions how big the tree is, but A doesn't show anyone sitting under the tree.

C is not correct. The boy says he loves the photo 'of my family holding hands around it' [the tree] but it is not the photo he chose.

D is not correct. He says the photo with his brother beside it 'really shows its size' but again, it is not the one he chose.

Question 5

What did the woman do on her day trip?

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C**. The woman says, 'I *ended up* going to the local market'.

Each of the activities in the pictures is mentioned, but the woman eliminates each one by giving reasons why she decided not to do them. So, the answer lies in where she '*ended up going to*'.

Common mistakes

A is not correct. She wanted to join a guided tour, but then found she would have to 'book in advance'.

B is not correct. The museum was recommended to her, but 'the weather was so nice' she decided not to spend time indoors.

D is not correct. She didn't go to the shops, but said that she would 'like to go back to explore' them.

Question 6

How will the boy get to school tomorrow?

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C**. The boy wants to cycle to school tomorrow instead of taking the bus, but his mother tells him he will 'have to do that for one more day' ('do that' refers to getting the bus) as he has no bicycle lights.

Getting the key can sometimes depend on understanding pronouns and what they refer to – in this case, 'that' refers back to getting the bus.

Common mistakes

A is not correct. The boy does mention walking, but that he is going to walk to the shops to buy some cycle lights.

B is not correct. The boy proposes cycling tomorrow, but he has no lights.

D is not correct. The boy's mum is collecting him from school by car tomorrow – 'I can pick you up and ... drive you to the bike shop.'

Question 7

What is the woman planning to wear to her friend's wedding?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B**. The woman wants to borrow the friend's jacket and wear a dress 'with the same pattern' as her top with the flowers.

The text requires candidates to follow references using pronouns, to understand what the woman is talking about, e.g. '... that top you like, not the plain *one*, the *one* with the flowers...'. When answering a question involving several different choices, it can be useful to cross out any items that are definitely eliminated, in order to narrow the choice.

Common mistakes

A is not correct. She considered wearing the flower skirt, but in the end, she 'picked the dress with the same pattern.'

C is not correct. She offers to let her friend borrow the top with the flowers – 'I can lend you that top you like, not the plain one, the one with the flowers.'

D is not correct. The only plain item she mentions is the top.

Question 8

Why did the boy go to the doctor's yesterday?

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** – the boy says, 'I've *done something* to my back', meaning he has injured it.

The answer isn't explicitly stated – he doesn't directly say he went to the doctor about his back, but this can be inferred as the boy says the doctor gave him something for it. He also mentions two other medical problems first before he reveals the answer.

Common mistakes

B is not correct. The girl asks, 'It wasn't your knee again, was it?' to which he replies 'That's (= his knee) not so bad.'

C is not correct. It was his father who had a headache, not him.

D is not correct. He explains that 'the elbow injury seems to be getting better.'

Total marks awarded = 8 out of 8

General guidance for Exercise 1

For each question in this part of the paper, candidates choose an answer from a set of four pictures, while listening to a short dialogue or monologue. They might find it useful to familiarise themselves with the eight questions and sets of pictures before the recording starts and think about what items of vocabulary they might hear.

Exercise 2

Question 9

What does the girl think about the book?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (the story moves too slowly). The girl says that ‘not much happens in the book’.

Each of the options describes a negative aspect of the book – the characters, the story and where it is set – so candidates need to listen for a negative opinion about one of them.

Common mistakes

A (the characters are rather boring) is not correct. The girl says that the characters’ *‘lives* are a bit dull’, but this does not mean that the people themselves are – she says that ‘they seem nice.’

C (the place where it’s set is not realistic) is not correct. The girl knows the place – ‘we sometimes go on holiday to the town where the story takes place’ – but she doesn’t suggest that it is unrealistic.

Question 10

What kind of book would the boy like to study next?

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (crime) – ‘everyone would enjoy reading a novel about detectives trying to find out who was robbing banks.’

The boy doesn’t state directly what he would like to study next – he just says that ‘everyone’ would like this kind of novel, but this is also intended to include himself.

Common mistakes

A (horror) is not correct. He says, ‘I’ve never been a great fan of scary stories.’

B (non-fiction) is not correct. The girl suggests biographies (a form of non-fiction), but the boy is ‘not sure how much we’d learn from them’.

Question 11

What will the students do first at the centre?

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (discuss the importance of recycling). The teacher says, 'we'll start off with a session in their education room, exploring why it's essential to use waste again rather than just throwing it away.'

This is an 'order of events' question, in which candidates have to listen for verbs and time markers (before, after) that tell them what the sequence was. It is also important to understand back referencing, e.g. 'after *that*' refers back to the education session.

Common mistakes

B (learn about health and safety at the recycling centre) is not correct. The teacher explains that 'after that [the education session], they'll tell us all about staying safe during our visit', so it's not the first thing they'll do.

C (go on a tour of the recycling centre) is not correct. They will have the education session 'before we have a look around the centre.'

Question 12

What should the students bring with them?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (an item of clothing). The teacher says, 'you'll need coats.'

The options are paraphrases of what is in the recording, e.g. 'an item of clothing' in B = a coat. So candidates need to be aware that they have to match the two. The second question is cued by the teacher talking about what is provided.

Common mistakes

A (food for the trip) is not correct. The teacher explains they will be 'back at school in time for lunch', and that snacks will be provided, so they won't need to take food.

C (something to write in) is not correct. The teacher says, 'don't worry about taking a notebook.'

Question 13

How did the girl find out about the website?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (she discovered it by accident). The girl says, 'I was actually looking for sites where I could buy a guitar when I saw the link and just clicked on it.'

Like many questions, the language used in the question and options is paraphrased in the recording. Candidates need to learn to identify synonyms and paraphrase, such as 'suggested by' for 'told her about it'.

Common mistakes

A (it was recommended in a magazine) is not correct. The girl found the link while looking for other websites (not magazines).

C (a relative told her about it) is not correct. The boy asks whether the site was suggested by someone. In reply, the girl mentions her sister, but in fact 'she'd never ever heard of it.'

Question 14

The friends both think that...

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (the reviews on the website are very good). The boy loves 'the opinions their journalists give about new music', and the girl agrees: 'They're so clearly written, and accurate too.'

This question has a sentence-completion format, so the option chosen must complete the sentence to give the correct answer. The question also requires candidates to identify agreement between the two speakers. Question 14 is cued (signalled) by the boy beginning to say what he thinks about the site: 'I love the opinions...'

Common mistakes

B (the videos on the website are all worth watching) is not correct. The girl says that she enjoys them, but the boy doesn't agree that they're *all* worth watching. He says: 'There are some fantastic ones but a few I'm not so interested in.'

C (the competitions on the website all have some great prizes) is not correct. The boy has won some concert tickets, but the girl points out that 'some of the music downloads you can win aren't that good.'

Question 15

How did the girl feel about the end of last night's episode?

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (confused). She says she's 'not totally sure if I understood how it finished.'

This requires candidates to identify the speaker's feelings. It is important to keep the question in mind, as it is about the *end* of the episode, not the rest of it.

Common mistakes

B (disappointed) is not correct. She assures her friend that 'you won't feel let down'.

C (surprised) is not correct. She explains that 'it was as good as we'd expected all the way through.' She does express surprise at the beginning – 'I can't believe...' – but this is in connection with the friend missing the final episode.

Question 16

What did the girl find out about the person who wrote the series?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (where she comes from). She says, 'I didn't realise that she's Korean.' In other words, she didn't know this fact beforehand.

Common mistakes

A (how old she is) is not correct. An age is mentioned, but only in connection with how long the writer has been working: 'she's been making programmes since she was in her twenties.' It doesn't reveal how old she is now.

C (what she is working on now) is not correct. According to the girl, 'everyone wants to know what her current project is, but that's the one thing she won't answer.'

Question 17

The actor moved to Australia because...

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (his family were already living there). He reveals that his wife and children had already moved to Australia, and 'as soon as my work situation allowed, I came to join them.'

Common mistakes

A (he preferred the way of life there) is not correct. He comments on the way of life in Australia: 'I'm still getting used to how much more relaxed things are here', but this isn't why he moved there.

B (there was more work available there) is not correct. He says, 'there are as many film and theatre jobs here as back home', so there wasn't *more* work available in Australia.

Question 18

What does the actor say about his new film?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (it's very different to his other work). He says that previously he was in 'big action films that are popular', but this one (= his new film) is 'aimed at fans of more serious films'.

Common mistakes

A (he's sure it will make a lot of money) is not correct. The actor does refer to a lot of money ('billions of dollars'), but this is about the films he appeared in previously, not his new film.

C (a wide range of people will enjoy it) is not correct. The film is 'aimed at fans of more serious films' so is 'unlikely to appear on as many screens'.

Total marks awarded = 10 out of 10

General guidance for Exercise 2

In this part, candidates listen to five short recordings, and need to answer two multiple-choice questions for each recording. Candidates should therefore listen carefully for a cue (a signal) that the recording is moving on to the second question.

Exercise 3

Question 19

Matthew says that one thing that is typical of all crocodile species is ...

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (how much cold they can tolerate). He explains that 'each one is very sensitive to low temperatures ... they have no internal system for keeping warm.' 'Each one' refers back to the 14 species of crocodile.

The speaker explains several facts about the 14 species of crocodile, but candidates need to listen for 'what is typical of all crocodile species'.

Common mistakes

A (how big they can grow) is not correct. Matthew says that crocodile species 'range in size'.

C (how well protected they are) is not correct. He says that there are 14 species, 'some of which are quite common, while others are in danger of disappearing altogether.'

Question 20

Matthew says that the crocodiles he studies can live for a maximum of ... years.

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (75). The question is about their *maximum* lifespan, and he mentions that for Nile crocodiles, 'the luckier ones make it to 75 years.'

The information for this question is clearly cued in the recording: 'The species that I study...'. All three numbers are heard, but only one of them refers to the maximum lifespan of the Nile crocodile, which is the species he studies.

Common mistakes

A (55) is not correct. He mentions that 'the average Nile crocodile can expect to live for around 55 years,' but this is not the *maximum*.

C (80) is not correct. The figure of 80 years is mentioned, but in connection with the lifespan of humans, not crocodiles.

Question 21

Matthew says that crocodiles tend to be lighter in colour if they live in ... water.

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (fast-flowing). Matthew says that crocodiles that are 'found in rivers where the water flows quickly are *generally paler* (= tend to be lighter) than other species of crocodiles.'

The move to the section of the talk which relates to Question 21 is well cued, with the mention of colour (the first reference is 'dark brown').

Common mistakes

A (salty) is not correct. Matthew mentions salty water, but only to say that crocodiles don't normally live in it.

B (muddy) is not correct. Matthew mentions that 'mud can hide their actual colour' but not that they tend to be lighter in colour because of it.

Question 22

Matthew was surprised to learn that crocodiles occasionally eat ... as well as meat.

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (fruit). Matthew was 'amazed to learn ... they'll happily take fruit that falls into the water.'

The relevant section of the recording is cued by the words 'meat eaters', which matches the words in the question.

Common mistakes

B (grass) is not correct. Grass is mentioned, but only to explain that crocodiles can't eat it: 'crocodiles aren't adapted to eating grass.'

C (leaves) is not correct. Crocodiles don't eat leaves; they *ignore* 'any leaves that may have dropped onto the surface from nearby trees.'

Question 23

Matthew estimates that crocodiles renew their teeth ... times during their lives.

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (50). Matthew explains that crocodiles' teeth are replaced when they fall out, 'a cycle that's repeated on perhaps 50 occasions throughout their lifetime.'

The move to the next section of the recording is signalled by the word 'teeth'. All three numbers are mentioned in the recording, so candidates need to understand what each number refers to in order to answer the question.

Common mistakes

B (60) and **C** (110) are not correct. The numbers 60 and 110 are mentioned in connection with the total number of teeth a crocodile may have: '... between 60 and 110 in their mouths at any one time'.

Question 24

Matthew says that crocodiles' jaws are 10 times more powerful than those of a ...

Specimen answer

C

.....
Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (shark). When talking about the strength of different creatures' jaws, Matthew refers to shark jaws, then says that those of a crocodile are 'ten times more powerful'.

The information relevant to Question 24 is cued in the recording by the words 'Crocodiles' jaws'. Candidates have to follow the references through the sentence about sharks and work out that 'the largest ones' refers to sharks. There are several numbers referred to in this section of the recording, so candidates may find it useful to make brief notes about them.

Common mistakes

A (bear) is not correct. Matthew says that the 'crocodile's bites are over four times stronger' than those of bears.

B (lion) is not correct. Matthew explains that 'a lion's bite is around 8 times weaker than a crocodile's.'

Question 25

Matthew mentions that crocodiles usually use their ... to change direction when swimming.

Specimen answer

C

.....
Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (feet). Matthew says that 'when they need to turn (= change direction), they rely on their feet.'

The relevant section of the recording is clearly cued by the word 'swimmers'.

Common mistakes

A (heads) is not correct. Matthew explains that crocodiles' heads don't move much: they 'remain relatively still so they can check what's going on around them.'

B (tails) is not correct. Their 'tails provide the power' but don't assist them in changing direction.

Question 26

Matthew has noticed that the crocodiles he researches often sleep ...

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (with their mouths open). Matthew says that 'They tend to lie with their mouths open ... and they usually catch up on some sleep while doing this.'

The information relevant to the final question is cued in the recording by the word 'sleeping'. There are a number of time adverbs in this section of the recording, and candidates need to listen for one that most closely matches 'often' – in this case they hear 'usually'.

Common mistakes

B (without closing their eyes) is not correct. Matthew says that they do this 'occasionally', not 'often': '*Occasionally* they'll sleep without closing their eyes.'

C (while floating on the water) is not correct. Matthew says that they 'sometimes' do this, not 'often': '*Sometimes* they sleep while floating on the water too.'

Total marks awarded = 8 out of 8

General guidance for Exercise 3

Exercise 3 involves listening to a longer monologue and answering eight questions. The multiple-choice questions are in the form of sentence completion, each with three options to choose from. As candidates listen, they need to carefully follow the cues for each section of the recording, to avoid losing their place. These cues can be in the form of hearing similar words or phrases to those used in the questions.

Exercise 4

Question 27

Speaker 1

Specimen answer

D

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **D** (I'd like the club to meet more regularly). The speaker says, 'the sessions are only once a week, whereas I'd be happy to go two or even three times.'

Common mistakes

A (I joined the club because I wanted to make new friends) is not correct. The speaker says, 'I've met lots of interesting new people there,' but doesn't suggest this was the reason for joining.

B (I wish the club had more new members) is not correct. The speaker says, 'new people seem to start almost every session,' but this isn't the same as wishing that the club had more new members.

C (I've learned a lot since I joined the club) is not correct. The speaker says she wanted to improve her acting skills and 'thought it [the club] would be a good way of doing that' but doesn't think 'I've achieved my aim yet.'

H (I hate it when I miss one of the club sessions) is not correct. The speaker says, 'I haven't missed a single session yet.'

Question 28

Speaker 2

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (I joined the club because I wanted to make new friends). The speaker says 'I went there initially because ... I thought it'd be a great way to get to know people my age.'

Common mistakes

G (I've encouraged people I know to join the club too) is not correct. The speaker says he would 'really recommend joining a club to anyone wanting to do something similar' – in other words he would do so in the future – he hasn't actually done this so far.

H (I hate it when I miss one of the club sessions) is not correct. The speaker doesn't go to every session of the club because 'I get so much homework from school' but it isn't a problem – 'there's no pressure to go every week anyway'.

Question 29

Speaker 3

Specimen answer

E

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **E** (I think the club should offer a wider range of activities). The speaker implies that the range of activities isn't very wide: 'We basically just watch a film...'. She also says, 'it'd be more fun if we discussed the film afterwards, and researched how it was made and things like that.' In other words, doing a wider range of activities would be better.

Common mistakes

D (I'd like the club to meet more regularly) is not correct. The speaker says the club meets 'every Wednesday after school, which suits me fine,' so she doesn't wish it met more regularly.

F (I'm actually thinking of leaving the club quite soon) is not correct. The speaker refers to leaving, but says she has 'no plans to give up going there just yet.'

Question 30

Speaker 4

Specimen answer

H

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **H** (I hate it when I miss one of the club sessions). The speaker says: 'if I can't go one week ... I get in a really bad mood.' In other words, he hates missing sessions.

Common mistakes

A (I joined the club because I wanted to make new friends.) is not correct. 'The speaker says: 'Lots of my friends were already members so I decided to join too,' – he joined because of his friends, not to make new ones.

E (I think the club should offer a wider range of activities) is not correct. The speaker says: 'We only do one thing – play games ... but that's ideal for me.' This means that he doesn't wish for more activities.

Question 31

Speaker 5

Specimen answer

G

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **G** (I've encouraged people I know to join the club too). The speaker says: 'Quite a few of my mates are members too since I kept going on about how good it was!' This implies that she has encouraged others to join.

Common mistakes

C (I've learned a lot since I joined the club) is not correct. The speaker says she loves 'seeing marine life', but she doesn't say she has learned a lot about it.

E (I think the club should offer a wider range of activities) is not correct. She mentions the activities they do, but the comment is about a comparison between what they do in the pool and in the sea, not that she wants a wider range.

F (I'm actually thinking of leaving the club quite soon) is not correct. She definitely isn't thinking about leaving: 'I can't see myself ever stopping going to the club.'

Question 32

Speaker 6

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (I wish the club had more new members). The speaker says, 'It'd be good to see a few fresh faces (= new members) there.'

Common mistakes

C (I've learned a lot since I joined the club) is not correct. He says, 'some members have ... developed their skills really quickly', but he doesn't comment on whether he has too.

G (I've encouraged people I know to join the club too) is not correct. He hasn't encouraged people to join yet, but is thinking about it: 'Maybe I'll try convincing some of my mates to join.'

Total marks awarded = 6 out of 6

General guidance for Exercise 4

In Exercise 4, candidates listen to six monologues on the same topic, and they have to match what each speaker says to one of eight statements. There are two extra statements, which are not used.

In each recording, there will be references to a number of the statements, but only one of the statements will match what the speaker says in full.

Exercise 5

Question 33

What does Gillian say about her childhood?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (Her ambitions at the time were very limited). She implies this by saying 'the most adventurous I got in terms of a career at the time was wanting to become a hairdresser.'

The interviewer doesn't mention the word childhood but uses 'upbringing' instead.

Common mistakes

A (Being part of a close family was important) is not correct. She suggests that her family weren't particularly close. She says that her parents were 'so busy' and she would 'have loved to have spent more time with them'.

C (She travelled with her family from an early age) is not correct. She wanted to be like her friends 'who went on family holidays to the coast or to other countries', but she didn't get the opportunity to do this.

Question 34

Gillian describes her time at school as...

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (a challenging period of her life). Gillian says of her time at school that she 'found it really tough, right from the start.'

This question is cued by the interviewer's reference to 'school life'.

Common mistakes

A (no different to most other children's) is not correct. She says that 'most kids seemed to handle the pressure and discipline of being at school reasonably well,' but then contrasts this with her own experience.

B (shorter than she would have liked) is not correct. She 'left as soon as I possibly could ... with few qualifications', after 'the eleven years I'd spent there'. This implies that she found her time at school was too long, rather than too short.

Question 35

Gillian says that her first job...

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (taught her a valuable lesson). What she learned from her first job, in an office, was that 'I should do something in life that I actually enjoyed.' This is a 'valuable' lesson, as it is the 'one thing' she learned from it, i.e. the most important thing.

This question is cued in the interviewer's question with the word 'work', which is synonymous with 'job'.

Common mistakes

B (let her help her family financially) is not correct. She says her parents 'were probably hoping for a bit of help towards the cost of food,' but that her salary 'barely covered my travel expenses'. In other words, she didn't earn enough to be able to give any money to her parents.

C (increased her self-confidence) is not correct. She found herself spending the day photo-copying, which had the opposite effect: it 'hardly helped my self-belief'.

Question 36

Gillian was offered TV work as a result of...

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (posting videos online). Gillian says she filmed herself visiting 'interesting places' around where she lived, and 'I uploaded these (= the films)'. She then explains that a TV producer saw them, and as a result asked Gillian 'to make a programme with her'.

The interviewer asks Gillian about 'making documentaries for TV', which cues Question 36.

Common mistakes

A (writing a book) is not correct. She mentions a guidebook to her local area, but not that she wrote it. She used it to visit different interesting places.

C (knowing a producer) is not correct. She mentions that 'a well-known TV producer' saw her films online and contacted her, but she doesn't say that she already knew this person.

Question 37

What surprised Gillian about her first trip abroad to make a documentary?

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (how badly organised it was). Based on what she had seen of travel documentaries on TV, she says she had 'assumed everything would be really well-planned' but 'in reality, ... we'd often be waiting for local guides to appear', because the production team had made mistakes. This means she felt it was badly organised, and against her expectations – she was surprised by this.

The cue for this question is 'first programme'. Her first programme, she says, was in Greenland, so this was her first trip abroad to make a documentary. Candidates need to listen for her attitude – what surprised her.

Common mistakes

B (how long the working days were) is not correct. She thought they would be 'spending the scheduled ten hours a day filming', so she was expecting the long working days.

C (how large the country she visited was) is not correct. She already knew that Greenland was large: 'a vast and largely frozen place – I wasn't wrong!' This last phrase indicates that she wasn't surprised by this.

Question 38

What does Gillian's husband say about her trips abroad?

Specimen answer

B

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **B** (He understands how difficult they can be). Gillian explains that her husband is a cameraman, and often away filming, and '... because he's involved in similar work, he knows how exhausting it can be.'

The cue in the interviewer's question is the word 'family'. Gillian then mentions her husband in her reply.

Common mistakes

A (He wishes they were a bit shorter) is not correct. She mentions that if they had children, they wouldn't take on work that involved 'such lengthy times abroad', but that 'it works fine at the moment.' This means that they both feel her trips don't need to be any shorter at the moment.

C (He would like to accompany her on them) is not correct. Gillian explains: 'Neither of us thinks it's a good idea to work and travel together.'

Question 39

What quality does Gillian say is essential for travel documentary makers?

Specimen answer

C

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **C** (curiosity). Gillian doesn't mention the word 'curiosity', but implies it is necessary by saying: 'if you have no natural tendency to learn more ... you'll never be successful.'

This question is cued by the word 'qualities' in the interviewer's question.

Common mistakes

A (bravery) is not correct. Gillian doesn't use the word 'bravery' but mentions 'courage' and 'being able to face potentially dangerous situations'. However, she says that this quality is 'useful', not essential.

B (determination) is not correct. Gillian emphasises that 'no matter how determined you are to do well', it's impossible to succeed without curiosity.

Question 40

What does Gillian say about speaking in front of a live audience

Specimen answer

A

Mark awarded = 1 out of 1

Examiner comment

The key is **A** (It's far more frightening than she expected). Gillian uses the words 'I could never have guessed how terrified I'd be' to explain this.

This question is cued by the interviewer's reference to 'live speaking events'.

Common mistakes

B (She's often asked predictable questions) is not correct. She explains that the opposite is actually true – 'I really have no idea what the audience's reaction will be or what they'll want to know in the question and answer session at the end.'

C (It's something she feels obliged to do) is not correct. Again, the opposite is true – she says 'I've chosen to do them – they're not something that's been forced upon me.'

Total marks awarded = 8 out of 8

General guidance for Exercise 5

In Exercise 5, candidates listen to an interview with one speaker. Each question on the page is cued in the recording by the interviewer's question, which may use the same or similar words, for example synonyms or paraphrase. Before the recording begins, candidates should use the time to read quickly through the questions. They could also underline key words, e.g. 'childhood' in Question 1, 'school' in Question 2, and so on.

You will hear an interview with a woman called Gillian Harrison, who makes travel documentaries.

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