

The four test components

Listening

The Listening component takes around 30 minutes to complete. There are 40 questions in four sections. A variety of question types is used in order to test a wide range of listening skills. These include ability to understand main ideas and detailed factual information, ability to understand the opinions and attitudes of speakers, ability to understand the purpose of an utterance and ability to follow the development of ideas.

The first two sections deal with situations set in everyday social contexts. There is a conversation between two speakers in Section 1 and a monologue in Section 2.

The final two sections deal with situations set in educational or training contexts. In Section 3, there is a conversation between up to four speakers (for example, between a university tutor and some students), and Section 4 is a monologue on an academic subject.

There is a range of native-speaker accents in the recordings, which reflects the international nature of IELTS.

Listening Task Section 3 (example)

SECTION 3

Questions 21 – 30

Questions 21 and 22

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

Environmental Project

- Harry and Katy have to concentrate on coastal change for their next project.
- 21 Their work could be delayed by the
- They plan to get help from the Marine Biology Unit.
- 22 Before they go to the beach, they need to visit the

Questions 23 – 26

Who will do each of the following tasks?

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| A | Katy |
| B | Harry |
| C | Both Katy and Harry |

Write the correct letter, **A, B or C**, next to questions 23-26.

Tasks

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-------|
| 23 | take photographs | |
| 24 | collect samples | |
| 25 | interview people | |
| 26 | analyse data | |

Questions 27 – 30

Choose the correct letter, **A, B or C**.

- 27 Why does Harry want to do the presentation?
- A to practise skills for his future career
 - B to catch up with his course requirements
 - C to get a better mark than for his last presentation
- 28 What is Katy's attitude to writing up the project?
- A She is worried about the time available for writing.
 - B She thinks it is unfair if she has to do all the writing.
 - C She is concerned that some parts will be difficult.
- 29 Why does Harry want to involve the other students at the end of the presentation?
- A to get their opinions about the conclusions
 - B to help him and Katy reach firm conclusions
 - C to see if they have reached similar conclusions
- 30 Katy agrees to deal with any questions because
- A she feels she will be confident about the material.
 - B Harry will be doing the main presentation.
 - C she has already told Dr Smith she will do this.