SKILL 18: ANTICIPATE THE TOPICS

It is very helpful to your overall comprehension if you know what topics to expect in Listening Part B. You should therefore try to anticipate the topics you will be hearing. For example, are the conversations about some aspect of school life, or some type of social issue, or a trip someone is planning? A helpful strategy is therefore to look briefly at the answers in the test book, before you actually hear the conversations in the recording program, and try to determine the topics of the conversations that you will hear.

EXERCISE 18: Look at the answers to the five questions together, and try to anticipate the topic of the conversation for those five questions. (Of course, you cannot always determine exactly what the topic is, but you often can get a general idea.) Questions 1 through 5 have been answered for you.

1. (A) Find *work on campus.*
   (B) *Work* in the *employment office.*
   (C) Help *students* find *jobs.*
   (D) Ask the woman questions.

2. (A) In the library.
   (B) In a classroom.
   (C) In a campus office.
   (D) In an apartment.

3. (A) No more than ten.
   (B) At least twenty.
   (C) Not more than twenty.
   (D) Up to ten.

4. (A) Every morning.
   (B) Afternoons and weekends.
   (C) When he's in class.
   (D) Weekdays.

5. (A) Fill out a form.
   (B) Give her some additional information.
   (C) Tell her some news.
   (D) Phone her.

What is the topic of the conversation for questions 1 through 5?

looking for a job on campus

You can guess this because of the following clues:

- *work on campus*
- *employment office*
- *students*
- *jobs*

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6. (A) Just before a vacation.
   (B) Just after the end of a school semester.
   (C) At the end of the summer.
   (D) Just after a break from school.

7. (A) A trip to visit the Eskimos.
   (B) A trip the woman is planning to take.
   (C) A trip the man has already taken.
   (D) A camping trip the man and woman took.

8. (A) Three hours.
   (B) Three complete days.
   (C) Three classes.
   (D) Three weeks.

9. (A) Sleeping outside on the ground.
   (B) Spending time in a sauna or hot tub.
   (C) Relaxing at the lodge.
   (D) Enjoying excellent food.

10. (A) She'd be scared, but she'd like to try.
    (B) She can't wait.
    (C) It would be quite exciting for her.
    (D) She'd prefer not to try.

What is the topic of the conversation for questions 6 through 10?

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11. (A) All kinds of pollution.
    (B) How acid rain has harmed the earth.
    (C) Pollution from cars and factories.
    (D) The causes and possible effects of acid rain.

12. (A) Nuclear power.
    (B) Electricity.
    (C) Burning coal and oil.
    (D) Solar power.

13. (A) From sulfur dioxide and water vapor.
    (B) From sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.
    (C) From nitric acid and sulfur dioxide.
    (D) From water vapor and nitric acid.

14. (A) Only in North America.
    (B) At the North and South Poles.
    (C) In parts of several northern continents.
    (D) In equatorial areas.

15. (A) She should protect herself from the rain.
    (B) She should clean up the water supply.
    (C) She should read a novel.
    (D) She should get more information about acid rain.

What is the topic of the conversation for questions 11 through 15?

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EXERCISE 19: Study the following answers and try to determine what the questions will be. (You should note that perhaps you will only be able to predict part of a question, rather than the complete question.) If you cannot predict the question in a short period of time, then move on to the next group of answers. Question 1 has been answered for you.

1. Question: *What does (someone) want to do?*
   (A) Find work on campus.
   (B) Work in the employment office.
   (C) Help students find jobs.
   (D) Ask the woman questions.

2. Question: _____
   (A) In the library.
   (B) In a classroom.
   (C) In a campus office.
   (D) In an apartment.

3. Question: _____
   (A) No more than ten.
   (B) At least twenty.
   (C) Not more than twenty.
   (D) Up to ten.

4. Question: _____
   (A) Every morning.
   (B) Afternoons and weekends.
   (C) When he's in class.
   (D) Weekdays.

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5. Question: _____
   (A) Fill out a form.
   (B) Give her some additional information.
   (C) Tell her some news.
   (D) Phone her.

6. Question: _____
   (A) Just before a vacation.
   (B) Just after the end of a school semester.
   (C) At the end of the summer.
   (D) Just after a break from school.

7. Question: _____
   (A) A trip to visit the Eskimos.
   (B) A trip the woman is planning to take.
   (C) A trip the man has already taken.
   (D) A camping trip the man and woman took.

8. Question: _____
   (A) Three hours.
   (B) Three complete days.
   (C) Three classes.
   (D) Three weeks.

9. Question: _____
   (A) Sleeping outside on the ground.
   (B) Spending time in a sauna or hot tub.
   (C) Relaxing at the lodge.
   (D) Enjoying excellent food.

10. Question: _____
    (A) She'd be scared, but she'd like to try.
    (B) She can't wait.
    (C) It would be quite exciting for her.
    (D) She'd prefer not to try.

11. Question: _____
    (A) All kinds of pollution.
    (B) How acid rain has harmed the earth.
    (C) Pollution from cars and factories.
    (D) The causes and possible effects of acid rain.

12. Question: _____
    (A) Nuclear power.
    (B) Electricity.
    (C) Burning coal and oil.
    (D) Solar power.

13. Question: _____
    (A) From sulfur dioxide and water vapor.
    (B) From sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.
    (C) From nitric acid and sulfur dioxide.
    (D) From water vapor and nitric acid.

14. Question: _____
    (A) Only in North America.
    (B) At the North and South Poles.
    (C) In parts of several northern continents.
    (D) In equatorial areas.

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15. Question: _____

(A) She should protect herself from the rain.
(B) She should clean up the water supply.
(C) She should read a novel.
(D) She should get more information about acid rain.

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