

**PART I: WRITTEN RECEPTION (70 points)**  
(ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM WRITTEN TEXTS)

Read the article below and then answer questions 1-7.

**THE RISE OF AUDIOBOOKS — THE BOOKS WE LISTEN TO**

**I** In recent years, publishers have become worried about the decrease in sales of printed books. However, it seems that books are not really disappearing. Instead, an increasing number of people are choosing to listen to them rather than read them. In fact, the International Organization of Publishers (IOP) found that 100 million audiobooks were sold in 2020 — 25% more than in the 5 year before. Moreover, publishers added 60,000 new audiobooks to the 300,000 already available.

**II** Audiobooks also seem to be attracting new audiences. A recent IOP survey shows, for example, that they are especially popular among young men aged 18 to 24 — a group that does not usually buy printed books. In addition, it was found that they appeal to people of all ages who don't have time to read books. Many of those who were surveyed said that audiobooks enable them 10 to enjoy a book while traveling by bus or making breakfast. People also said that it is much more relaxing to listen than to read at the end of a busy workday.

**III** Thanks to technological developments in the last few years, publishers can produce audiobooks more cheaply and with many additional features. In the past, a whole book was recorded by a single reader. Now, several readers are often used for the different characters, and 15 background sounds and music are added for a richer listening experience. Furthermore, authors now often have a role in producing audiobooks. They are sometimes recorded reading their own books, and they also give advice on the type of music and sounds that should be used. Lately, several publishers have even asked authors to write books exclusively for recording as audiobooks.

**IV** However, the latest audiobooks are also causing some concerns. "When you read a printed 20 book, you need to use your imagination," says psychologist Sandra Bell. "But all those recorded voices and background sounds don't leave much for you to imagine." Bell also notes recent research which shows that people often miss important parts of the story when they listen to a book. "That's not surprising, because you're usually doing other things at the same time," she says. "Still, I'm glad people have audiobooks in their lives. It's certainly better than having no books at all."



QUESTIONS (70 points)

Answer questions **1-7** in English according to the article. In questions **1, 2, 6** and **7**, circle the number of the correct answer. In the other questions, follow the instructions.

**1.** What can we understand from paragraph I?

- (i) Where the new audiobooks can be found.
- (ii) When audiobooks were first published.
- (iii) How many printed books were published in 2020.
- (iv) How book sales have changed.

(9 points)

**2.** The information about young men aged 18-24 is given to show that (-). (paragraph II)

- (i) audiobooks appeal to people who don't usually read books
- (ii) more people are interested in buying printed books
- (iii) young people are too busy to read books
- (iv) most books are not written for young people

(9 points)

**3.** What is presented in lines 8-11?

COMPLETE THE ANSWER.

Reasons why people .....

(9 points)

**4.** What else might people be doing when listening to an audiobook? Give ONE answer. (paragraph II)

COMPLETE THE ANSWER.

They might be .....

(9 points)

**5.** In the past, audiobooks were not the same as they are today. Give TWO ways in which they were different. Base your answers on lines 12-15.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES.

(1) In the past, audiobooks had.....

(2) In the past, audiobooks did not have.....

(2x8=16 points)

6. What is explained in lines 15-18?

- (i) Why authors like to read their own books.
- (ii) How publishers choose the books they record.
- (iii) How authors are involved in producing audiobooks.
- (iv) What advice publishers give authors of audiobooks.

(9 points)

7. Which of the following statements would Sandra Bell agree with? (paragraph IV)

- (i) Audiobooks should use more interesting sounds.
- (ii) Printed books are a better choice than audiobooks.
- (iii) Many people don't have a good imagination.
- (iv) People should never listen to audiobooks.

(9 points)