

## Speaking (20 pts)

A. Complete the mini-dialogues. The first letter of each missing word has been given. Then, send an audio to your teacher.

- Irina** I think this plan's a bit too risky. Do you s\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ I m\_\_\_\_\_?  
**Aga** Yes, I do and I agree.
- Rick** I know it's a complicated process to get your head around. Are you s\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_?  
**Helga** Yes, don't worry. I understand it.
- Cal** I'm afraid most of the staff are off sick today.  
**Matsumi** So if I've u\_\_\_\_\_ y\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_, there's no one available to give the presentation?
- Harry** Am I r\_\_\_\_\_ i\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ that you're taking some time off next week?  
**Aysan** Correct – I'll be back in the office on Monday 10th.
- Mia** What was that? I d\_\_\_\_\_ q\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_ that last bit.  
**Kosta** I said I'll meet you in town at half past five.

## Listening (20 pts)

B. ▷ Listen to 1–5 and mark the sound that you hear between the highlighted words. Choose from /t/, /d/, /n/, /p/, /b/, /m/, /d/, /g/ and /j/

- That map is out of date. \_\_\_\_\_
- A good gallery. \_\_\_\_\_
- It's a very modern building. \_\_\_\_\_
- A brown paper bag. \_\_\_\_\_
- This shelf isn't straight. \_\_\_\_\_

C. ▷ A man called Alan is leaving a voicemail for his friend Katya. Listen to the message and complete the sentences.

Hi Katya, it's Alan here. I'm just calling to check if <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to come round to our house this evening instead of tomorrow. It's just that Dianna's made <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ dish you love so we thought you might like to join us tonight for dinner. We've got some <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, too. What do you think? I'll pop out to the <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and pick up something to go with those oat crackers I've got from our holiday in Scotland. Anyway, hope to see you later. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, OK?

## Writing/Grammar (25 pts)

D. Complete the sentences with conjunctions from the box. Each conjunction can be used more than once.

|            |    |         |        |       |      |
|------------|----|---------|--------|-------|------|
| as soon as | if | in case | unless | until | when |
|------------|----|---------|--------|-------|------|

- I was embarrassed \_\_\_\_\_ I realized that I'd been getting my neighbour's name wrong!
- \_\_\_\_\_ it starts to rain later, the tennis match will go ahead.
- Please text me \_\_\_\_\_ your plane lands to let me know you've arrived.
- My brother slept with the light on from the age of two \_\_\_\_\_ he was eight.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I'm nervous about something, I always try talking to myself to calm myself down.
- Just imagine – \_\_\_\_\_ you next see me, I'll have finished my exams!
- Take plenty of suncream with you just \_\_\_\_\_ it gets hot this afternoon.
- We won't have a chance to catch up \_\_\_\_\_ the summer holidays are over.
- My meeting might finish ahead of schedule today; \_\_\_\_\_ it does, I'll be home earlier.
- The bank will sell their house \_\_\_\_\_ they make the repayments they owe.

**E. Read the review of a weekend course at a cookery school and choose the correct option a–c to complete the text.**

As weekend courses go, you could do a lot worse than spend a couple of days at Darina's Farmhouse Cookery School in south-west Ireland. As soon as my friend and I pulled up there last month the first thing that hit us was the smell of <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ bread – guaranteed to make anyone hungry!

We were greeted by Darina herself, and invited into the kitchen. I don't bake a lot but when I do, I don't tend to go for <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ stuff as I prefer sweet, so I was pleased that we'd be covering this on the course. Darina's speciality is a big cherry pie. She explained to us how the sugar mixes with the cherries and goes all <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at the bottom of the pie dish – just delicious!

Darina started by showing us various <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of cooking fish. To my surprise, we'd produced a very <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ fish pie within twenty minutes or so and by lunchtime, we'd made some delicious onion bread to go with it.

- |    |    |          |    |    |             |
|----|----|----------|----|----|-------------|
| 1. | a. | new      | 4. | a. | systems     |
|    | b. | recent   |    | b. | methods     |
|    | c. | fresh    |    | c. | processes   |
|    | d. | original |    | d. | routines    |
| 2. | a. | bitter   | 5. | a. | amusing     |
|    | b. | salty    |    | b. | appetizing  |
|    | c. | sour     |    | c. | charming    |
|    | d. | savoury  |    | d. | fascinating |
| 3. | a. | sticky   |    |    |             |
|    | b. | crisp    |    |    |             |
|    | c. | prickly  |    |    |             |
|    | d. | smooth   |    |    |             |

**F. Put the words in *italics* into the correct order.**

- I found \_\_\_\_\_ *old / gorgeous / vase / a / Russian* at the market.
- Karla baked \_\_\_\_\_ *big / apple / delicious / American / a* pie.
- The bride wore \_\_\_\_\_ *dress / silk / a / white / long*.
- We chose \_\_\_\_\_ *leather / chair / the / brown / small* in the end.
- Are you talking about \_\_\_\_\_ *pretty / pale / the / short / girl*?
- The coins were in \_\_\_\_\_ *box / dirty / a / metal / little*.
- I used to have \_\_\_\_\_ *blonde / short / hair / straight*.
- Is Maria \_\_\_\_\_ *slim / Greek / the / woman / tall*?
- The food was served on \_\_\_\_\_ *old / cheap / plates / plastic*.
- They bought \_\_\_\_\_ *car / a / second-hand / Italian / blue*.

**G. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Use between two and six words.**

- 'Do you know any hilarious jokes?' Ian asked his sister.  
IF -> Ian asked his sister \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'm sure it was Leo in the supermarket as I recognized his laugh.  
MUST -> It \_\_\_\_\_ in the supermarket as I recognized his laugh.
- We insisted on seeing the manager to complain about the food.  
DEMANDED -> We \_\_\_\_\_ the manager to complain about the food.
- If I don't do well at work, I won't get a pay rise.  
UNLESS -> I won't get a pay rise \_\_\_\_\_ at work.
- My boss didn't object to us leaving early due to the snow.  
OBJECTION -> Due to the snow, my boss didn't \_\_\_\_\_ us leaving early

**H. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the word in brackets.**

1. It was intended to be a funny show, but a lot of jokes were inappropriate. The whole thing was quite \_\_\_\_\_. (taste)
2. There's nothing more \_\_\_\_\_ than people in restaurants chatting loudly on their phones. (irritate)
3. I knew all along how the story would end. It was really \_\_\_\_\_! (predict)
4. Everyone enjoys reading Laura's blogs – they're always very \_\_\_\_\_. (wit)
5. You'll never get there on time now. It's \_\_\_\_\_ even trying. (point)

**I. Choose the correct answer from the words in italics.**

1. If you *look* / *watch* carefully at the TV, you'll notice a small crack in the screen.
2. Don't *feel* / *touch* it! You might break it.
3. 'Sorry, could you repeat that? I didn't *listen* / *hear* what you said.'
4. The police had been *watching* / *seeing* the criminal gang for weeks before they arrested them.
5. I *felt* / *touched* the saucepan by accident. I had no idea it was still hot!
6. As soon as I *saw* / *looked* her face, I knew immediately that she had good news.
7. You really should have *heard* / *listened* to my advice.
8. The doctor said he wanted to *touch* / *feel* my neck to see if it was swollen.
9. I was delighted when I *listened* / *heard* that Kumiko and Hitoshi were getting married.
10. I've never *seen* / *looked* such an interesting article on this topic.

**J. Complete the sentences with a word from the box in its correct form. There are two words that you don't need.**

|             |       |      |        |       |       |         |         |        |      |         |        |
|-------------|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|---------|---------|--------|------|---------|--------|
| distinguish | focus | gaze | glance | glare | stare | observe | reflect | reveal | spot | visible | vision |
|-------------|-------|------|--------|-------|-------|---------|---------|--------|------|---------|--------|

1. When I was looking through your work, I \_\_\_\_\_ some spelling mistakes.
2. The winner of the singing competition will be \_\_\_\_\_ on Saturday night's show.
3. Don't worry – the stain on your shirt is barely \_\_\_\_\_, so I'm sure nobody will notice.
4. When babies are a few months old, they're able to \_\_\_\_\_ more clearly than when they're born.
5. Since my sister had her eye operation, she's had no problem whatsoever with her \_\_\_\_\_.
6. 'Don't \_\_\_\_\_ at people. They'll think you're very rude!' said the mother to her son.
7. Researchers \_\_\_\_\_ a dramatic change in performance once the temperature of the metal had been lowered by two degrees.
8. 'How dare you speak to me like that!' she said, \_\_\_\_\_ angrily at the boy.
9. You can often \_\_\_\_\_ between a male and female bird, as the male tends to be more colourful.
10. I didn't read the letter carefully as I was in a rush. I just \_\_\_\_\_ at it.

**K. Choose a café, park, market or other public place that you know well and write a short description. Try to describe what all your senses experience, not just what you can see. Use the Language for writing to help you.**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <div><b>LANGUAGE FOR WRITING</b><br/>describing a scene in detail</div> <div><b>Sound words</b><br/>whisper, crunch, <u>clatter</u>, <u>noisy</u>, <u>murmur</u></div> <div><b>Taste/smell words</b><br/>fresh, savoury, bitter, <u>aroma</u>, <u>smell</u>, <u>delicious</u>, <u>feast</u>, <u>crispy</u>,<br/><u>smooth</u>, <u>rich</u></div> <div><b>Touch words</b><br/>sticky, rough, prickly, <u>crisp</u>, <u>smooth</u>, <u>stiff</u>, <u>solid</u></div> <div><b>Sight words</b><br/>striped, bright, <u>appears</u>, <u>dazzling</u>(ly), <u>twinkling</u>, <u>decorative</u>,<br/><u>striking</u></div> | <b>Description:</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|

## Reading (20 pts)

- L. Read the statements below and decide whether they are True (T) or False (F) according to the text "A Sound Idea: Can noise make us work harder?".

# A sound idea

## Can noise make us work harder?

Julian Treasure

**Can sound really enhance office workers' productivity? The Times thinks it can. The newspaper has installed the sound of old-fashioned typewriters in its newsroom, with the sound getting louder and louder at press deadline.**

Sound powerfully affects us in four ways, even though we're generally not conscious of it. Physiologically, sound alters all our rhythms, including heart rate, breathing and even brainwaves. Psychologically, sound changes our moods and emotions. Cognitively, sound affects how well we can think. And behaviourally, sound affects what we do and where we do it: we move away from unpleasant sound if we can. Hearing is our primary warning sense, so sound goes very deep very fast – and since we have no earplugs, our ears are working even while we sleep.

It's dangerous to generalize about sound because many of its effects work through association. These can be universal: we all instinctively associate any sudden, unexpected noise with danger, while most people find sounds like gentle rainfall or birdsong calming and reassuring. But many associations are very personal. Every individual's listening is as unique as his or her fingerprints because we all listen through filters that develop from our personal mix of culture, language, values and beliefs. That is why one person's musical taste is another person's hideous noise.

Most of the sound around us is accidental, unpleasant and counterproductive. We stand on street corners or sit in restaurants, yelling over 80dB of noise and pretending it doesn't exist. In society, noise is costing billions, mainly through loss of sleep, which affects one in five Europeans.



Is music a solution? Sadly, piped music in so many public spaces is often just more noise. Rarely is it carefully designed to improve our experience; much more likely it is there because retailers believe, incorrectly, that music makes people spend more. In fact, research has shown that fast-paced music generally speeds us up, so we leave sooner and spend less – exactly the opposite of the effect the retailers desire.

Music is designed to be listened to, so it's calling for attention all the time, interfering with our ability to listen to the voice in our head we need when we're doing mental work. Of course, listening to music may make a boring task more fun and help us to get it done – and everyone's different, so there may indeed be some people who are far more productive when they are listening to death metal.

Bearing that in mind, some useful rules of thumb are: slow-paced sound tends to relax; fast-paced tends to stimulate; stochastic sound (a wash of sound, like rainfall) tends to be good for working. The most distracting sounds are human conversation, telephones and alarms of any kind (hence the sounds in hospitals being disastrous for patient rest and sleep).

Conscious sound design can definitely help us all to become more productive, healthier and happier. But in offices, it needs to be designed after looking at the research available and installed by consensus on appropriate sound systems. Time will tell if *The Times* trial works, but my guess is that the sound won't last without the staff agreeing to it.

1. The Times installed the sound of old-fashioned typewriters to reduce distractions in the newsroom. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sound can affect us physiologically, psychologically, cognitively, and behaviorally. \_\_\_\_\_
3. People are always fully aware of how sound influences them. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We continue hearing even when we are asleep. \_\_\_\_\_
5. All people react the same way to background music at work. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Fast-paced music tends to slow us down and make us spend more time in stores. \_\_\_\_\_
7. According to the text, music always makes boring tasks more enjoyable. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Rainfall and birdsong are sounds that most people find unpleasant. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Stochastic sounds, like rain, are often helpful for concentration. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The article suggests that conscious sound design can improve productivity and well-being. \_\_\_\_\_