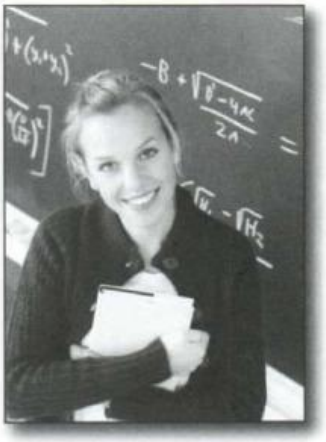
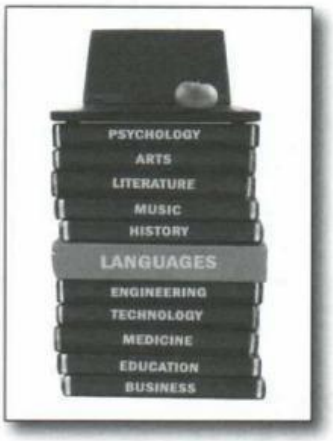
Homework - Unit 3 - Lesson 4

Listening

Unit 6 UNIVERSITY COURSES





Lead-in activity

Put the courses in the box below into their different university departments.

History, Psychology, Geography, Biochemistry, Computer Science, Medicine, Engineering Science, Archaeology, Economics, Law, Music, Chemistry, English Language / Literature, Art, Physics

Humanities	Mathematical and Physical Sciences	Medical Sciences	Social Sciences

Focus on Part 3 tasks

You will have noticed in the first five units of this book that the dialogues are based on day-to-day situations which are typical of Part One and Part Two tasks. However, the second half of the book includes the more academic side of university life. These next two units will focus on tasks found in Part Three, such as conversations between two students or students and lecturers on topics more directly linked to their studies.

Task 1

In this extract from the **Main Listening**, two students are talking together on their first day at university. Read the extract and then answer the question which follows.

Gary Hi Judy. *(Judy: Hi Gary!)* I haven't seen you in ages.
Judy I know. It's been over two months now. I was wondering if I would see you here.
This was your first choice, wasn't it? (uhu) I'm so glad we got in to the same department.
Gary Yeah, me too. I was really nervous before they sent me confirmation of the course.
I spent three weeks checking my emails at least five times a day.
Judy Yeah, I know what you mean.

Focus on Prediction skills

How do you think the conversation continues? Write down four things you think they could talk about concerning their studies.

1. 2.
3. 4.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Focus on Distractors

You will hear in many IELTS listening tasks a number of distractors, which means that it seems that there is more than one possible answer to the question. It can sometimes be difficult to understand which answer is right and which one is wrong when listening, so it is important to listen to all of the information carefully in these parts. Underlining key words before listening and paying careful attention to the text during the listening activity will help you to predict the type of information you need to write down. It is also essential to consider the context of the possible answers before deciding on the correct one.

In the sections which follow, you are going to practise listening for answers in Multiple Choice tasks. You will need to choose the correct answer from the three possibilities.

Task 2 { Track 026 } Audio

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

1. Which essay is Frances interested in talking about?
   - a. the one on 'Educational Psychology'
   - b. the one on 'Classroom Approaches'
   - c. the one on 'The Future of Education in the Classroom'

2. What information is she not going to include in the first part of her essay?
   - a. teacher training
   - b. demographics and class sizes
   - c. changes in testing systems

3. Which one of these ideas does she mention for the third part of her essay?
   - a. How student behaviour has changed within the last twenty years
   - b. There are more single-parent families now than in the past.
   - c. interests and hobbies in the future

4. How does she feel about online learning at home for children?
   - a. In the future, children will learn everything online.
   - b. The only function of a school is to educate children.
   - c. Internet learning at home is possible only if it is limited to a few days a week.

Task 3 { Track 027 } Audio

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

1. Sarah felt nervous because
   - a. too many people were watching her.
   - b. she doesn't like Professor Stone.
   - c. she realised the professor would be taking notes.

2. Sarah thought that Charlie's main weakness was
   - a. his PowerPoint presentation.
   - b. the accompanying music.
   - c. the speech itself.

3. Charlie feels that he can improve if he
   - a. spends more time on his visuals.
   - b. provides more examples.
   - c. reduces the length of his speech by two minutes.

4. Sarah is worried about her written work because
   - a. her essays are too long.
   - b. she feels her grades are low.
   - c. she hasn't done enough essays.

As mentioned earlier in this unit, Parts Three and Four cover more academic subjects. For Part Three you will have to familiarise yourself with language which describes all areas of study, including course subjects, types of assignment, the university environment and so on.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Main Listening

Task 4 { Track 028 } Audio

You will hear two new students talking about their courses and plans for the year ahead at university.

4A Write **no more than THREE words** for each answer.

1. How long did Gary have to wait for his email? _____

2. Where are they living at the moment? _____

Subject	Reason
3. Gary decided to study _____.	4. He will be able to _____.
5. Judy chose _____ as her course.	She finds it fascinating.

4B Choose the correct letter, A, B or C. **{ Track 029 }** Audio

6. Judy's booklist from the university contains
   a. 15 book titles.
   b. 55 book titles.
   c. 56 book titles.

7. Judy has to sign up for the trip to Egypt
   a. next month.
   b. in April.
   c. within ten days.

8. The Business Management project requires
   a. the use of pie charts and tables.
   b. each student to work with different groups.
   c. each student to do two presentations.

4C Write **no more than THREE words and/or a number** for each answer. **{ Track 030 }** Audio

9. They agree that the best way of taking notes is to use a _____.
10. The students are required to provide their own materials, including books for their course and _____.
11. Gary's first lecture is about 'The Influence of Globalisation on _____.'
12. The first lecture Judy has to attend starts at _____.

Post-listening Activities

1. Here are two examples of questions with distractions in the answer. Underline the correct answer and put brackets around the distractions in the dialogue. Sometimes the answer will not contain the key word so you will need to understand the idea(s) behind the words.

a) Which city do you think is the best to study in and why?

"Well, I've studied in more than one place. The nightlife in Manchester was really exciting: concerts, theatres – there was always something going on. I spent a year in Glasgow and that was all right I suppose. The worst place was Exeter. There was absolutely nothing to do. I spent all my time reading in the library."

b) How much does the trip cost?

Rob: I don't know about you but I think it looks quite expensive. When we went last year, it only cost £330 and that included everything. This time it's £410 and it's for the same thing.

Gail: No, it's not. You're looking at the wrong one. That one includes an extra night in Paris and an excursion to Versailles. If you scroll down the page to Bargain Breaks, you can see that the trip you want only costs £350 – not much difference from last year really."

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Now, look at Task 4's dialogue; find the distractions and underline them. The first two examples have been done for you. Please note there will not be a distraction for every answer.

Gary Hi Judy. (Judy: Hi Gary!) How are you? I haven't seen you in ages.
Judy I know. It's been over two months now. Did you have a good holiday then?
Gary Great thanks. You?
Judy Yes, thanks. I was wondering if I would see you here. This was your first choice, wasn't it? (uhu) It's nice to see a familiar face. I'm so glad we got in to the same department.
Gary Yeah, me too. I was really nervous before they sent me confirmation of the course. I spent three weeks checking my emails at least five times a day.
Judy Yeah, I know what you mean. So what did you think of the induction?
Gary To be honest, it was a bit long. They went on for ages about each department and all the facilities. I didn't realise the university was so big.
Judy Me neither. Are you staying on campus, then?
Gary Yeah, for the time being. Thinking of moving into a flat though, when I find my feet.
Judy Same here. So what are you studying? You were thinking of going in for Law last year, weren't you?
Gary That's right. But my friends talked me out of it. It's far too competitive and it takes a long time to train. No, the future is in business. You know, trade and commerce and that sort of thing.
Judy So, let me guess. You're doing the Economics course.
Gary Yes, that's right.
Judy But isn't that competitive, too?
Gary Well, yes it is. But it's worth it. After I graduate, I'm in with a good chance of earning big money and I won't have to wait for years. How about you?
Judy Well, I'm certainly not going into business like you – all those numbers and statistics. The one thing I can't stand is maths. Anyway, I've always been a bit of a History buff myself – and that's why I chose Archaeology. The course covers ancient civilisations from all over the world. I find it really fascinating. You know, we can learn so much about the present from the past.
Gary Yeah, well you haven't convinced me. Digging around, looking for pottery and old bones – that's not my thing. Anyway, have you spoken to any of your lecturers, yet?
Judy No, but I got emailed a whole list of stuff – about fifteen pages in all. The book list goes on and on. There are about 55 – no – 56 books we need for research and that doesn't include reference books.
Gary Good job you've got the whole year to read them. You should have taken my course. I've only got a few books down on my list and half are optional. Most of the material is online. Did they send you any information on the coursework for the year?
Judy Yes, but the last two essays were missing some information. Apparently, they are updating some of the assignments and we'll be told later on this term. It's not all essays, though. Next month, we've got to sign up for a big field trip to Egypt in April. We're there for a ten-day tour of the rock tombs and the pyramids along the Nile and we get to observe and assist in a dig. Then, when we get back, we have to write it all up in a report.
Gary Lucky you. You get to go on holiday while you're studying. Our coursework isn't that exciting. We're doing an ongoing project on Business Management throughout the year – which includes designing a lot of questionnaires, graphs, bar charts – that sort of stuff. We have to work in the same groups throughout the year so everyone must pull their weight. And at the end of the year there is a big team PowerPoint presentation on the project and then individual presentations in which we assess our performance within the group and any ways we could have improved it.
Judy Well, you're going to be busy – and so am I. We've got a long list of essays to do starting the week after next, but that's okay. I'm good at word processing. What concerns me is taking notes at the seminars and lectures. I hope that I can keep up. Only I'm not that quick at getting things down and when I try to write fast, I can't understand my own writing. Can we use an iPod or something?
Gary Well, I don't think they're that clear when you are recording in a big area. Some students take photos of other people's notes afterwards but I think it's better to have one of those mini tape recorders – you know, the ones like the journalists have. I've heard they're really good.
Judy Yeah, that sounds like exactly what I need, but where can I get hold of one of these recorders?
Gary The university shop sells them. They're not too expensive either. How much were they? Umm … I think it was something like 20 or 25 pounds. Anyway, it wasn't too much.
Judy Great. I haven't been to the shop yet so I can take a look around and buy whatever I need.
Gary Well, you know that you have to supply your own stationery as well as text books. They've got a big selection if you need anything.
Judy I don't think so. I've got all that I need – pens, pencils, notebooks – no difference from college, really. So what's your first lecture on?
Gary Just a minute. It says somewhere on my handbook. Here it is 'The Influence of Globalisation on World Trade' and that's first thing on Monday morning at nine o'clock.
Judy Sounds like the perfect way to start your week (laughs). Rather you than me.
Gary I'm sure it'll be okay. What about you?
Judy Well, I'm luckier than you. Most of my lectures start after ten o'clock and I don't start mine until mid-morning on Tuesday and it says here that it's on 'The History of Archaeology', and it's from 10.30 to 12.
Gary Well, good luck with that one. I think I prefer mine.
Judy Anyway, I'm off to the shop now. Don't want to be late for lunch.
Gary Okay. See you there then!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading 1

1. Introduction

For short-answer questions, candidates will be asked a number of questions which they have to answer. Generally, most answers are in three words or fewer according to the instructions.

Question

Answer the following questions using ***NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS*** *from the paragraph.*

What problem brought about by climate change disables lizards' abilities to function well?

2. What is tested

This question type tests your ability to

- skim for general information;
- read for details;
- identify the focus of each question; and
- understand paraphrases in the questions.

3. Strategies

1. Read the instructions carefully. Note that in the instructions, you are usually asked to use no more than three words for each answer.
2. Briefly read through all of the questions to get an idea of what information you will have to search for in the passage.
3. Read the first question carefully and predict what information you will look for.
4. Look back at the question and decide what specific information you need once you have found the relevant section in the reading passage.
5. Answer the question on the answer sheet.
6. Check your spelling and grammar.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Short Answers

Exercise 1

Answer Key p. 186

Passage 1

Lizards are some of the most adaptable creatures in the world. Yet, although these creatures are known to be highly versatile, they are greatly affected by the ongoing temperature changes in the environment. Lizards are cold-blooded animals. This means that they control their body temperatures by exchanging heat with their surroundings. In many tropical regions today, temperatures have risen 3 to 4 degrees due to global warming. This condition causes heat stress, which makes it very difficult for lizards to function at an optimum level. With a decreased level of functioning, lizards become easier targets for other animals. Heat stress also affects the lizards' abilities to hunt or look for food.

Question

*Answer the following question using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the paragraph.*

What problem brought about by climate change disables lizards' abilities to function well?

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Write your answer in no more than three words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Short Answers

Exercise 2

Answer Key p. 186

Passage 2

The Internet allows individuals to publish and access all types of information from around the world. Some information that may be banned in one country may not be considered illegal in other countries. This condition makes it hard to eliminate offensive sites and materials on the Internet. Moreover, it is even more difficult to identify the actual individuals who are behind the posting of such kind of materials, making it impossible to find and arrest offenders and abusers. It is, therefore, vital for parents and elders to make use of available filtering software in order to protect homes and vulnerable children against online criminals.

Question

*Answer the following question using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the paragraph.*

Who should be responsible for safeguarding children and residences from virtual criminals?

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Write your answer in no more than three words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Short Answers Exercise 3

Answer Key p. 187

Passage 3

New kinds of viruses continue to plague computers and Internet sites around the world. When a virus is destroyed, variants of the same virus may reappear in a few days or weeks. The deviousness of malware developers should encourage computer and Internet users to continue to be vigilant. One way to guard computers against harmful viral strains is to make sure that virus protection programs are up-to-date. It is also helpful to avoid downloading files from unknown sites or unreliable publishers. If file sharing is practiced, then it is best to have reliable firewalls so that information and data shared by networks are properly secured and monitored.

Question

*Answer the following question using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the paragraph.*

What security scheme should be employed by people who practice file sharing?

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Write your answer in no more than three words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Short Answers

Exercise 4

Answer Key p. 188

Passage 4

Despite movements to defeat sexual discrimination, there is still a marked difference as regards employment conditions between men and women. To illustrate, the percentage of employed men hovers at about seventy-five percent, while the percentage of employed women plays around fifty percent. Discrepancies in salaries can also be observed as men earn fifteen to thirty-five percent more than women, particularly in the industrial sector. Globally, approximately only two to three percent of women hold high positions in businesses. Nevertheless, these numbers are expected to improve as more people and more nations contest issues regarding gender inequalities.

Question

*Answer the following question using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the paragraph.*

What is the difference between the percentages of employed men and women?

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Write your answer in no more than three words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Short Answers

Exercise 5

Answer Key p. 188

Passage 5

The pyramids of Egypt hold great mysteries to this day. Up to now, experts cannot pinpoint the exact period when the pyramids were made due to lack of precise historical records. However, the pyramids are said to have been constructed during the time of the Old Kingdom, which was around 3,000 B.C. The oldest and largest pyramid is the Great Pyramid of Giza. The pyramid stood at a height of about 147 meters shortly after it was built. At present, however, the pyramid's height is around 139 meters due to erosion and the loss of its pyramidion or uppermost piece. The pyramids in Egypt today indeed testify to the creativity and resourcefulness of ancient people that up to this time they remain as some of the world's most amazing accomplishments.

Question

*Answer the following question using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the paragraph.*

How much is the discrepancy between the past and present height of the Pyramid of Giza?

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Write your answer in no more than three words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Short Answers

Exercise 6

Answer Key p. 189

Passage 6

The skin is a person's first line of defense against all external elements. It is the largest organ of the human body, which is usually sixteen percent of the total body weight. The skin protects muscles, bones and other internal organs. It is made up of three layers, namely, the epidermis, the dermis and the subcutaneous layer. New skin cells are formed underneath the epidermis, and as these form, older cells are pushed upward. As a person's skin cells get older and tougher, about 30,000 of these dead cells are sloughed off every minute. The skin continuously makes new cells and gets rid of old ones. Hence, a normal person can shed up to four kilograms of dead skin cells per year.

Question

*Answer the following question using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the paragraph.*

How many kilograms of dead skin cells can a regular individual maximally slough off in a 3-year period?

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in the question.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Write your answer in no more than three words.

LIVEWORKSHEETS