

MODULE 1

PART ONE: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Directions: You will hear a text about **the hurricane Sandy** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B or C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.

- 1. The Atlantic tropical storm Sandy developed into a hurricane within less than a week.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 2. When Sandy hit the state of New Jersey, its storm surge was all the stronger because of the full moon.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 3. In Queens alone more than 80 homes were ruined by the flood.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 4. The damage in New York was even greater than that in Atlantic City, where the hurricane first hit the U.S. coast.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 5. Sandy cost the American nation more than any other natural disaster on record in the United States.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear a text about **the Titanic** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **1 minute** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **3 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B or C**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.

- 6. The first delay in the Balmoral's memorial voyage to the Titanic wreck site was caused by the bad weather in the Irish Sea.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 7. The cruise ship Balmoral brought Mr Timothy Rex back to the Irish coast, from where he was taken by helicopter to hospital.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 8. No one ever doubted the Balmoral would reach her final destination by 11:00 p.m. on April 14th, the same date when the Titanic sank.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 9. The Balmoral was carrying 1,517 passengers and crew – the same number that were on the Titanic.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.
- 10. Some of the passengers on the Balmoral were descendants of the passengers on the Titanic.**
A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

Directions: You will hear a text about **The Fox and the Cat** twice. Before you listen to it, you have **2 minutes** to read the questions. While listening for the first time, you can look at the questions and the suggested choices, but you are not allowed to take notes. When you hear the whole text, you have **4 minutes** to answer the questions on your answer sheet, choosing among **A, B, C or D**. Then you will hear the text again and will have **1 minute** to check your answers.

11. The cat turned to the fox in a friendly manner because she

- A)** was experienced in the ways of the world.
- B)** was truly fond of the fox.
- C)** considered him really experienced.
- D)** was a creature of good manners.

12. In response to the cat's greeting, the fox

- A)** was polite but reserved.
- B)** did not know what to say.
- C)** just looked at the cat.
- D)** was rather impolite.

13. The cat knew that if the dogs chased her, she had to

- A)** open her sack of tricks.
- B)** climb up a tree.
- C)** follow Mr. Fox's advice.
- D)** master some arts.

14. The fox, on the other hand, claimed that he

- A)** had a lot of teaching experience.
- B)** knew a lot about arts.
- C)** deserved the cat's pity.
- D)** could escape in a 100 ways.

15. In the face of danger, the fox

- A)** listened to the cat's advice.
- B)** held the dogs fast.
- C)** failed to trick the dogs.
- D)** forgot to open his sack.

PART TWO: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question among A, B or C, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

You All Look Alike

Charlie Chaplin is commonly believed to have finished second or third in a Chaplin lookalike competition, and the story isn't far from the truth. Chaplin was a cultural icon in the 1910s, and contests for who could perform the best imitation of Chaplin's tramp character were a popular form of entertainment across the United States and in Europe. The competition in question took place in a San Francisco theater in 1915, and though it's not known exactly what place he finished, most biographers agree that Charlie Chaplin failed even to make it to the competition finals. Some claim that Chaplin's brother Syd was judged to be the winner.

This isn't surprising as very few people would have recognized Chaplin himself without his familiar comedian costume, moustache, and makeup. Chaplin told a reporter at that time that he was "tempted to give lessons in the Chaplin walk, out of pity, as well as in the desire to see the thing done correctly".

16. In Charlie Chaplin look-alike competitions participants imitated only one particular movie character that the comedian had played.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

17. Charlie Chaplin asked his brother Syd to take part in the San Francisco look-alike competition too.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

18. Charlie Chaplin didn't win the look-alike competition because his makeup was not good enough.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

19. In his day, a lot of people could recognize Charlie Chaplin even without his disguise.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

20. Chaplin was not fascinated by the way look-alike contestants imitated his character.

A) True. B) False. C) No information in the text.

MODULE 2

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

BigEars missed the noise of his alarm clock the most, even more than music. He would lie awake in the morning watching it as it vibrated violently on his bedside table. He still set it every night, just in case. And yet, every morning, it became the first thing to remind him, in its silent fit, that he was deaf now and he couldn't hear a thing.

That particular morning BigEars had thrown it at his mum. She had walked into his room all 'rise and shine' and 'wakey wakey' with her lips bouncing and her tongue flapping, just as she did every morning. He had wanted to scream. Why she insisted on still speaking escaped him, maybe she thought it would make everything seem normal for him; maybe it helped her fill the gaping silence between these walls; or maybe she was simply lonely now her one remaining family member had gone.

It was later that same day that BigEars found himself being dragged through the wood. The wood was really a sprawling mess of undergrowth and strange trees that grew in the few acres behind the station. Today there were bluebells everywhere. Spring was on its way.

Over the years BigEars had come here regularly with his friends. Initially to climb trees and scream from branch to branch, later to set off firecrackers that made ear-splitting bangs. But now he was running, crashing silently through the undergrowth, his hand grasped by Melody, following a half-beaten path that broadened or squeezed with every turn.

He wondered what his friends would think if they could see him now with Melody. He had been careful not to mention that she was at the same unit as him but they had probably guessed. He didn't have much to worry about, the subject of the deafness and the meningitis had too much stigma attached to come up in their brief communication each week.

It was seven months ago, to the day, that the outbreak happened. Three students had died and he and Melody (she carried a toad in her lunchbox) had been left deaf from the disease. They were both quickly moved to the nearest Hearing Impaired Unit, thirteen train stops away. They were lucky enough to be survivors, not unlucky enough to be victims and, as the school grieved, they were all but forgotten. But Melody, he had thought, why Melody?

Why couldn't someone else have turned deaf, someone normal?

21. BigEars set his alarm clock

- A) to wake him up in the morning.
- B) in case his hearing returned in the night.
- C) for he liked to see it vibrate on the bedside table.
- D) because he liked its sound more than music.

22. That morning BigEars was angry with his mum because she

- A) insisted on speaking to him.
- B) hadn't switched off the alarm clock.
- C) didn't realise he couldn't hear her.
- D) destroyed the silence of the morning.

23. Later that day, BigEars

- A) visited the woods for the first time.
- B) dragged his friends to the woods.
- C) went on his regular trip to the woods.
- D) was not expecting to be in the woods.

24. BigEars didn't tell his friends about Melody because

- A) they all thought she was strange.
- B) they would all be jealous.
- C) he hadn't had time to tell them.
- D) they all avoided the subject of girls.

25. BigEars felt that

- A) the meningitis survivors had been forgotten.
- B) the meningitis victims had been forgotten.
- C) only abnormal people had turned deaf.
- D) people wanted to talk about the outbreak.

Directions: Read the text below. Then read the questions that follow it and choose the best answer to each question correspondingly among A, B, C or D, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Daredevil jumps from edge of space

On Sunday, 14 October 2012 Austrian extreme athlete Felix Baumgartner, also known as "Fearless Felix", became the first person to break the sound barrier in a skydive from the edge of space. Baumgartner's feat also marked the 65th anniversary of U.S. test pilot Chuck Yeager's successful attempt to become the first man to officially break the sound barrier aboard an airplane.

This attempt marked the end of a five-year road for the 43-year-old record-setting high-altitude jumper. He had already made two preparation jumps in the area (southeastern New Mexico), one in March the same year from 15 miles high and one in July from 18 miles high. It was also to be the end of his extreme altitude jumping career: he promised this would be his final attempt.

So when desert conditions in New Mexico were finally near perfect, Baumgartner lifted off in a tiny pressurized capsule for a two-and-a-half hour journey up through the jet stream, into the upper stratosphere. Some 24 miles above Earth, which is three times the height of the average cruising altitude for jetliners, with remote cameras rolling all around him, the veteran skydiver plunged from his platform wearing only a pressure suit and helmet, and carrying oxygen and a parachute.

Shortly before jumping, using a crackly radio link recalling Neil Armstrong's first words on the Moon, Baumgartner said: 'Sometimes you have to go up really high to understand how small you are.' Then, as he exited his capsule, he flashed a thumbs-up sign meant for his viewers – the feat sponsor, energy drink maker Red Bull, had ensured live Internet coverage of the event from nearly 30 cameras on the capsule, the ground and a helicopter.

Within less than 10 minutes, Felix Baumgartner landed perfectly in the desert east of

Roswell and sank to his knees to take in the moment, while onlookers and friends cheered loudly from inside the mission's control center in Roswell, N.M. 'It was way harder than I expected,' Baumgartner shared later at a press conference.

According to Brian Utley, the certification official for the Federation Aeronautic International, Baumgartner's body pierced the atmosphere at 1342.8 kph a record speed making him the first skydiver to break the sound barrier, typically measured at about 1110 kph. Mr. Utley also said Baumgartner broke a total of three established world records: the highest altitude skydive, the longest freefall without a parachute and fastest fall achieved during skydive.

After the jump, Baumgartner said he planned to settle down with his girlfriend and fly helicopters on mountain rescue and firefighting missions in the U.S. and Austria.

26. Felix Baumgartner

- A)** is American by origin.
- B)** prepared for the record-setting jump in less than a year.
- C)** intended to end his skydiving career after the jump.
- D)** funded his record breaking attempt himself.

27. The record-setting jump was made

- A)** regardless of weather conditions in the area.
- B)** within an hour after the capsule left the Earth.
- C)** by Baumgartner diving into the sky from a jetliner.
- D)** at speed exceeding 1110 kph.

28. Just before the jump Felix Baumgartner

- A)** drank an energy drink.
- B)** talked about Neil Armstrong.
- C)** made a positive greeting gesture.
- D)** thanked his sponsor.

29. Baumgartner's jump

- A)** was recorded from space only.
- B)** lasted for more than 10 minutes.
- C)** didn't finish as initially planned.
- D)** was more challenging than expected.

30. Which of the following did Baumgartner NOT do?

- A)** Break the sound barrier aboard an airplane.
- B)** Set three different skydiving records.
- C)** Attend a press conference on the event.
- D)** Make a career change after the jump.

PART THREE: USE OF ENGLISH

Section One: Cloze Test

Directions: Read the text below and for each numbered gap choose the letter (A, B, C or D) of the word or phrase that best suits the gap, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

Pandas

This peaceful creature with a distinctive black and white coat is adored by the world and (31) a national treasure in China. The bear also has a special (32) for World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The panda, whose picture appears on all of the fund's documents and merchandise, has been WWF's (33) since the founding of the organization in 1961.

The rarest member of the bear family, pandas live mainly in bamboo forests (34) in the soaring mountains of western China, where they subsist almost (35) on bamboo. They must eat from 26 to 84 pounds of it every day, a formidable task for which they use their enlarged wrist bones that function as opposable thumbs.

(36) pandas are about the size of a stick of butter - about 1/900th the size of their mothers - but can grow to up to 330 pounds as adults. These bears are excellent treeclimbers despite their bulk.

Pandas play a (37) role in the bamboo forests where they roam by spreading seeds and (38) growth of vegetation. In the Yangtze Basin where pandas live, the forests are home to a stunning (39) of wildlife such as dwarf blue sheep, multicolored pheasants and other endangered species, including the golden monkey, takin and crested ibis. The panda's habitat is at the geographic and economic heart of China, home to millions of people. By making this area more sustainable, we are also helping to improve the quality of life of local populations. Pandas bring huge economic (40) to local communities through ecotourism.

31. A) considered B) known C) regarded D) viewed

32. A) priority B) worth C) distinction D) significance

33. A) pattern B) logo C) slogan D) motto

34. A) close B) near C) high D) tall

35. A) entirely B) absolutely C) generally D) utterly

36. A) Emerging B) Recent C) Fresh D) Newborn

37. A) centered B) crucial C) needy D) pressing

38. A) facilitating B) empowering C) cooperating D) progressing

39. A) stock B) arrangement C) set D) variety

40. A) successes B) advances C) benefits D) triumphs

41. Poaching the animals for their fur has declined due to strict laws and greater public of the panda's protected status.
A. awareness B. anxiety C. information D. spread

42. Forest destruction also reduces pandas' to the bamboo they need to survive.
A. approach B. reach C. availability D. access

43. Some animal babies are on their from the moment they are born, but great apes are born helpless and must be carefully nurtured by their mothers.
A. loneliness B. own C. independence D. personal

44. It is not possible to say when dancing became part of human culture, because dance does not leave clearly identifiable physical artifacts.
A. down B. after C. behind D. up

45. The theatre of ancient Rome was a thriving and diverse art form, from festival performances, nude dancing, and acrobatics, to the staging of situation comedies and high drama.
A. ranging B. spreading C. consisting D. comprising

Section Two: Sentence Completion

Directions: For each of the sentences below, choose the letter A, B, C or D of the word or phrase that best completes its meaning, marking your answers on your answer sheet.

46. My brother and I used ____ in that forest when we were kids.
A) to go camping B) to go to camp C) going camping D) going to camp

47. Leave me at peace! I don't need ____ your help ____ your compassion.
A) neither ... nor B) either ... or C) both ... or D) both ... and

48. Don't go ____ the edge. It's dangerous.
A) near B) more near C) more nearly D) nearly

49. ____ manage to reach the village before sunset?
A) Will we B) Ought we C) Are we D) Do we

50. We must have the washing machine ____ as soon as possible.
A) repairing B) to repair C) repaired D) for repair

MODULE 3

Section Three: Sentence Transformations

Directions: On your sheet for open-ended answers complete the second sentence so that it is as close as possible in meaning to the first one.

51. It was the best film I had ever seen.

I _____ film before.

52. The burglars wore gloves so as to avoid leaving any fingerprints.

The burglars wore gloves in order _____.

53. We had such an awful day that we wouldn't go there again.

Our day was _____ that we wouldn't go there again.

54. You really ought to have your hair cut.

It's time you _____.

55. It's a pity you did not come to the theatre with me last night. You would have enjoyed the play.

If _____, you would have enjoyed the play.

56. 'How far is the stadium?'

He wanted to know _____.

57. They will have completed the new motorway by Christmas.

The new motorway _____ by Christmas.

58. I expect you were very tired after your long flight.

You _____ after your long flight. (use a modal verb)

59. I lost all my money. Now I'm broke.

If only _____! Now I'm broke.

60. In spite of not knowing French, he went to live in France.

Even _____, he went to live in France.

PART FOUR: WRITING

Directions: On your sheet for open-ended answers write a composition in standard English of about 160-170 words on **ONE** of the following topics, marking the topic you have chosen on the sheet:

1. What would you rather be a fir tree or an oak? Why?

2. The most dangerous invention. Which is it? Why was it made? What's dangerous about it?

Mind that in case of indecent language, plagiarism, identical texts or if your composition is under 80 words or totally irrelevant to the chosen topic it will get 0 points.