HANDOUT 4 – LISTENING

VSTEP ORIENTATION – PART 1

Focus: Skimming to predict the context before listening

I. Introduction

Part 1 of VSTEP listening test includes eight questions. There are eight recordings; each recording is followed by a question. The recordings can be short conversations, announcements and instructions. There are directions and an example question before listening. Test takers have some time to look at the questions before listening and can listen to the recordings ONCE only.

Example 

On the recording, you will hear:

"Hello. This is the travel agency returning your call. You left a message about the holiday you've booked, asking which meals are included in the cost during your stay at Sunny Hotel. Lunch and dinner are free but if you wish to have breakfast in the hotel, you will need to pay an extra amount of money, depending on what you order. Let me know if I can help you with any other information. Goodbye."

On the test paper, you will read:
Which meal is NOT included in the price of the holiday?

A. Breakfast B. Lunch
C. Dinner D. All

The correct answer is A. Breakfast.

II. Strategy: Skimming to predict the context before listening

Pick out key words to predicting the context can make the listening easier.

Example:

Which meal is NOT included in the price of the holiday?

A. Breakfast B. Lunch
C. Dinner D. All

III. Practice

Practice 1: Listen to eight recordings. Before the recordings begin, use the time to predict the context with your partner. 

1. How many languages are taught at Hanoi International Language School?

A. 1

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B. 2
C. 3
D. 4

2. What is the boarding time of Flight VN178?

A. 3.30
B. 3.45
C. 4.15
D. 4.45

3. What will be happening in Lecture hall 4 next Monday?

A. An art workshop
B. An art exhibition
C. A history lesson
D. A talk about history of art

4. Where does the woman live?

A. Opposite the cinema
B. Next to Anna Boutique
C. On Floor 1 of C5 building
D. On Floor 3 of C5 building

5. What is the woman doing?

A. Introducing the sports centre
B. Selling equipment to the new members
C. Explaining the rules in the centre
D. Answering members' questions

6. What time do the banks open in winter?

A. 8.00 a.m.
B. 8.30 a.m.
C. 9.00 a.m.
D. 9.30 a.m.

7. What is the woman talking about?

A. How to change the topic of a term paper
B. When and where to hand in a term paper
C. How to write a term paper
D. The list of topics for a term paper

8. How is the weather today?

A. Cool all day
B. Rainy in the early morning
C. Windy at noon
D. Sunny during the day

Practice 2: Listen and circle the correct answer A, B, C or D. Before the recordings begin, use the time to predict the context with your partner. 

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1. **Where can visitors see the ducks?**
   A. in the cages
   B. in the pond
   C. near the wastebaskets
   D. in the field
2. **What will the weather be like when the festival starts?**
   A. sunny
   B. cloudy
   C. rainy
   D. rainy and cloudy
3. **What has the man sent back to the company?**
   A. An iron in a damaged box
   B. A damaged iron in a good-condition box
   C. A damaged iron in a damaged box
   D. An iron in a good-condition box
4. **Which part of the Arts Centre only opened recently?**
   A. An open-air concert area
   B. A cinema
   C. An art gallery
   D. A restaurant
5. **Which vegetable is used in all today's recipes?**
   A. Tomatoes
   B. Potatoes
   C. Cabbage
   D. Onion
6. **How did the man want to pay?**
   A. In cash
   B. By credit card
   C. By cheque
   D. Bank transfer
7. **What is the woman phoning about?**
   A. A guitar
   B. A book
   C. Glasses
   D. The library
8. **What will the weather be like for the race?**
   A. Sunny
   B. Snowy
   C. Rainy
   D. cloudy

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