# FINAL EXAM 2020

**UPPER - INTERMEDIATE 2** **READING & LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**LISTENING: TASK 1**

**You are going to listen to people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B or C) which fits best according to what you hear. LISTEN TO THE AUDIO TRACK TWICE.**

1 **You hear a girl talking to a friend about an activity camp she went to. What is the girl doing?**
A persuading her friend to go to the camp
B explaining why she went to the camp
C describing the people she met at the camp

2 **You hear part of an interview with a travel agent. What does she say about using apps on holiday?**
A They can help travellers communicate with locals.
B They can pinpoint the best times to travel.
C They can identify good places to visit.

3 **You hear a boy talking about his part-time job. What surprised him about the job?**
A how many customers there were
B how hard the work was
C what employers value

4 **You hear a girl talking about the place she lives in now. What does she miss the most about the place she used to live?**
A the convenience of having local shops
B the chance to meet up with friends easily
C the noise from the people outside

5 **You hear two friends talking about the sports they do. What do they both enjoy?**
A exercising with other people
B setting themselves individual challenges
C training with music playing

6 **You hear two friends talking about social media. What do they agree about it?**
A It often hides the truth.
B It gives interesting information.
C It helps people stay in touch.

7 **You hear two friends talking about a restaurant project at school. What does the boy say about some of the teachers?**
A They are excited about the restaurant project.
B They have offered to do various jobs.
C They will help the pupils with the cooking.

8 **You hear a boy leaving a message on a friend's phone. What does he want his friend to do?**
A babysit his little sister
B help him to find someone who is available
C go with him to the school concert

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# Reading

**Read the article on the next page and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.**

1 **In the first paragraph, the writer says that most people**

A aren't afraid of bees.
B enjoy stories about bees.
C don't try to understand bees.
D know how important bees are.

2 **What does the writer say about the 'explorers'?**

A They choose the final site for new hives.
B They use very complex thought processes.
C They enable all the bees to choose the new hive.
D They are often incapable of choosing the best sites.

3 **The word '*it*' in bold in paragraph 3 refers to**

A the system bees use to choose a hive.
B the location of the new hive.
C the result of the search for a new hive.
D the conclusion the writer reaches about bee hives.

4 **Why does the writer quote from Mr Spock in *Star Trek*?**

A to show how sci-fi can influence the way people think
B to clarify the priorities people should have when making group decisions
C to describe how people should talk to each other
D to make a joke in what is a serious article

5 **What does the writer think about restaurants in 'out-of-the-way locations'? (paragraph 5)**

A People don't discover them by chance.
B They are always difficult to find.
C No-one knows about them.
D They are often excellent.

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## Let's all think about bees ...

Like many people, I've always had a fear of bees. I don't know whether it's how they look, the way they fly, the noise they make – whatever it is, I've usually chosen the easy way and tried to ignore them. Yet I've discovered that this is a short-sighted attitude for any of us to take. It's common knowledge that bees are vital for the environment – they play a crucial role in the circle of life, though total awareness of what they actually do is frequently incomplete or even wrong. Sci-fi stories base whole plot-lines on what might happen were the bees to leave the planet, and surprisingly I really enjoy those!

However, there's even more to bees than one might suspect. Apparently they're great at decision-making – who knew? When bees need to find a new hive, they don't simply fly around looking for any old place. No, they're more sophisticated than that. What they do is send out groups of bees – let's call them 'explorers' – to assess potential places, and report back. Clearly they don't write reports or give presentations – they use particular body movements to explain what they've found. All the bees then make a group decision by going back to each of the most popular sites identified by the explorers and repeating their body movements. When all the bees (the swarm) perform the same movements at the same time in the same place – bingo, that's the site for them. It must be great fun to watch!

OK – so what do we learn from these bees? One study shows that if they had simply chosen a single site by chance, the swarm might have been left without a hive and would therefore have been exposed to danger. On the other hand, if they had simply followed the initial suggestions of the explorers without doing any follow-up research for themselves, then they might not have achieved the best outcome. The conclusion is that **it** seems to be a very efficient way of making decisions.

Apparently, we could all learn a thing or two from this process. People in general tend to be poor at making group decisions because things get in the way – time, ego, promotion prospects can all influence the thinking process of individuals within a group. It's not easy to put self-interest to one side and make a decision that's in the best interests of everyone. Mr Spock in *Star Trek* said, 'the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few' – but how often is that actually the case in real life?

Let's look at some examples of how people make bad decisions. Think about something as simple as the restaurant we choose to go to. If we visit a new town and need to choose a restaurant, knowing nothing about any of them in advance, it's likely that we will choose the one with the most people eating in it. This is based on the theory that everyone has chosen to eat there because it's good. But this could be misleading. Everyone there could have followed the same line of thought, but the first people in the restaurant could simply have chosen it by chance. The result – we all make a bad decision and eat bad food. Likewise, if people make their choice simply by wandering around and eating in restaurants they happen to come across, superb restaurants in **out-of-the-way locations** may not get many customers because people just don't find them.

The bees' approach avoids both these problems. Nature has given them the right mix of independence (they make their own initial choice) and interdependence (they accept the final decision together). So, when drawing conclusions about human behaviour, you should take a leaf out of their book. Understanding the way they make decisions can improve the way people make their own group decisions. Obviously it's a mistake to ignore bees

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**TASK 2: Read the article. Choose from the paragraphs (A–F) the one which fits each gap (32–36). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.**

A For many of them, this is their first time outside their usual environment so the experience of encountering high-quality ingredients is a real eye-opener.

B But, instead of looking for the most employable people, interviewers at Fifteen are looking for the least employable ones.

C In addition, the restaurant has many satisfied customers who come back regularly.

D It's a socially responsible business which raises its own money and puts all profit back into the training programme.

E However, Oliver wasn't only interested in being a celebrity.

F Even so, between three and six fail to complete the training most years and this is partly down to the man in charge of the restaurant.

## More than a restaurant

Famous TV chef Jamie Oliver left school aged sixteen to work in his family's restaurant and later was given his own cookery show. The programme was an instant success and was followed by a best-selling cookbook and more TV series. **(32)** His aim was to give disadvantaged young people with few job or social opportunities professional training plus the chance of a successful career. These twin objectives led to him opening a restaurant called 'Fifteen' specially to train young chefs. Since 2002, over 100 apprentice chefs have graduated and gone on to work in first-rate restaurants.

There is a lot of competition to gain a place as a trainee chef. Each year, up to 100 would-be apprentices are interviewed. To qualify, candidates have to be between sixteen and twenty-four and not in employment, education or training. Many lack confidence, and in extreme cases, their parents or grandparents apply on their behalf. **(33)** They identify the candidates most in need by finding out why things haven't worked out for them and identify their potential. Sixty candidates are selected initially, and they attend what's called a 'bootcamp' where they do character assessment exercises. Half are then selected for a four-month college course in catering where they learn basic food theory and practical skills. Then a final selection is made and approximately eighteen to twenty new apprentices enter Fifteen's kitchens each spring.

So, what does training in Fifteen's kitchens involve? Basically it requires a great deal of hard work and commitment. Apprentices get up every day at 7 a.m. and work in the restaurant from 8 a.m. till 11 p.m. Two days a week are spent at college so that they can obtain a qualification in catering. Three days are spent in the restaurant working and then there is a 'sourcing' day once a week, when they go to food suppliers and learn about how food is grown or raised. **(34)**
There is no doubt that being a Fifteen apprentice is challenging, but it works for most of them. The act of taking a simple, uncooked ingredient and turning it into something special has a magical appeal and the apprentices get a real sense of achievement every day. **(35)** Michael, himself one of the first graduates, won't put up with any nonsense and hates to see young people wasting their opportunities so he expects high standards. Not all the trainers have such a strict approach. They point out that, despite some apprentices being immature and not always having a positive attitude, the main purpose of the scheme is to help people and give them a start in life.

Not many people realise Fifteen is a charity. **(36)** Without the apprenticeship programme, Fifteen would just be another restaurant and without the top-class food, the charity would be just another youth training centre unconnected to the real world of business. With so many graduates still working as chefs, Jamie Oliver can be proud of what he has achieved with Fifteen.