English Test

SPEAKING

Read the questions and discuss them with a partner.

- What do you like about your neighborhood? What don't you like about it?

- What facilities do you have in your neighborhood? What don't you have?

- What type of house do you live in? Where do you live?

- Which is the favorite part of your home? Why do you like it?

- What changes would you make in your house? Are you a DIY fan?

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WRITING

- **Complete with the correct answer using the words in parentheses.**

1: Look at the image of the houseboat and 1 **describe** (describe / observe) what you see. What do you think it _____ (would / will) be like to live on a houseboat in a city like London?

2: You **decided** (decided / decide) to buy a houseboat instead of a traditional home. Write a letter to your family _____ (explaining / explained) your decision and the reasons why you think this is a good choice for your lifestyle.

- **Fill in the blanks in the paragraph by choosing the correct option.**

Living on a houseboat **is** (is/are/am) a unique and unconventional living arrangement. The tight quarters _____ (requires/require/requiring) some adjustments, but the peaceful atmosphere and connection to nature _____ (compensate/compensates/compensating) for the small space. Residents of houseboats _____ (often enjoy/often enjoys/often enjoying) an eco-friendly and minimalist lifestyle.

- **Describe this room in detail. Mention the style, the furniture, the décor, and how that space makes you feel.**

  Lucas's Room Description

This room **reflects** (reflects/mirrors/emulates) the character and interests of its occupant. The expansive bookshelf lining the walls _____ (creates/builds/forms) a welcoming and intellectually stimulating environment. The rustic wooden bed and vintage furnishings _____ (give/lend/provide) a personal and homey touch. The acoustic guitar and musical details _____ (suggest/imply/indicate) that this is the refuge of a creative artist. The blend of _____ (rustic/traditional/modern) and contemporary furnishings

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_____ (achieves/establishes/generates) a pleasing balance between the old and the new. Overall, this room conveys a sense of tranquility, reflection, and passion for reading and music _____ (offering/providing/delivering) an intimate and personalized space.

- **Write the sentences in order as the first example.**

1. while studying / always listens / My friend / but I prefer / to music / complete silence.

My friend always listens to music while studying, but I prefer complete silence.

2. quiet place / in my room/ I like to study / because / it's a very / to concentrate.

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3. in the / kitchen / coffee / I enjoy having /my/ while / reading the news.

LISTENING

Talking about your home

- **Listen to the conversation. Write the missing words.**

A: How 's it going? Do you like your new apartment?

B: Oh, I love it. My …… …… …… friendly, and the landlord is nice.

A: That's great! What's the building like?

B: …… …… …… ten stories high, and there are ten apartments on each floor. So, I guess there are 100 apartments.

A: Wow, it sounds huge. Have you seen some of the other apartments?

B: Yeah, my next-door neighbor invited me over for coffee the other day. She and her …… …… ……. They've been in the building for five years.

- **Listen and circle the correct answer.**

1 a studio apartment
b three-bedroom apartment

2 a apartment in the city
b house with a yard

3 a apartment in the city
b house in the suburbs

4 a house in the country

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b house in the city

5 a large apartment
b one-bedroom apartment

6 a small apartment in the city
b small apartment near the airport

- **Write the correct letter.**

1	.....	a	It's huge.
2	.....	b	The rent is cheaper.
3	.....	c	It's convenient for shopping.
4	.....	d	It's nice and quiet on the weekends.
5	.....	e	The neighbors are fantastic.
6	.....	f	The location is perfect.

- **Write the correct letter.**

1
a the neighbors
b the noise
c the size

2
a the location
b the condition
c the rent

3
a the location
b the noise
c the size

4
a the size
b the location
c the rent

5
a the size
b the condition
c the noise

6
a the neighbors
b the condition
c the rent

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READING

The homes of the future viewed from today

Mark Finchley reviews TV series Tomorrow's Homes

Having just watched the whole of Channel 8's TV series Tomorrow's Homes, I've been wondering about how anyone can predict the future of domestic life. You'd imagine that if you knew what architects and technology companies were developing now to make life easier, more exciting and more beautiful, you'd have a pretty good idea of what to expect in tomorrow's homes. In reality, it's more complicated, and just as much about what we'll choose to hang on to from today's – the things that are 'future-proof'. In the 1950s, people thought that in the twenty-first century household tasks would be done by labor-saving devices or robots – with food pills for dinner. Yet people still wash up and cook, even though the technology exists that makes neither of these tasks necessary.

Tomorrow's Homes, however, dared to make predictions which it turned into reality using an average home belonging to a family called the Forseys. Four miles of cable were installed in the house so that all the electrics, from lights to the fridge, could be controlled via the internet, and various other devices and gadgets were introduced in addition to this. The family were then filmed as they got used to their new home life. Program presenter Harry Thwaites is also a consultant who spends his work life imagining the future, so testing out his ideas for the program was a fascinating experiment for him. His approach was to use technology that was not totally brand new, but had only recently become more affordable. CCTV cameras for security have been around for years, for example, but they are no longer only an option for the mega-rich.

The Forsey family consists of a husband and wife with four children and two grandchildren. They appear to be very natural and ordinary on the program, and it was always interesting to see how they reacted to the technology they were testing. One example that sticks in the mind is when Janine, the mother, enters her reconstructed, all-white home (after successfully unlocking her new front door by using her thumb print as a key), and she immediately bursts into tears – quite understandably it has to be said. A short while later, her husband Ben gets locked out because the skin on his thumb is too rough. As the series progresses, however, they slowly come to accept the technology, and even start to believe it could have some value in their lives.

I was keen to see during the show if anything emerged as potentially future-proof, and there were some great examples. To help Janine deal with various worries, she was provided with a mind-controlled relaxation tool. This was a kind of headband connected to a DVD, which, incredibly, she could control with her thoughts. When she relaxed mentally, she made an image of the sun go down, as it would at night, on the DVD. When she had tried the gadget and achieved the sun set, she was asked how effective the gadget had been. Janine commented, 'Nothing can compare to a nice cup of tea and a good soap opera!'

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Choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- **The writer makes the point in the first paragraph that predicting how homes will be in the future**

A) requires detailed study of architectural trends
B) is impossible if you only look at new developments.
C) has been very difficult until now.
D) is made easier by programs and articles about them in the media.

- **What does "today's" refer to in the first paragraph?**

A) current ideas
B) the present reality
C) the homes we currently live in
D) modern architecture

- **According to the second paragraph, the technology installed in the Forseys' house**

A) was chosen to match the specific needs of the family.
B) was previously only used by a limited section of the population.
C) was still too expensive for anybody except the wealthiest.
D) was tried out by experts before the family used it.

- **What does 'sticks' mean in the third paragraph?**

A) blocks something
B) remains there
C) corrects an error
D) highlights something

- **According to the third paragraph, how did the family members react to the new technology?**

A) Their attitude towards it became increasingly positive.
B) Some of them adjusted more quickly to it than others.
C) The parents struggled with it throughout the series.
D) Some of their responses to it were surprising.

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