Unit 7: Exercise 4

Scan the recording script and choose the correct answers.

Hello, and thank you for coming. I'm going to be looking at my life as a current affairs researcher. It may surprise you to know that it wasn't my first choice of career; indeed, one could argue that it wasn't a choice at all – but I'll go into that later.

Right, let's start with what led me to where I am today. I had intended to become an author and, after graduating, spent some considerable time attempting to write my first novel. However, after several failed attempts, I found myself working for the local newspaper as a junior television journalist. I did this for a few years and then, quite by chance, I was offered the opportunity to become involved in a high-profile TV documentary. Well, it was a life-changing experience. We were working in a very remote area, and I was tasked with not only finding potential interviewees, but also persuading them to take part in the programme. From that point, there was no going back and my new career as a current affairs researcher was established.

OK, so now let's move on to some of the key benefits. Of course, I get the chance to travel extensively, and this is something that can be extremely rewarding. Secondly, in terms of personal development, I get a real sense of achievement from going beyond the obvious and bringing something new and thought-provoking to the viewers.

Now, let's take a look at some of the key drawbacks. Firstly, don't expect to work nine to five. The hours can be painfully long and this really isn't the right career for anyone who is unable to cope with tight deadlines. Typically, these are immovable, so meeting them can be stressful. Secondly, you may find that you are away from home for long periods of time, so relationships with friends and family can suffer as a result.

OK, so I hope you're clearer on some of the advantages and disadvantages of a career as a current affairs researcher. To sum up, whilst it's an extremely challenging and pressurised job, for those who are prepared to work hard, the rewards are incredible.

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1 Which phrase tells you that the speaker is moving to the first topic?

- ◯ it wasn't my first choice of career
- ◯ let's start with what led me to where I am today
- ◯ my life as a current affairs researcher

2 Which phrase is a paraphrase of 'factual television programme'?

- ◯ local newspaper
- ◯ television journalist
- ◯ TV documentary

3 Which phrase is a paraphrase of 'very gratifying'?

- ◯ beyond the obvious
- ◯ extremely rewarding
- ◯ life-changing experience

4 Which word is a synonym for 'disadvantages'?

- ◯ deadlines
- ◯ drawbacks
- ◯ limits

5 Which word is a synonym for 'rigid'?

- ◯ long
- ◯ suffer
- ◯ tight

6 Which phrase is a paraphrase of 'deterioration of interpersonal relationships'?

- ◯ challenging and pressurised
- ◯ painfully long
- ◯ relationships with family and friends can suffer

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