

LanguageCert

Expert C1

Level 2

International ESOL (Listening, Reading, Writing)

Practice Paper 6

NB Read out the text which is not in italics. Read at normal speed making it sound as much like spoken English (rather than English which is read aloud) as possible.

Listening part one.

You will hear some short conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answer to complete each conversation. *(15 seconds.)*

Number one. Number one.

(6 seconds)

F: So, Sunday 10am OK for you?

M: *[surprised]* Sunday? I thought we'd said Saturday.

F: Well, it **was supposed** to be Saturday but we had to reschedule.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number two. Number two.

(6 seconds)

M: So you've seen the latest James Bond film. Awesome, isn't it?

F: I hope you're joking.

M: No! What d'you mean?

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number three. Number three.

(6 seconds)

F: Guess what. I got my results.

M: And?

F: Passed all the modules with flying colours!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number four. Number four.

(6 seconds)

M: Ah! Miss Smith, at last! Umph! Better late than never, I suppose!

F: Oh, sorry, Mr Brown. I'll make sure it won't happen again.

M: Ha! I've heard that one before.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number five. Number five.

(6 seconds)

F: So, you need to fill this in.

M: Uh-hu. Do I initial both sides of each page?

F: No, just sign right at the very end.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

Number six. Number six.

(6 seconds)

F: Dr Smith here. Put me through to Dr Jones, please.

M: Sorry. She's on the other line at the moment.

F: Ah, it is **absolutely** crucial that you put me through **now**, actually.

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds)

That is the end of Part One.

Listening part two.

You will hear some conversations. You will hear each conversation twice. Choose the correct answers for each conversation. (10 seconds.)

Conversation One

- | | |
|-----|--|
| F1: | So, we've sorted out the dining table. Now, what about Lola's room? What colour should we have it painted? |
| M: | I think I'd go for a light green. |
| F2: | Excuse me? I am here, you know! It's my room, so I think I should be the one to decide. |
| M: | Sorry, Lola. We just thought you'd like green. It's your favourite colour. |
| F2: | True, but I don't want it on the walls – they're OK as they are, anyway. <i>[pause]</i> And I've already told you I'd rather you bought me that snazzy armchair we saw on the fifth floor. |
| F1: | And we've already told you that we're not going to spend that much on a chair you'll soon get fed up with. Your room's already overflowing with stuff, anyway. |
| M: | Exactly. OK, let's get some paint colour charts – I saw loads in the basement - and then we'll go up for a coffee in the rooftop restaurant and decide what we fancy. |
| F2: | Umph. OK. If you insist.... |

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Two

- F1: Right, it's mum's sixtieth next month and we've done **nothing** about the party yet.
- F2: Well, we need to make sure all her brothers can make it.
- M: What do you mean **all** her brothers? Not Uncle **George**, surely? **Nobody** gets on with him.
- F1: Mmm, you do have a point there. But he's bound to find out, then he'll be worse than ever.
- F2: Exactly, and **Mum** wouldn't want to leave him out – she is actually fond of him, incredibly. Despite the way he treats her. I don't suppose he'll be **too** awkward – not if his brothers keep an eye on him.
- F1: Yes, you're right. We'll invite him too. Now, the cake?
- M: How about that new shop in town? Theirs are **delicious!**
- F2: But **so** expensive. I'm not paying sixty pounds for some tiny little cake.
- F1: **Nor me** - I'll make one myself.
- M: OK. Just wondering why you asked me to be here today. You seem to be managing fine without me yet again!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(Wait 10 seconds before going onto the next conversation.)

Conversation Three

F1: Oh, isn't it great? So glad we chose to come here. I **love** the sea.

F2: Yes, so clear and blue. And the sky's the same - simply out of this world.

F1: Yes, although it's like that back home for me as well, of course.

M: You're **so** lucky. It always has been when we've stayed with you. If I were in your shoes, I'd be out and about all the time too.

F2: We still get only two types most of the year – overcast or pouring.

M: Exactly. Puts you off even poking your head out of the front door. All we seem to do nowadays is stay home in front of the box.

F1: Oh, that sounds a bit miserable.

F2: A bit? What else can we do with our climate? Our winters last about eight months, as you know. Ha! Hardly surprising you don't come to us often.

M: Enough about the weather! Let's plan what to do for the next few days. Mustn't miss anything!

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Two.

Listening part three.

You will hear someone talking. You will hear the person twice. Complete the information. Write short answers of one to five words.

[beep]

Welcome everyone to this new pasta factory which is now open on a daily basis. Before I give you a tour of the premises, I'd like to give you some useful information about [pause] what else; [laughs] pasta.

So, basically pasta's a noodle made primarily of wheat flour. This is then mixed with a little water and eggs and formed into sheets or various shapes, then cooked by boiling or baking. It can also be made with flour from other cereals or grains. It's a staple food in traditional Italian cuisine, with the first reference dating to eleven-fifty-four in Sicily and pastas can be divided into two broad categories, dried and fresh.

Most dried pasta is commercially produced via an extrusion process. Fresh pasta was traditionally produced exclusively by hand, but today many varieties of fresh pasta are also commercially produced by large-scale machines, and the products are widely available in supermarkets.

Both dried and fresh pasta come in a number of shapes and varieties, with three-hundred-and-ten specific forms known by over one-thousand-three-hundred different, documented names. In Italy the names of specific pasta shapes or types often vary with locale. For example, *Cavatelli* pasta is known by twenty-eight different names depending on the region. Common forms of pasta include long shapes, short shapes, tubes, flat shapes and sheets, miniature soup shapes, filled or stuffed, and speciality or decorative shapes.

As a category in Italian cuisine, both fresh and dried pastas are classically used in one of three kinds of prepared dishes. *Asciutta* is pasta that's been cooked and plated and then served with a complementary sauce or condiment. A second classification of pasta dishes is pasta *in brodo* in which the pasta is part of a soup-type dish. A third category is pasta *al forno* in which the pasta is incorporated into a dish that is subsequently baked in the oven. [pause]

Pasta is really a simple dish, but it comes in many varieties because it's so versatile. Some pasta dishes are served as a first course in Italy with smaller portion sizes than usual. Pasta is also prepared for light lunches, for example in salads or in large portion sizes for dinner. It can be prepared by hand or food processor and served hot or cold. The same applies to pasta sauces which vary through taste, colour and texture. When choosing which type of pasta and sauce to serve together, there is a general rule regarding compatibility. Simple sauces like pesto are ideal for long, thin strands of pasta while tomato sauce combines well with thick pastas. Thicker and chunkier sauces are better at clinging onto the holes and cuts in short, tubular, twisted pastas. The extra sauce left on the plate after all of the pasta is eaten is often mopped up with a piece of bread.

When it comes to healthy eating, the better option is whole wheat pasta, as it contains more nutrients than white pasta, for example magnesium, iron, calcium and potassium. OK, so unless you have any questions

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

You will now have thirty seconds to read through and check your answers.

(30 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Three.

Listening part four.

You will hear a conversation. You will hear the conversation twice. Choose the correct answers.

(2 minutes.)

[beep]

F: Paul, dinner's ready.

M: I'll be there in a minute, Joanna. I don't want to stop what I'm doing.

F: Are you checking university websites again? Aren't you tired of doing that yet?

M: Well, not really. I was all excited last week by the prospect of a new course, but now I'm confused – there are so many options available.

F: Well, you know my opinion. I think an online course's your best choice.

M: Mmm, I'm not sure. The more information I find, the more difficult it is to decide.

F: If you choose an online course, you may miss out on the so-called "student life", which is nothing special anyway – but you won't have to give up your current job and you'll also save money on student accommodation and any other expenses you'd incur if you lived on campus.

M: Yes, I know, you've told me before. But student life is very important to me.

F: Really? Why's that?

M: Well, as you know my first degree was an online course and I've always felt I missed out a bit, others in my family loved it, so I really want to get a taste of student life and see what it's like this time; and I doubt it will cost much more in the end, anyway.

F: OK. If you really want to try it, it's your call. [pause] Although I don't think you really know what it's like.

M: What do you mean?

F: Well, in reality it's not about meeting new people and making friends at all – and the ones you do make you soon lose touch with, anyway. Mainly it's about sharing the same flat with people you don't get on with, dealing with noisy flatmates, cleaning up after other people...

M: Oh, come on, Joanna. You make it sound like the worst thing on earth – and that's just not true for everyone.

F: Well, perhaps, but...

M: For example, remember your cousin? She met her husband while studying in London and they still keep in touch with their fellow students – even now. And from what I've heard, they helped each other a lot with essays and online presentations.

- F: OK. OK. You obviously really want to do this, so let's try and find the best course for you.
- M: Really? Oh, thanks. Well, I found this course in Glasgow today where you ...
- F: Glasgow? You're thinking of going over four-hundred miles away? I thought you were only looking for courses in London.
- M: Yes, I was, but then saw this course which is exactly what I'm looking for.
- F: There must be similar courses in London.
- M: No, not really. Glasgow University's course is a very high standard. And you know I'm going to miss you a lot but you can always come and visit me on the weekends. I've heard that Glasgow is very picturesque – and their course is only for a year while most courses in London last two.
- F: Well, if it's only for a year...But what about accommodation? I really think a room on campus isn't your best option; you're not a teenager anymore. You need your independence and a clean kitchen – you can hardly have **that** in shared accommodation.
- M: Hmm. You've probably got a point about independence. I want to be able to do what I want and put up friends when they come over; so I'll probably need to rent somewhere in the heart of Glasgow but close to the campus. But that's only because it'll be more practical and **definitely** not because I'm old!
- F: OK, OK Mr party-man. Well you can always hang out with your fellow students on campus – I'm sure there'll be a restaurant or cafeteria of some sort.
- M: Actually, there is. You see, here? That's where the main library is and here

(Wait 10 seconds before repeating.)

(10 seconds.)

That is the end of Part Four.

You now have two hours and forty minutes to complete the rest of the paper.