

Sample Questions

Here is a short sample listening test. Answers are at the end. Do not look at the answers until you have finished all the questions. Remember, there is a big difference between reading the questions and listening to them on the CD. It may be helpful to have someone read the questions and lecture to you. The actual listening test is recorded by native speakers of English, speaking at a normal rate. A 10 to 12 second pause will follow each problem. During this pause, read the answers and select one.

There are 11 Listening questions in this sample test. For problems 1–3, choose the best answer to the question.

- 1. Have you been to see the new movie yet?**
 - a. Yes, I'm going tomorrow.
 - b. No, it wasn't very good.
 - c. Yes, I went yesterday.

- 2. I'm taking some clothes to the cleaners. Is there anything I can drop off for you?**
 - a. No thanks, all my stuff's clean.
 - b. Be careful not to break it.
 - c. Please get me some, too.

- 3. How are things going so far?**
 - a. They've already gone.
 - b. We've accomplished a lot.
 - c. It's not too far.

For questions 4-6, choose the answer that means about the same thing as the statement you hear.

- 4. Frank never would've gone to the lecture if he'd known how boring it was.**
 - a. He didn't want to go.
 - b. He didn't like it.
 - c. He never went.

- 5. We first thought we'd buy several paintings, but we settled for only one when we found out how expensive they were.**
 - a. We bought one.
 - b. We bought several.
 - c. We didn't buy any.

- 6. This'll be a fine essay with a little bit of polishing.**
 - a. It's perfect now.
 - b. It needs a lot more work.
 - c. It's quite good already.

Now you will hear a radio interview. After the interview, you will be asked questions 7-11. You should choose the best answer to each question from the choices given. You may write notes if you want to.

ANCHOR: Most people know that fast food and processed food are terrible for them. However, reversing decades of poor eating habits is a huge challenge. But that's just what one group is trying to do. Referred to as the "Slow Food Movement," this group has been trying to increase the consumption of healthy, natural foods made in small batches using traditional preparation methods. For example, eating pasta that is hand-made instead of the kind that is made in a huge modern factory. You can learn more about the Slow Food movement at the festival they're organizing here in Boston this weekend. Tom Milton reports.

REPORTER: In Italy in 1986, a group of people who love food got together to discuss ways to preserve the traditional methods of producing and preparing food. They called their group the Slow Food movement. Their main concern was that modernization of food production would limit the variety of food choices and they worried that certain foods and flavors might even be lost forever. Traditional foods are not as widely consumed anymore—because they take more time to prepare and cook than the mass-produced, ready-to-eat foods available in supermarkets and fast-food restaurants. But those mass-produced foods—foods like frozen dinners and canned soups—are generally unhealthy. They contain loads of chemicals and additives that would never be found in foods produced using traditional small-batch processing methods. Karen Bailey, the organizer of this weekend's Slow Food festival, tells us more.

BSFC PRESIDENT: We're aiming for something big here—the biggest event ever hosted by the Slow Food movement in the United States. We're expecting at least 25,000 visitors over three days and are hoping for more. And there's going to be so much incredible food for visitors to sample: cheeses, pickles, olive oil, smoked ham.... But our event is about more than just the food. We really want to build awareness of the issues surrounding food production and food quality. There'll be a number of booths with information that highlights how the choices we make about food affect the wider culture and economy of the world.

REPORTER: A three-day festival is a great way to build awareness. But can you tell us a little more about what the Slow Food movement does? About the methods it uses to try and attain its goals?

BSFC PRESIDENT: Sure. Slow Food's biggest program involves searching out and identifying traditional foods—from all over the world. Then we help people continue to produce those foods in traditional ways, by making sure they have a market in which to sell it. We've built an international network of like-minded restaurant owners and chefs. And when we determine, for example, that the white honey of Ethiopia or the lemons from the Amalfi Coast of Italy are in danger of disappearing, we make sure our network knows about it. Then, many of those chefs begin using that honey or those lemons in their recipes—and customers and critics are amazed by the quality and flavor of the food. So the traditional foods find more buyers and the buyers get better quality. Everybody wins.

REPORTER: It does sound great. So all of you listeners who enjoy good food, make sure you come out to the Slow Food event this weekend, and maybe you'll get a chance to taste some delicious, traditionally made foods for yourself.

- 7. What are the speakers mainly talking about?**
 - a. the history of food production
 - b. a food organization
 - c. a successful food event

- 8. What does Karen Bailey say is an important reason for holding the festival?**
 - a. to spread information about the movement
 - b. to teach people about different cultures
 - c. to provide a place for buyers to meet

- 9. What does the Slow Food movement do to ensure that traditional foods remain available?**
 - a. find buyers for the food
 - b. hire people to produce the food
 - c. tell food critics about the food

- 10. What does Karen Bailey suggest about foods produced traditionally?**
 - a. They are more expensive than other foods.
 - b. They cause less damage to the environment.
 - c. They taste better than other foods.

- 11. How does the reporter end the report?**
 - a. by asking for recipes using traditional foods
 - b. by encouraging people to attend the festival
 - c. by emphasizing how much he enjoys food

Answer Key: 1-c, 2-a, 3-b, 4-b, 5-a, 6-c, 7-b, 8-a, 9-a, 10-c, 11-b.

GCVR (Grammar, Cloze, Vocabulary, Reading) Part 3

What to Expect

- The test contains 110 problems (34 grammar, 20 cloze, 33 vocabulary, and 23 reading), you will have 80 minutes (1 hour and 20 minutes) to complete the test.

Tips

1. Watch your time!
2. If you do not know the answer to a question—guess.
3. When the examiner calls “one minute left,” quickly guess at each remaining question.

Sample Grammar Questions

1. **The equipment in a few of the laboratories _____ upgraded yet.**
 - a. has to be
 - b. hasn't
 - c. hasn't been
 - d. has
2. **In terms of expenditure per student the United States spends _____ industrialized nations on education.**
 - a. even more of other
 - b. more than most other
 - c. as most other
 - d. other than those
3. **The advertising agency planned to use the same techniques that _____ so successful in the past.**
 - a. had proven to be
 - b. are proven to be
 - c. proved being
 - d. were proved
4. **So many students asked how _____ the homework that the teacher had to explain it again.**
 - a. they should do
 - b. should they do
 - c. did they do
 - d. they will do
5. **The groundbreaking research was done by five scientists, all of _____ absolutely essential.**
 - a. whom had contributed
 - b. whose contributions were
 - c. which were contributions
 - d. who contributed having

Answer Key: 1-c, 2-b, 3-a, 4-a, 5-b.

Sample Cloze Questions

In years to come, zoos will not only be places where animals are exhibited to the public, but repositories where rare species can be saved from extinction (7) _____ captive breeding. The most powerful force (8) _____ the future of many animals—and of zoos—is the decline of the wild. (9) _____ even zoo directors would argue that (10) _____ are better places for animals than the fields and forest of their native (11) _____, yet zoos may be the last chance for some creatures that would otherwise pass quietly into oblivion.

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|-----|-------------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| 7. | a. through | b. of | c. from | d. damage |
| 8. | a. bringing | b. that | c. to | d. influencing |
| 9. | a. But | b. So | c. Not | d. Then |
| 10. | a. where | b. zoos | c. even | d. wilds |
| 11. | a. lands | b. life | c. residence | d. field |

Answer Key: 7-a, 8-d, 9-c, 10-b, 11-a.

Sample Vocabulary Questions

- 1. As the president's term comes to an end, he is spending a lot of time thinking about what his _____ will be.**
 - a. tradition
 - b. memoir
 - c. legacy
 - d. heritage
- 2. After a long summer vacation, the students felt _____ and were ready to begin their studies.**
 - a. smooth
 - b. modified
 - c. satisfying
 - d. relaxed
- 3. Professor Clark is the _____ of all that is good about higher education.**
 - a. embodiment
 - b. empowerment
 - c. persona
 - d. incarnation

Answer Key: 1-c, 2-d, 3-a

Sample Reading Questions

This passage is about a type of whale.

The narwhal is a medium-sized whale found in Arctic waters. It is distinguished by a spiral-shaped tusk that extends from the upper jaw of the males and has resulted in the narwhal being referred to as the “sea unicorn”. Another defining characteristic of the narwhal is its diving depths. Descents of 1,500 meters, lasting as long as 25 minutes, have been recorded. Considering the narwhal is a sea mammal, a creature that has lungs and needs to breathe, this is quite astonishing.

Research has shown that narwhals have been intimately familiar with their environment. They always return to the same part of the ocean every winter and have been able to seek out small holes and cracks in the sea ice to breathe. Unfortunately, climate change has brought about the breakup of the Arctic ice shelf that covers the seas where narwhals spend their winters. Narwhals now find themselves living in a world that is changing too rapidly. Researchers from the University of California stated that narwhals suffered from “limited behavioral flexibility for responding to alterations in sea ice.”

Some of the newly formed pieces of ice, or ice floes, are as large as 250 square kilometers and have caused narwhals to become disoriented because they are unable to find the breathing holes they need. Paradoxically, the unique physiology that has enabled the narwhal to swim long distances and to dive to great depths has contributed to the problems it now faces. The skeleton, muscles, and lungs that the narwhal developed to aid its diving also create complications for the narwhal. These features mean that the narwhal has to surface to breathe every one or two kilometers. With a lack of familiar breathing holes, and large, shifting ice floes, the narwhal faces an uncertain future. They are now one of the world’s most endangered sea mammals and unless they become better able to adapt to the changes in their winter home, they may face extinction.

1. In the first paragraph, why does the writer mention a unicorn?

- a. to explain how the narwhal got its name
- b. to help describe a narwhal’s appearance
- c. to compare the size of two creatures
- d. to indicate the narwhal is a beautiful animal

2. How does the writer describe the narwhal’s diving behavior?

- a. unusual for a mammal
- b. similar to other whales
- c. surprising for an animal without lungs
- d. expected for a creature that size

- 3. What is the purpose of the first paragraph?**
- to explain where narwhals can be seen in the wild
 - to reject an idea that most people have about narwhals
 - to provide descriptive information about narwhals
 - to show that narwhals are an important species
- 4. In the second paragraph, what does the phrase “intimately familiar” suggest?**
- Narwhals have known the areas they lived in very well.
 - Narwhals have been experts at surviving the winter.
 - Narwhals have lived in very small environments.
 - Narwhals have swum in small groups.
- 5. Why is climate change a problem for narwhals?**
- It increases the temperature of the sea.
 - It creates many small ice floes.
 - It reduces their food source.
 - It makes the environment difficult to navigate.
- 6. What did researchers from the University of California report?**
- Narwhals need to follow the ice floes.
 - Narwhals do not have a flexible skeleton.
 - Narwhals have to swim too far to find food.
 - Narwhals cannot adapt their behaviors easily.
- 7. In the third paragraph, why does the writer mention narwhal’s physiology?**
- to explain a surprising detail
 - to emphasize an advantage
 - to give a solution to a problem
 - to introduce a popular theory
- 8. What is the main point made about narwhals?**
- They are living in new regions.
 - They are learning to adapt.
 - They are struggling to survive.
 - They are looking for colder oceans.

Answer Key: 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-a, 5-d, 6-d, 7-a, 8-c