

English Language Listening Comprehension Examination

Secondary 4 Express (SA2) 2015

Instructions to candidates. (CD Duration: 45 mins) (byeileeneditedbykrtc/2nd)

Answer **all** questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided on the Question Paper. You may take notes as you listen to the recording.

Part 1 ____

You will hear three different extracts. For questions 1 to 6, tick the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear. There are two questions for each extract.

You will hear each extract **twice**.

Extract 1

Text for Questions 1 and 2

F I am so glad that the office has a good bicycle parking area. I plan to cycle to work two to three times a week, starting from next week. I was afraid to do it previously because the office didn't have a proper parking area. I didn't want my precious bicycle to get stolen!

M Good for you! One of my close colleagues cycles twice a week. He leaves his home just after 7am. He claims it's a pleasant ride because there is minimal traffic at that time going into the Central Business District.

F There are even shower facilities in Asia Square Tower 1. I plan to shower in my gym.

M Maybe I should go and buy a bicycle too. It will be good exercise and a stress reliever. What's more. There are several park connectors I can use from home.

F Remember to buy a good helmet when you purchase your bicycle. Consider your budget carefully too.

M I was horrified to hear my colleague's bicycle cost \$5000! Can't a good bicycle be bought for less money?

F Of course! Bicycles can be as cheap as sixty dollars! I can help you if you

(Listen to extract 1 again)

Extract 2

Text for Questions 3 and 4

F I have been having chest pains recently. I have visited the doctor and he tells me there seems to be nothing physically wrong with me. He believes it is stress related!

M Have you been extremely stressed and anxious at work recently?

F Yes, I have. I had some important deadlines to meet in the past two months. I was working long hours at the office and at home. Now that I think about it, my chest pains started at about the same time.

M Actually, I read about this because my father was going through it last year. There is an imbalance in your body's subconscious nervous system. As a result of your anxiety and stress going out of control, you are suffering from an anxiety condition called hyperventilation – this shallow quick breathing is probably what you are experiencing as chest pains.

F Oh dear, is there a cure for it?

M There is a natural anti-anxiety drug you can take. I can't remember its name but you may want to consult your doctor first. However, it is better if you

(Listen to extract 2 again)

Extract 3

Text for Questions 5 and 6

Slovakia's High Tatra Mountains, which form a natural border between Slovakia and Poland, are renowned for a myriad of winter sports. The mountain range is 53 kilometres and the width is about thirty kilometres. Tourists flock to the area for the breath-taking views and because it is an economical place to ski. The place is so cold that the water in the lake freezes to form clear ice. A hiker, Tomas Nunuk, posted a video that went viral, where it appears he is walking on water. Meteorologist Meghan Mussoline, explains that clear ice is two times as strong as white ice. Since the whole region experiences low temperatures from the middle of November, it is not surprising that the clear ice formed is thick and strong enough for people to walk on. Snow blankets the higher slopes for seven or more months in the year. The mountain range is home to 10,000 plant and animal species. There are deciduous riparian-type forests, beech wood forests and some pine trees. There are also spruce and fir forests, rowanberry and Swiss stone pines. The brown bear, chamois, alpine marmot, lynx and golden eagle are some of the mountain's famous inhabitants.

(Listen to extract 3 again)

Part 2

You will hear six short recordings. In each recording, a citizen shares what he or she loves about the eco-city he or she lives in.

For questions 7 -12 choose from the list **(A-G)** why the citizens enjoy living in their particular eco-city. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use. DO NOT USE ANY LETTER MORE THAN ONCE.

You will hear the six recordings **twice**.

Texts for Questions 7 to 12

Speaker 1

I love I love living in Vancouver. With its towering mountains, residents have a concrete daily reminder that they have a responsibility to protect the environment. Granville Island, which I live close to, was developed with eco-living in mind and I thoroughly enjoy its public market and art studios. There is a wonderful network of bicycle routes that encourages people to use bicycles and electric scooters.

Speaker 2

Few would associate Brazil with great environmental awareness, yet Curitiba, a southern city, enjoys one of the purest air in South America. It has an elaborate rapid transit bus system which began operation in the 1960s. I take the bus to work every day. In the 1980s, the city developed an outstanding recycling programme. The city has grand plans for a metro system and expanding the existing bicycle routes.

Speaker 3

Copenhagen enjoys being ranked as Europe's greenest city. The carbon dioxide emissions of the city are extremely low in spite of its enormous size. Accessible public transportation and the fact that more than half of its residents use a bicycle to commute ensure that the city remains green. We are avid about recycling and composting, believing firmly in our responsibility to take care of nature.

Speaker 4

In S In San Francisco, we are extremely concerned about our food production. We endeavour to consume food produced close by. Local farms are well supported. Many neighbourhoods have distinctive farmers' markets. We boast a 77% recycling rate, one of the highest in the world. The city enforces that normal refuse should be separated from materials that can be recycled or composted.

Speaker 5

Capetown is South Africa's second largest city but that has not stopped it from making great progress in energy conservation. They use energy from South Africa's first commercial wind farm. By 2020, it has the lofty ambition of getting 10% of its energy from renewable resources. While cycling is popular, locals are also eating more local produce. Many even have their own vegetables in their gardens and utilize solar energy in their homes.

Speaker 6

Adelaide is a lovely city to live in and is home to the first solar-powered bus in the world, the Tindo. There is even wireless internet and air-conditioning on board. In our effort to be green, our market has successfully recycled more than 85% of its waste. To promote sustainable development many buildings have solar panels. You can even hire a bicycle

(Listen to the 6 recordings again)

Part 3

You will hear a recording on the use of social media and its effect on young people.

For Question 13, choose from the list **(A-F)** **four** pieces of information which are **stated** **or implied** in the recording. Put a tick (✓) for each piece of information.

No marks will be awarded if you tick more than four pieces of information.

You will hear the recording **twice**.

Text for Question 13

Social media has invaded our lives. Sites like Facebook and MySpace may appeal to the individual's narcissistic side. However they can also be utilised by professionals. They may be a good avenue to form networks and even provide business opportunities. Finding a contractor for your house may be easier with a simple post for recommendations on your social media site. Friends and family members may easily give recommendations, include comments and useful reviews. On the flip side, cyber-bullying can be multiplied. Personal information is also too readily disclosed. Many youths are unaware of dangers like identity theft or computer viruses. Few pay attention to disclaimers and policies on social media sites. Even advertisements that seem obscure in a small part of your computer screen may actually subconsciously encourage you to spend more money. While these social media sites appear to promote interaction, they can also create isolation. Instead of engaging in face-to-face interaction, youths prefer an online presence. The result of this includes depression and insomnia. There is a need for youths to be discerning and critical in the use of social media.

(Listen to the text again)

Part 4

You will hear an extract about drones and their uses and disadvantages.

As you listen, take note of the ideas and details.

Complete the graphic organiser on Page 5.

You will hear the recording **twice**.

Text for Questions 14 to 21

Drones are becoming more ubiquitous in our world today. Other names they go by include unmanned aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and remotely piloted aircraft (RPA). These machines can be seen to be a bane or a boon. They can even be purchased relatively easily and cost as little as below one hundred dollars. However, sophisticated models can cost thousands of dollars. They can be transported with ease and come with a range of accessories.

Mounted with a GoPro camera, drones can be used to get footage of sports and other unique events. They can take photographs from vantage points. They can also help us to investigate flora and fauna, especially in remote areas. The US government currently uses drones to conserve wildlife and their habitats. Poachers can be caught more easily with the help of drones.

Drones also help survey weather conditions to aid in disaster warnings and in agriculture. Farmers can monitor their crops and provide water and fertilisers in a timely fashion and avert damage to their plants. These will help increase profits and are more environmentally friendly. One Swiss software company, Pix4D, creates 3 dimensional maps from drone images. Besides helping farmers to keep tabs on their fields far away, mines can be monitored.

At the University of Florida, drones are being flown into hurricanes to gather data. Studying these hurricanes will aid in more accurate forecasts and thus save money and lives.

Drones are increasingly being used to deliver products. One example is Amazon "Octocopter" which can even deliver a product ordered online within a half hour of purchase.

Drones are also helping hands in search and rescue missions. In Canada in 2013, a victim of a car accident was rescued when his cell phone enabled a drone to locate him. He was saved from freezing to death. An air ambulance helicopter and ground search team could not find him in the dark.

Unfortunately, the potential for misuse cannot be denied. Some fear their use in terrorist attacks, illegal surveillance of restricted areas.

Paparazzi may also use drones to terrorise celebrities in an unprecedented manner. Drones can be flown into celebrities' homes, perhaps unnoticed. This threatens personal privacy immensely.

There are strict rules governing the use of drones. For example in the United Kingdom, drones that exceed 20 kg are banned in civilian air spaces. They also cannot be flown within 150 m of large groups of people. They also need to maintain a distance of 50 m between people and buildings. These rules exist simply because a falling drone could seriously injure a person or damage a building. In the United States, drones can only be used if they remain in the operator's line of sight.

One drone nearly collided with a plane in the United Kingdom in October 2014. This incident brought drones into the limelight and fuelled numerous heated discussions about their use.

Governments persist in maintaining a great interest and need to use drones. As military aircraft, drones can stay in the air for as long as 82 hours. They can be used in surveillance and may also be armed and used to kill, even assassinate terrorist leaders.

Ultimately, drones can reach places and people with ease, without the loss of human lives. Therein lies their greatest benefit.

(Listen to the text again)

Part 5

You will hear an extract about a social enterprise called Cocoa Life.

As you listen, complete the notes. You do not need to write in full sentences.

You will hear the recording **only once**.

Text for Question 22

Hot cocoa is something many of us enjoy in cold weather. The warm comforting drink is often taken for granted. In reality, the farming of cocoa is difficult and abuse is prevalent. In June 2013, Mondelez International Inc, the world's biggest chocolate company which controls brands like Cadbury and the extremely popular Toblerone, expressed its commitment to aid farming communities and increase sustainable cocoa production. CARE International (an NGO) will spearhead Cocoa Life projects till 2016.

Cocoa Life, a social enterprise, endeavours to ensure the sustainability of cocoa communities and profitable businesses for farmers. The hope is that farmers will be more content in their communities and their children will also thrive.

Farmers are provided with information on simple practices like increasing the distance between trees, starting seedlings in nurseries, ensuring trees are free from pests and diseases. These ensure increased yields and profits.

Aiming to improve the lives in various communities, men and women strive to create better transport networks, electricity, healthcare and education.

There is a desire to improve financial stability by teaching farming communities entrepreneurship. These additional sources of income are only possible with access to micro-credit. Farmers feed their own families nutritious meals with their own livestock and homegrown fruits and vegetables.

Young people are slowly being lured back into farming with employment opportunities. Training is also provided and youths no longer feel repulsed by village living. Child labour is not acceptable.

Protecting the environment remains a priority. Potable water, clean air and fertile soil are essential to ensure sustainable living for the future.

There is also a firm commitment to improving the status of women. Gender equality is beneficial for the community. Female involvement in the cocoa supply chain results in better financial management, improved education for young people and viable communities. Special meetings are held for female farmers to ensure they are heard in the communities. The eventual plan is to provide women with more access to assorted means of generating income that complement farming.

The Cocoa Life website will showcase farmers and their stories. The hope is that

ANSWERS – Secondary 4 Express (SA2) 2015

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
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1 B 2 D 3 D 4 C 5 A 6 B (1 mark each)	7 E 8 G 9 B 10 A 11 C 12 D (1 mark each)	13 A (1 mark) C (1 mark) D (1 mark) E (1 mark) (1 mark each)	14 remotely piloted aircraft 15 thousands of dollars 16 vantage points 17 remote areas 18 habitats 19 damage 20 illegal 21 colliding (1 mark each)
Part 5 22 nurseries (1 mark) pests (1 mark) creating (1 mark) access (1 mark) educating (1 mark) equality (1 mark)			