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Listening

There are four parts to the test.

You will hear each part once only.

There are 40 questions.

Each question carries one mark.

For each part of the test, there will be time for you to look through the questions and time for you to check your answers.¹

Audio

Follow the link below

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1U3HdKWF2rHbBbwdcoi-hciTmJBDdKgBU?usp=share_link

¹ IELTS™. www.ielts.org. Accessed 18 February 2023



Section 1

Questions 1–10

Questions 1–4

Complete the table below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

City Bank Customer Service Log

Example	Answer
Type of query:	<u>Term deposits</u>

Customer name: David **1**

Phone: 023 - 561- 055

D.O.B.: 18 / 02 / 1968

Customer's Term Deposit details:

Amount: \$18,000

Term: **2**

Interest rate: 3.45% per annum

Current Term Deposit interest rates:

1 year 3.65% per annum

2 years **3** % per annum

4 Term Deposits

Minimum deposit: \$20,000



Section 1

Questions 5–10

Complete the table below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER for each answer.

5 tax rate:	28%	
Investment returns	Depend on 6	
Term	Effective rate of return	
2 years	Salary \$48,001 – \$70,000 3.75% per annum	Salary \$70,001 – 7 \$..... 3.92. % per annum
Minimum investment amount:	\$10,000	
Hidden charges/fees:	8	
Interest payment options:	monthly, 9, 6-monthly, annually	
Application options:	online 10 in person	



Section 2

Questions 11–20

Questions 11–15

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

11 The September Celebration day is held ...

- A five times a year to honour the city
- B on the park's important birthday
- C to remember the history of the park

12 The park was first built in ...

- A 1955
- B 1979
- C the 1990s

13 The park still uses ...

- A a children's play area
- B a petting zoo
- C two of the early rides

14 The Hurricane roller-coaster is ...

- A tall and made of wood
- B designed for smaller children
- C very fast and exciting

15 The rides with a height limit are coded ...

- A yellow
- B blue
- C black



Section 2

Questions 16–20

Complete the notes below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer

Food options:

- Italian, Chinese, etc. at the Food Court
- hamburgers, sandwiches, etc. at **16**

Special Events:

Parade

- Starts at noon
- On the **17**
- Run by final year high school students

Concert

- At the amphitheatre
- Theme: **18**
- Starts at 7:00

Safety and Security:

- Ten **19** centres in the park
- Children ask any staff member for help
- Ask security team at the **20**



Section 3

Questions 21–30

Questions 21–24

Complete the flowchart below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Session outline:

Project topic: design a water treatment system

Tutorial structure:

Step 1: go over **21**

Step 2: think about research **22**

- search online databases using good search terms
- consider the kind of research, e.g. **23** from other projects

Step 3: develop an **24**



Section 3

Questions 25–27

Complete the summary below.

Write NO MORE THAN ONE WORD for each answer.

Project description:

You need to design a grey-water treatment system to reduce the pressure on the water

25 in a Cameroon village. Grey-water is wastewater from household

26 The system needs to treat this water to remove bacteria, and

recycle it to use for purposes such as watering plants, flushing toilets and doing **27**

.....

Questions 28–30

Complete the notes below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer

Research tips

General internet searches:

Avoid websites where **28** try to sell their products.

Engineering library:

Use key words when searching the catalogue

e.g. grey-water treatment systems / **29** use

EWB website:

Check examples from the **30** last year.



Section 4

Questions 31– 40

Questions 31– 34

Complete the summary below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Origins of the Caveman Diet

There are many popular fad diets nowadays. They all promise good health if you stick to the **31** The Caveman diet is a popular example. This diet includes foods such as lean meat and fish that our forebears ate before we developed **32** We need to find out what our ancestors did eat, so researchers are studying some existing hunter-gatherer tribes. These tribes typically like to eat meat but they can't always get it, even though they are skilled with their weapons, e.g. **33** and So, instead, they eat foods that their wives gather. They get only about a **34** of their energy from meat.

Questions 35–36

Choose the correct letter, A, B or C.

35 Research evidence suggests that ...

- A the tribesmen's traditional diet is unhealthy
- B our bodies can digest only certain foods
- C we can adapt to a range of diets.

36 Thai people have difficulty digesting milk because ...

- A they have too much lactase in their bodies
- B in the past they didn't farm cows
- C their saliva lacks certain enzymes.



Section 4

Questions 37–40

Complete the notes below.

Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each answer.

Variation in global diets:

- Inuit – most calories from **37** foods, e.g. seal meat
- Jains – vegetarian, but milk is permitted
- Others – fish, insects

Implications for the caveman diet:

- Cavemen did not all eat the same diet
- Diets come from complicated cultural **38**

Problems with Caveman diet:

- Costs a lot of money for lean meat and **39**
- Too much red meat may be unhealthy
- Reliance on meat is bad for the **40**



Answer Key Listening

SECTION 1

1. Marshall
2. 180 days
3. 3.85 (%)
4. Monthly Interest / monthly interest
5. maximum
6. income bracket
7. 120,000 / 120000
8. no fees
9. quarterly
10. (by) phone

SECTION 2

11. C
12. B
13. B
14. A
15. C
16. food stands
17. Main Street / St. / main street / st.
18. Hollywood
19. first-aid / first aid / First Aid
20. guard stations

SECTION 3

21. task instructions
22. strategies
23. case studies
24. action plan
25. supply
26. drains
27. laundry
28. manufacturers
29. residential
30. competition

SECTION 4

31. plan
32. agriculture
33. bows, arrows [in either order]
34. third / 3rd
35. C
36. B
37. high fat / high-fat
38. (dietary) practices
39. nut oils
40. environment



General Training Reading

There are 40 questions on this question paper.
Each question carries one mark.²

² IELTS™. www.ielts.org. Accessed 18 February 2023



SECTION 1

Questions 1–14

Read the text below and answer Questions 1–7.

A CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD?

The average person comes down with three colds a year, each lasting for about nine days. There is still no cure but the following advice may help.

Take time off work, because your body will fight off the cold virus better if it is well rested. However, if you have to work, avoid close contact with your co-workers as the virus is contagious. Wash your hands frequently or use an alcohol-based disinfectant gel. Non-sedating allergy medications, which you can buy from a chemist, can decrease drowsiness and also alleviate the problems of a runny nose, watery eyes and blocked sinuses.

As soon as you feel a cold coming on, boost your fluid intake. Water or juice is ideal but hot herbal teas with lemon will help thin mucus and expel it from the body. A warm gargle with salt water will relieve a scratchy throat by reducing inflammation and clearing mucus and irritants. It also flushes out bacteria and viruses so it can be used as a preventative measure as well.

The warm moisture generated by a hot shower or bath will soothe and clear nasal passages. Inhaling steam over a bowl of hot water relieves congested sinuses, too. For a tickly cough, the latest research suggests that honey, either straight from the jar or dissolved in a hot drink, works as well if not better than costly lozenges and sprays.

A good diet is essential for a quick recovery, so start the day with a healthy breakfast including vitamin C in the form of fresh fruit or berries. For lunch, chicken soup is good, but be sure to add chunks of lean chicken meat, for protein helps build immune cells. Not only is this the perfect comfort food but it has been proven to be medicinally beneficial. For dinner, a spicy curry makes a good decongestant and some ingredients (ginger, garlic, chilli) are recognised as being anti-viral and anti-bacterial.

A little light exercise is beneficial, as this will enhance your emotional wellbeing, but don't attempt anything too strenuous. Finally, to recharge your body and regain your strength, you need a full eight hours' sleep.



Questions 1-7

Complete the summary below.

Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.

People usually get three colds every year. When sick, it is good to stay away from work because you need rest and you could spread the illness to **1** Reduce **2** and cold symptoms by using medicines that you can buy from a pharmacy.

Drink a lot and gargle with salt water to help clear your throat. Gargling with salt water is a good **3** to keep you safe from future illness, too. Steam helps clear the nose and **4**, instead of expensive medicine, is good for a cough.

Take lots of vitamin C. Chicken soup is healthy and it is ideal **5**, as well as having curative properties. In the evening, a meal of hot curry will clear the airways. This also has **6** that can neutralise harmful bacteria and viruses. Some kind of **7** is a good idea to improve your mood and sleep will help you to get better.



SECTION 1

Questions 8–14

Read the text and answer questions 8–14.

CAR THEFT

Car theft is a constant problem, but if you own a newer model of car, there is less likelihood of it being stolen. Newer models incorporate security systems that help prevent theft. However, thieves often steal car keys to access newer vehicles so it is a good policy to know where your keys are at all times. Never leave them in your car, even if it is parked in your garage at home. You make life easy for the burglar if you leave keys in a receptacle just inside the door or hanging from a hook. Think of a less obvious place, hidden from view. Once a thief has access to your keys, everything you own is at risk, including your personal safety.

While older cars are a potential target, there are some simple precautions you should take. Definitely, lock your car before you leave it, even for the shortest time, even in the driveway of your house. Think of installing an alarm or a steering lock or consider a mechanical immobilizer that fits across the steering wheel. This is a relatively inexpensive item but it is a good deterrent for thieves. They generally go for the easiest and fastest option.

Obviously, it is in your own interest to make your vehicle as difficult to steal as possible – not only to avoid stress and inconvenience, but also because your insurance premiums will soar if you make a claim. If you are unfortunate enough to have your vehicle stolen, phone the police immediately. You will need to provide information relating to your vehicle including make, model, year, colour, registration number and VIN (vehicle identification number). You need all of this when you file a stolen vehicle report. Police will also log any personal items that were in the vehicle. If these items include identifying documents such as a registration certificate, this will make the illegal resale of the vehicle simpler for the thieves, so keep these documents in a separate place.

Next, contact your insurance company. If your wallet was in the car and it contained credit cards, you will need to notify your bank. If your house keys were in the car, call a locksmith and have your locks changed, and if you are still making payments on the car, you will need to inform the finance company. Both your insurance company and the finance company will ask you for copies of the police report so it is best to obtain one in the first instance.



Questions 8-14

Complete the notes below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 8–14 on your answer sheet.

Car theft

- modern cars are more difficult to steal because of their **8**
- If they have your keys, burglars could steal your car or even threaten your **9**
- older models are easier to steal, so get an alarm or steering lock or use an immobilizer (cheap but effective **10**)
- the loss of your car is stressful and also makes your **11** more expensive
- if your car is taken:
 - call the police
 - supply all identifying information for vehicle – fill out a **12**
 - NB: the **13** of the vehicle will be easier for the thieves if you leave official papers inside
 - call the insurance company, bank (if necessary), and the **14** if you owe money on the car



SECTION 2

Questions 15-27

Read the text and answer questions 15-20

HOW TO WRITE A JOB TRANSFER REQUEST

If you want to transfer to a division of the company in another city, you should write a job transfer application letter to your Departmental Head or Human Resources expressing your reasons.

Employees may seek a transfer:

- to undertake professional development (e.g. learn new skills or a new line of business)
- to confront new challenges (e.g. you have mastered all the duties related to your current position which has now become routine and you feel the need for a change)
- to break away from unrelenting tension or conflict within a team
- to cope with a change in life's circumstances (e.g. family illness, marriage, divorce, birth of a child)
- to recover from illness or manage the aging process (e.g. physical pain, fatigue) – in this instance, you may want to request reduced working hours or lighter duties
- to change the nature of your job (e.g. from on-the-road to a non-travelling role)
- to repatriate (i.e. return to country of origin)

A job transfer request made for personal reasons should state those reasons clearly and succinctly. However, you should also highlight your achievements, strengths and abilities, draw attention to your familiarity with the organization's values and practices, and demonstrate how the company will benefit from the transfer. If appropriate, include a transition plan, which includes training a new person for your current job.

The job transfer request letter should be written in formal business format with a polite and respectful tone. The employee should keep copies of all communications concerning the transfer request.

Note that, if you want to apply for an existing, advertised vacancy within the company, you should fill in the application document, write a cover letter, and treat it as you would an external application.



Questions 15–20

Complete the notes below.

Complete the summary using the list of words, A–L, below.

Write the correct letter, A–L, in boxes 15–20 on your answer sheet.

How to request a transfer

To get a job with a different **15** of the firm, write a formal letter stating your reasons. These may include professional development; adjusting to a different family **16**; leaving a stressful work environment; ill health or old age; desire for a different type of **17**; or repatriation.

Apart from personal reasons, you should focus on your **18**: what advantages there are for the firm, and your knowledge and understanding of company **19** You may need to attach a transition plan.

If the job you would like has been advertised, you need to complete the appropriate **20**

A employment

B company

C change

D talents

E situation

F letters

G hardships

H evidence

I form

J culture

K conflict

L branch



SECTION 2

Questions 21-27

Read the text below and answer Questions 21–27.

REDUNDANCY WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Getting laid off can be distressing and demoralizing for the employee. Two features differentiate redundancy from other grounds for termination. Firstly, the position must be justifiably superfluous to the employer's requirements and, secondly, the employee must not be at fault. Redundancy cannot be used as a means of dispensing with a poorly performing employee, or one who has been guilty of misconduct in the workplace.

Whether a position is truly redundant is a matter of business judgment for the employer. Whereas minimal modifications to a job role do not amount to grounds for redundancy, a worker who has an obsolete skill set because of the introduction of new technology, for example, can be made redundant. Sometimes the reason for redundancy is obvious to employees, such as the relocation of the business to another city or province, closing down, or selling the business; but sometimes it is less obvious, such as a takeover by another firm. A company can also make redundancies in order to operate more efficiently and cost effectively, if there are financial issues leading to downsizing or if it is no longer using a certain department, for example. In some situations, a company may decide to lay off part of its workforce because it can no longer sustain some in-house services and it wants to outsource certain business functions.

The employer must consult 'in good faith' (sincerely and honestly) with the affected workers before making the ultimate decision. Reasons for the reorganisation must be presented and workers must have an opportunity to have their say. The employer must take into account any feedback that employees provide. Where possible, the employer should weigh up the alternatives, such as transfer within the company or a reduction in hours. The final decision, however, rests with the employer. The notice period for redundancy will usually be stipulated in the original employment contract. If not, then 'reasonable notice' is required and this will depend on the circumstances, such as seniority and length of service.

In some situations, employees may wish to challenge their redundancy in court, and this must be done within 90 days of the decision. The employer must show that the redundancy was genuinely decided on commercial grounds and that there was a frank and honest consultation with the employee before the final decision was made. The business must give evidence to show that the grounds for redundancy were objective,



SECTION 2 (continued)

reasonable and fair. The court will then perform its own assessment of whether the restructure was necessary.



Questions 21–24

Choose FOUR letters, A–H.

Write the correct letters in boxes 21–24 on your answer sheet.

Which FOUR of the following are genuine reasons for redundancy?

- A** the company moves to a new place
- B** the company wants to hire a younger workforce
- C** the company has recently taken on other people
- D** the company no longer requires as many employees
- E** the company wants to get rid of badly behaved employees
- F** the employer contracts another firm to perform the work
- G** the employer has no need of underperforming employees
- H** the employer's need for a particular type of work has ceased

Questions 25–27

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 25–27 on your answer sheet.

- 25** The company has to consult with workers before making the final redundancy decision; it must provide reasons and consider the workers'
- 26** A period of of redundancy is needed, where this is not stated in the contract.
- 27** If employees contest their redundancy, employers must provide for the redundancy decision.



SECTION 3

Questions 28–40

Read the text below and answer Questions 28–40.

A BOOK REVIEW – DOG WILL HAVE HIS DAY BY FRED VARGAS (TRANSLATED BY SIAN REYNOLDS)

This is another crime thriller from the prize-winning novelist Fred Vargas. Despite the misleading first name and Spanish surname, the author is actually a French woman – Frédérique Audoin-Rouzeau. She adopted her nom de plume from the Ava Gardner character, the Spanish dancer Maria Vargas, in the 1954 film *The Barefoot Contessa*. Although a writer of crime fiction, Frederique Audoin-Rouzeau is primarily a medieval historian and archaeologist.

Her detective books are immensely popular: over 10 million copies have been sold worldwide and they have been translated into 45 languages. She is a little mystified by her success – after all, it is just a hobby – and finds it quite amusing. As an archaeologist specialising in epidemiology, she produced the definitive study on the transmission of the bubonic plague – a book that she says “after seven years of intensive work trying to find the real vector of the plague” sold only a thousand copies. It is even more paradoxical to learn that she wrote each of her novels in three weeks flat, during her annual summer holidays. Even when she took a break from archaeology to work full-time on her fiction, the first draft was still finished within the same time frame. She uses the ensuing months to polish and tidy the prose.

Perhaps by virtue of Vargas’ archaeological background, *Dog Will Have His Day* starts with a bone. It turns out to be the top joint of a woman’s big toe, found by chance in Paris by Louis Kehlweiler, a former special investigator for the Ministry of Justice. He presents his find to the local police, who decline to do anything about it. However, Louis, convinced that a murder has taken place, decides to focus on finding the body to which the toe belongs.

Most of Vargas’ characters are eccentrics in some way and Louis is no exception. He carries a toad named Bufo around in his pocket and consults it on matters of importance, although Louis says: “You have to keep it simple with Bufo, just basic ideas ... He can’t cope with anything else. Sometimes I try a bit harder, a bit of philosophy even, to improve his mind ... He was much more stupid when I first got him.” Louis recruits the assistance of Marc Vandoosler, one of the ‘evangelists’ of a previous novel *The Three Evangelists*. The evangelists, actually unemployed historians, share a rundown house and Marc is the medieval researcher among them. Later, another of the



SECTION 3 (continued)

evangelists, Mathias, the hunter-gatherer (a prehistoric specialist), joins the undertaking.

As the bone fragment had obviously passed through a dog's digestive system, Louis' first mission is to track down the dog in question. Ringo, a pit bull, is eventually identified as the culprit and his owner is tracked to a tiny Breton fishing village. There, Marc and Louis establish that the corpse of an old woman missing her big toe had been discovered on the beach a few days earlier. The investigation takes in some interesting characters, including a collector of antique typewriters. Although initially suspecting just one murder, Louis, with the help of Marc and Mathias, manages to solve three homicides and unmask a would-be mayoral candidate who is in fact wanted for crimes against humanity dating from the Second World War.

As an aficionado of crime fiction, I find Vargas' prose far from conventional. It is original, enthralling and witty, occasionally whimsical and surreal, but always with a delightful simplicity. The main characters have their little catch phrases such as "I could do with a beer" (Louis) which makes them endearingly human. She has a cast of quirky provincial characters expertly portrayed; far removed from the darkly humorous, brutally violent, hard-edged Scandinavian realism which is so widely admired these days. Vargas definitely swims against the tide of realism – there is a lack of elaborate description – no detailed depictions of the meals eaten, clothes worn, music listened to or cars driven. This is enormously refreshing: frankly, how essential is it to know the make of a vehicle or the brand of beer? Unless, of course, it is inextricably linked to the unravelling of the plot.

Comparatively speaking, the plot of this book appears at first to be a little on the light side although her bizarre characters and inventiveness keep the reader well entertained. However, the story suddenly becomes convoluted towards the end and the denouement rapidly ensues, leaving the reader feeling short-changed. It is not as ingenious or inspired as *The Three Evangelists* – one of her finest novels and a hard act to follow – but the well-judged inclusion of Marc leaves the reader wanting to see more of the other two evangelists. Despite some shortcomings, it is still a brilliant read and I remain a steadfast fan.



Questions 28–36

Complete the summary below.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the text for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 28–36 on your answer sheet.

Fred Vargas is the **28** of Frédérique Audoin-Rouzeau. She has two main professions, and writing crime novels is her **29** She thinks it is funny that her fiction is so popular, in contrast to her academic writing, which does not sell so well. It took many years of research before she published her book about the **30** whereas she can write the first draft of a detective story in just **31**, although it takes quite a bit longer to correct and change the **32**

Dog Will Have His Day is a story about a piece of human bone, and Louis Kehlweiler's attempts to solve a murder mystery. Kehlweiler is a typical example of Vargas' heroes, many of whom are **33**; in his case, he has a pet toad who he chats to regularly. He enlists the help of Marc and Mathias, both **34** who had featured as evangelists in an earlier Vargas novel. They end up in a small **35** where they learn that a woman's body had recently been found on the beach. In the course of their investigation, they uncover more murders and **36** a war criminal.



Questions 37–40

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer in SECTION 3?

In boxes 37–40 on your answer sheet, write

YES if the statement agrees with the views of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

- 37 Vargas' style of writing is typical of crime fiction.
- 38 The style has much in common with Scandinavian crime novels.
- 39 Detailed descriptions are only useful to the reader when they develop the storyline.
- 40 The Three Evangelists is Vargas' best selling novel.



Answer Key General Training Reading

SECTION 1, Questions 1–14

1. (your) co-workers
2. drowsiness
3. preventative measure
4. honey
5. comfort food
6. (some) ingredients
7. (light) exercise
8. security systems
9. personal safety
10. deterrent
11. insurance premiums
12. stolen vehicle report
13. illegal resale
14. finance company

SECTION 2, Questions 15–27

15. L
16. E
17. A
18. D
19. J
20. I
21. A }
22. D }
23. F } IN ANY ORDER
24. H }
25. feedback
26. reasonable notice
27. evidence

SECTION 3, Questions 28–40

28. nom de plume
29. hobby
30. (bubonic) plague
31. three weeks/3 weeks
32. prose
33. eccentrics
34. (unemployed) historians
35. (Breton) fishing village
36. unmask
37. NO
38. NO
39. YES
40. NOT GIVEN



General Training Writing

There are two tasks on this question paper.

Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score.³

³ IELTS™. www.ielts.org. Accessed 18 February 2023



WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Write at least 150 words.

You have seen a job advertised in the newspaper. You want to apply for the job.

Write a letter to the manager of the company. In your letter

- **provide information about yourself**
- **give details of your previous work experience**
- **say why the company should consider you for the job**

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear ...,



WRITING TASK 1, MODEL RESPONSE

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to apply for the position of office administrator that was advertised in The Times newspaper on Wednesday 8th August. I have over ten years' office experience. I have recently moved here from England to be closer to my parents and I am looking for a chance to further develop my career in this country.

My previous experience includes five years with ABC Company in their head office, and another five years at the main branch of Sigma Securities where I was responsible for the day-to-day activities related to financial planning, billing and recordkeeping. At ABC Company, I was involved in personnel recruitment, as part of the human resources team, and I had overall responsibility for physical distribution and logistics. My Curriculum Vitae and application form are attached.

One of my main strengths is flexibility, and this is a key asset in a rapidly changing work environment. I have good communication skills, and enjoy sharing ideas and cooperating as part of a dynamic team. I am a reliable and hardworking team player and I feel I would be an asset to your workplace.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

193 words



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some film companies spend millions of dollars on the production of a single movie.

Is it necessary to spend a lot of money to make a good movie?

What factors contribute to the success of a movie?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.



WRITING TASK 2, MODEL RESPONSE

Hollywood blockbusters are successful, big-budget productions, but it is possible to make good movies on a shoestring budget and they can be profitable as well. I believe most successful films have certain elements in common.

Firstly, for a film to be a commercial success, it needs to engage the audience; in other words, it has to connect with their fears, aspirations or beliefs in some way. Secondly, the storyline should involve a conflict or search entailing a certain amount of risk for the central character and it needs to move forward with the idea of eventual triumph or escape from danger. In general, the protagonist must be either an exceptional person or an ordinary person in unusual circumstances. Think of *Forrest Gump*, for instance.

If famous actors take the key roles, fans will watch the movie just to see them in action; however, cinematography is important, too, and with today's technology, amazing imagery is possible. With aggressive advertising and extensive publicity, especially an award or an Oscar nomination, the film is sure to be a hit. Nevertheless, even if all the above criteria are fulfilled, there is no absolute guarantee of success.

Movies made with minimal financial backing can be both critically and commercially successful, for example *The Blair Witch Project*. Because there are fewer high-cost special effects to distract the audience, an intriguing story and well-written characters are essential. A limited number of characters and settings keep costs down, but the script really does need to be thrilling. In fact, the most successful genre for micro-budget films is horror or horror-thriller. Star-power is not necessary in this case because people come to be scared and thrilled rather than to watch a celebrity. Expensive camera equipment is not crucial but good sound and production design – sourcing good quality props and materials and a good location – are very important.

In summary, independent filmmakers can make low-cost but critically acclaimed films if the plot and characterization are exceptional. Nevertheless, major film studios often rely on star power and special effects to achieve commercial success and this recipe has more often than not led to acclaim within the industry and financial rewards.

358 words



Speaking⁴

⁴ IELTS™. www.ielts.org. Accessed 18 February 2023



Speaking

11-14 Minutes

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION AND INTERVIEW:

Let's talk about your home town or village.

- What kind of place is it?
- What's the most interesting part of your town/village?
- What kind of jobs do the people in your town/village do?
- Would you say it's a good place to live? Why?

PART 2 – INDIVIDUAL LONG TURN:

Candidate Task Card

Describe a well-known person you like or admire.

You should say:

- Who is this person?
- What has this person done?
- Why is this person well-known?
- Explain why you like or admire this person

You will have to talk about the topic for 1 to 2 minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you're going to say.

You can make some notes to help you if you wish.

PART 3 – TWO-WAY DISCUSSION:

We've been talking about a well-known person that you admire and I'd like to discuss with you a few more questions related to this topic. Let's consider famous people in your country.

- What kind of people become famous in your country?
- What's different about people who became famous in the past with the people who become famous these days?
- Do you think it was more difficult to become famous in the past?
- What kind of people may become famous in the future?