

2008 UE Mock Exam - Listening Test Overseas Studies

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(5 seconds pause)

Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination, Use of English Section A Listening Test. Instructions to Candidates. You should have on your desk a Question-Answer Book. Do not open it until you are told to do so. I repeat, do not open the Question-Answer Book until you are told to do so.

Now write your Candidate Number, Centre Number and Seat Number in the boxes provided on your Question-Answer Book.

(15 seconds pause)

You are reminded that all examination materials will be played ONCE only. The test is divided into three parts. You should use a pencil to write your answers for all three parts. At the end of the examination, when you are told to stop, put down your pencil and close your Question-Answer Book. You may not leave the examination room until you are instructed to do so at the end of the examination session. No one may leave early. Put your hand up if you have any difficulties. It is not possible to handle complaints after you have taken the test.

(10 seconds pause)

Now look at your Question-Answer Book. Check that your Question-Answer Book has no missing pages. Look for the words "End of Test" on the last page.

(5 seconds pause)

Introduction. Situation: You have been accepted by Beacon University in the UK to study for your Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. It is now Orientation Week. The university has arranged several activities for today. You and some other students from Hong Kong are attending the activities together.

The activities are divided into three parts. In Part 1, the staff of ELSOS will give a presentation about the language facilities available to overseas students. In Part 2, the Head of the Information Services Department will give a presentation about the library. In Part 3, there will be a conversation between some students.

Announcer: Part 1. In this part, you'll hear a presentation about the language facilities available to overseas students.

You'll now have three minutes to familiarize yourself with the note-headings for Part 1 before the session begins.

At the end of Part 1, you'll have 3 minutes to tidy up your answers.

(3 minutes of Greensleeves)

TONE

Annie: Have you got the timetable for today's activities, Kenneth? I seem to have lost mine.

Kenneth: Here it is. We have to go to the cafeteria in the Humanities Building for a meeting with the staff from ELSOS (1). The meeting starts at 10:00.

Luke: What's ELSOS?

Carol: Don't you ever read any of the information you're sent Luke? ELSOS stands for English Language Services for Overseas Students (9).

Luke: It's a bit late for that isn't it? If we couldn't speak English we wouldn't be here. We have passed the IELTS exam after all. Is this session compulsory?

Kenneth: No (2). It's not, but wouldn't it be better if we all stuck together until we get our bearings? We all need to be at the library orientation session (3) at 11.30. I expect they will issue us with our library cards. It's very important that none of us miss it. It's marked as compulsory (4).

Luke: I suppose I may as well tag along. What time's lunch?

Annie: Food, that's all you ever think about, Luke.

Luke: Well, I'm Cantonese. What do you expect? Is lunch marked as compulsory?

Kenneth: Lunch (5) is at 1.00 pm. And no, it's not compulsory (6)! Then we're free until 3.00pm, when there's a meeting at the Student Union (7). That's not compulsory either (8).

Luke: Oh, I want to go to that. I did read that part. The Student Union seems to organize a lot of trips and activities. If we don't get our Student Union cards we won't be able to have any fun. They'll give us our cards today and, according to what I've read, we'll be able to put our names down for this month's activities.

Carol: Enough about this afternoon. It's already 9.45 and we still don't know where the Humanities Building is. Let's ask in this bookstore. It's the university bookstore (12) so they should know.

(Pause while students enter the bookstore, noise of footsteps)

Carol: Excuse me. We're looking for the Humanities Building. Can you help us?

Store Assistant: Yes, certainly. Go back out the way you came. Turn left and continue walking until you reach the end of St. Andrew's Road. Cross the road onto Richard's Road. Slightly to your left you will see the entrance to the Column Road site. Go through the entrance. Keep walking straight (13). The library will be on your right hand side (11). Go past the library and keep walking until you reach a set of double doors. Go through the double doors (13) and you're in the Humanities Building (10, 14). Do you have any particular room to go to?

Carol: Yes, we need to find the cafeteria.

Store Assistant: That's easy. As you go through the double doors, look towards the right and there's another set of door into the cafeteria.

Carol: Thank you very much.

(Pause while students exit the bookstore, noise of footsteps)

Annie: Come on let's go. We have 10 minutes to get there.

(Pause for students to reach the destination, noise of footsteps)

Kenneth: Well, this must be the library. There's a set of double doors straight ahead. That must be the Humanities Building. There are a lot of other international students so we must have got the right place.

June (ELSOS Director): Are you coming for the ELSOS information meeting?

Kenneth: Yes, are we late?

June: No, you're exactly on time. We're just about to start. First of all I'd like to welcome you all to Beacon. Not just to Beacon University, but to the city of Beacon. I hope you'll enjoy your time here. My name is June Leung and I'm the director of ELSOS – English Language Services for Overseas Students. Now some of you may be wondering what this meeting is all about since your courses start next week and you must have already passed the IELTS exam or you wouldn't be able to start your course. ELSOS is more than just an IELTS preparation school. Of course that is one part of our work. But if you need IELTS preparation then you're a bit late. Our intensive IELTS courses run for 6 weeks (15) in the summer to prepare students to take the IELTS exam (16) before the start of their studies. Other students choose to come to the UK for a year leading up to the start of their course. They enrol in our General English Programme (19), spend the whole of the year (20) improving their English and then if they need to they can also take the IELTS exam.

Carol: I took an IELTS preparation course in Hong Kong. I'd like to know if there are any differences between the programmes. Can you tell me something about them?

- June: Certainly. Students who take the intensive course are obviously very concerned about passing before the start of their course. To ensure the best results possible we keep these groups small – maximum of 6 students. Students also receive one to one coaching (17) to prepare for the oral exam. And the content of the course is very much based on the exam (18). In our General English Programme we take a slightly different approach. As the students have longer to prepare for the exam we aim to teach the skills needed for effective communication (21) by means of a series of realistic tasks that might be actually expected of students in their daily life as students. We reason that if students learn to communicate effectively in this manner they will, as a result pass, IELTS. In other words the course is not as exam based as (22) the intensive programme.
- Carol: I see. And how many students are in the General English Programme?
- June: 14 is the maximum (23). We won't run a class if there are less than 6 students (23).
- Luke: I don't want to appear rude, but we have all passed IELTS, so what is the point of this session?
- June: Good question. Perhaps at this point I can hand over to Angel. Angel is from China. She is about to start the second year of her Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. She can tell you her experience of studying for the first time in an all-English environment.
- Angel: Hi. Nice to meet you all. You know, when I first got to the UK I was shocked at how little English I actually understood. I had passed IELTS, so I assumed I would be able to communicate without any real problem. I was wrong. I found that I hardly understood anything the local people were saying. The lectures were not so bad, as the English of my major was familiar to me (35). But to live in a foreign country you need to be able to talk about more than just your major. Instead of Intensive IELTS Course and General English Programme, I enrolled in a conversational English programme with ELSOS. I now feel far more confident in my daily life. I can't pretend that I understand everything that I hear, but I certainly understand enough to feel a part of the local community.
- Luke: Don't you think your English would have improved anyway, just by being in the UK?
- Angel: Perhaps. But the truth is, if you don't understand what's going on around you it's far easier just to associate with people who speak the same language as you. Before I started the ELSOS programme my only friends were from China. We spoke Chinese when we were together. I felt I wasn't getting the best out of my time here. I enjoyed the conversational English programme. It wasn't like any other course I had ever studied.
- Carol: What's so special about the course?
- June: Our conversational English classes are not exam based (27) so there is more freedom to develop the class to suit the needs of the students. Also, we teach a bit of colloquial English (28). The longer you're here, the more you'll realize that the local people don't speak textbook English. So, we invite local students to take part (29) to encourage real conversation. The purpose of the conversational English course is to teach you the English you need for functioning as part of the community (26).

Kenneth: Does ELSOS offer any other courses apart from conversational English and IELTS preparation?

June: Many students find our academic writing programme very useful. It's called English for Academic Purposes (30). For students who have just graduated from high school, the sort of language required at university level can be quite overwhelming. Even native speakers need to acquire new skills when writing at this level. We provide a programme to teach the fundamental skills required for academic writing (32). We base the topics for writing on the majors of the people in the classes (33). As far as possible we arrange the class so people with the same academic interest are studying together. In this way we can keep the topics relevant (34).

Kenneth: How long is each course?

June: The conversational English courses last for 12 weeks (25). The academic writing courses are 10 weeks (31) long.

If there are no other questions, I'd just like to say that my staff and I are committed to helping you improve your English, if of course it needs improving. But we can't work magic. So, to ensure success at English language learning, you have to be determined to succeed (36). Determination is almost everything. And of course, don't be afraid to make mistakes (37) because we can always learn from mistakes. Finally, seek out as many opportunities as possible to be with native speakers (38).

If any of you would like to visit our facilities you will find us on Park Place, opposite the main university building. That's really all I have to say. If any of you have any questions I'd be happy to stay behind and talk to you individually.

Announcer: That's the end of Part 1. You'll now have 3 minutes to tidy up your answers.

(3 minutes of Greensleeves)

TONE

Announcer: Part 2.

In this part, you'll hear a presentation from the Head of the Information Services Department. You'll now have 2 minutes to familiarize yourself with the note-headings for Part 2 before the session begins.

At the end of Part 2, you'll have 2 minutes to tidy up your answers.

(2 minutes of Greensleeves)

TONE

Peter Parker: Good morning. My name's Peter Parker. I'm the Head of the Information Services Department. It's a rather long title for what once would have been called Head Librarian. I am responsible for the day to day running of all the libraries of Beacon University (39). I also run some basic IT courses (40) and assist students with any problems (41) they may have in using the library equipment.

As I have already mentioned, this is not the only library building. It is, however, the one where I am based, so it seemed the best place for the presentation. This library is officially called the Arts and Social Sciences Library (42). As business students, you will be able to find many of the books on your reading lists here. But there is also a library specifically for the Business School. It's the Aberconway Library. After we've finished the presentation, I'll take you there so that you are aware of all the facilities at your disposal.

We'll start with the basic information. This library opens at 8.45 in the morning on weekdays and closes at 9.30 in the evening (43). On Saturday, we open at 10.00 am and close at 5.30 pm (44). Sunday we're open from 12 o'clock midday until 5 pm (45).

Kenneth: Do all the libraries have the same opening times?

Peter Parker: Not exactly. The Aberconway library has the same opening times on weekdays (46), but opens an hour later on Saturday (47) and is closed on Sundays (48).

Another important piece of information is the amount of books you can borrow. I believe you are all undergraduate students, so the maximum amount of books you can borrow at one time is 12 (49). Most books can be kept for 2 weeks before return or renewal. Some of the more widely used books are only available on short-term loan. Short term can be anything from a few hours to 1 week. 5 (50) of your quota of books can be short-term loan items. Any questions so far?

Carol: Am I right to assume that postgraduate students can borrow more books?

Peter Parker: Taught postgraduate students have the same quota of books as under graduates (51, 52), but research postgraduates can borrow 25 (53) books, 8 (54) of which can be short-term loan. Any more questions?

Kenneth: Will we be issued with our library cards today?

Peter Parker: Have you already been issued with your University identity cards?

Kenneth: Yes, we got those yesterday when we enrolled.

Peter Parker: That's all you need to borrow books.

Now, let's move on. We have an online library catalogue (55) called 'Voyager'. You can search for books on 'Voyager' at any of a computer on the university campus. You can also search 'Voyager' via the internet on any computer. From your home computer you just need to access Beacon University's homepage and you will find this online catalog, 'Voyager', under the teaching and learning section. 'Voyager' will allow you to search for books using the title (56), the name of the author (57), a keyword (58) from the title, or if you know the location (59) of a book in the library, you can type in the number and 'Voyager' will supply you with a list of books at that location. I'll demonstrate for you.

(Pause while Peter demonstrates 'Voyager', noise of typing)

Peter Parker: If you look at the screen, you will see that 'Voyager' supplies a number for each book. The number corresponds with the numbers found on the spine of each book. Books are grouped together according to topic.

Once you've found a book on 'Voyager', you can choose to reserve (60) it. This is useful if you are accessing 'Voyager' from a place other than the library. It also allows you to reserve books that are already checked out. Once your book is ready it will be kept for you for 5 days. If it is from the short term loan collection it will be kept for 24 hours. You can also renew books (61) using 'Voyager'. Another important function of 'Voyager' is that you can use it to search for journals (62).

By the way, the journals (65) are all on the 3rd floor of this library. The ground floor is set aside for the short term loan collection, the information desk (68) and the checking in and out facilities (69). As a general guide you will find books to do with literature (67) on the first floor, language books (66) on the second floor and education (63) and other social science books (64) on the 3rd floor along with the journals. Each floor has photocopying facilities and computers for accessing voyager. The basement houses more photocopiers (70) and computers (71) which you can use to access the internet or work on your projects and assignments. Any microfiche material (72) can also be viewed in the basement.

You all just told me that you've already got a University identity card (73). You need this card to borrow books. And I advise you to get a photocopying card (74) today too. You will need to photocopy. It is far more convenient than borrowing a book just for the sake of one or two pages that might be relevant to your topic. You can purchase photocopying cards at the information desk. You pay £1.50 deposit for the card and then you can put as much money as you like on it. Photocopies cost 5 pence a page.

As I mentioned earlier, I also run IT courses. It is my experience that most young people don't need too much assistance with modern technology, so I don't want to bore you with procedures that you are already familiar with. However, if you need any help you only have to ask. There are also a range of leaflets that explain the facilities on offer at our libraries. Are there any further questions?

Annie: Yes, could you show us how to get to the Aberconway library?

Peter Parker: Certainly. If I might suggest that you first spend some time at the computers I have reserved for you here. You can practise using 'Voyager'. If you have any problems you can ask me. This time is especially set aside for you, so I'm at your disposal. You can check out books and familiarize yourself with the facilities we have at this site. At 12.30, I'll take anybody who is interested over to the Aberconway library.

Announcer: That's the end of Part 2. You'll now have 2 minutes to tidy up your answers.

(2 minutes of Greensleeves)

TONE

Announcer: Part 3.

In this part, you'll hear a conversation between Kenneth, Annie, Carol and Luke. You'll now have 3 minutes to familiarize yourself with the note-headings for Part 3 before the session begins. At the end of Part 3, you'll have 10 minutes to tidy up your answers for the whole paper.

(3 minutes of Greensleeves)

TONE

Luke: Where's Annie? She disappeared straight after lunch. So much for us all sticking together.

Carol: I don't know where she went. She asked me to take a note of any interesting activities offered by the Student Union, so she obviously didn't plan to attend the session. She didn't seem very happy after the library session. I hope she's OK.

Kenneth: Here she is. Hi Annie, where have you been?

Annie: Hi everybody. I thought I'd find you here. I'm starving. I'm just going to grab a sandwich.

Kenneth: Don't eat too much. We're planning to go out to a Chinese restaurant tonight.

Annie: Oh, that's great. But I have to eat something now. I didn't eat much at lunch.

Luke: I noticed you hardly touched your food. I was going to offer to finish it for you.

Annie: Trust you, Luke. Actually I was too worried to eat. I didn't really understand much of what Peter Parker said at the library orientation. I was afraid that I'd get left behind in my studies (77).

Carol: It wasn't a very good presentation, was it?

Annie: Not really. Anyway I went to see him while you were at the Student Union meeting. He's much better on a one to one basis. He explained everything very clearly. He said that he used to give very comprehensive presentations for all orientation sessions, but he's found that undergraduates have been quite rude, and told him that what he is saying is obvious. He apologized if his session wasn't clear, and said that if anyone else wants a one to one session they are very welcome.

Carol: I think I'll take him up on it. I didn't understand it either (76). I wish I'd had the courage to go and ask him, but I was too embarrassed. I'm used to being the only one who doesn't understand so I thought it was just me (76). What did you think of the session Kenneth?

Kenneth: I don't think I would have understood anything based on today's presentation, but I have used similar systems (78) before, so I guessed I wouldn't find it too hard to work out.

Luke: I don't know what you girls are worried about. We haven't started classes yet. It's a bit ~~too early to worry about getting behind. We can afford to have a good time. Talking of which, what did you think of the Student Union?~~

- Carol: I thought the bar was rather noisy.
- Luke: Don't be so boring. It was lively. I'm looking forward to spending a lot of time (75). There. It seems like they have some good concerts coming up too. But I guess my idea of a good time and yours aren't exactly the same, Carol.
- Carol: Perhaps not. But there are some good day trips and weekends away that I thought I might put my name down for. I've got the schedule here, Annie. I thought we could plan some outings.
- Luke: I'm going for a wander. I'll meet up with you all for dinner later.
- Annie: I think day trips are not Luke's idea of fun. How about you Kenneth, do you plan on going on any?
- Kenneth: I thought I'd probably go on the weekend away to London. I left my schedule behind, when is it planned for?
- Carol: It leaves on Friday, November the 5th, in the evening and gets back in the evening of Sunday November the 7th.
- Annie: How much is it?
- Carol: £75.00 (79). That includes the coach trip there and back and the accommodation (80). No food is included (82).
- Annie: Is anything else included in the price?
- Carol: There's a bus trip around the city (81), but when it stops at the attractions (83) we have to pay to get in.
- Annie: Do we have to share rooms in the hotel?
- Carol: If you want a single room there is a £15.00 supplement (96).
- Annie: Are you going, Carol?
- Carol: Yes, how about you?
- Annie: I think so. Perhaps we can share a room.
- Carol: Why not? How about you Kenneth, will you share with Luke?
- Kenneth: I think a trip to London is a bit too cultural for Luke. He didn't seem very interested in the trips. I'll see if I can share with somebody else. If not I'll just pay the supplement (96).
- Annie: Any other trips worth going on?
- Carol: Let's look at the schedule.
- Kenneth: The trip to Bath might be interesting. I've heard that it's a lovely city. When is it?

- Carol: Saturday, October the 9th (84). It costs £10.00 (85). The cost includes lunch (86) and a tour around the city in an open top bus (87). It doesn't include entry to the Roman Baths (88).
- Annie: I might skip the Bath trip and save my money for London. How about you?
- Carol: Oh, I'm going to Bath. I've read a lot about it. You're going aren't you Kenneth?
- Kenneth: Yes, but I think I'll limit my trips to Bath and London until after Christmas.
- Annie: I think I'll go on the trip to Stratford. I've always enjoyed Shakespeare.
- Carol: I don't think you get to see a play (91). It's just a trip to the town. You can visit Shakespeare's birthplace though. It's not included in the price of the trip, but the trip is only £6.50 (90). It's not surprising that nothing is included. There's a whole list of things that you can do if you're prepared to pay: Anne Hathway's Cottage; the Shakespeare Museum (92). Take a look.
- Annie: Yes, I'm definitely going. Let's see, when is it? Oh, the 3rd of December (89). Maybe I won't go after all. It's a bit too close to the exams.
- Carol: It is a bit too close. I tell you what, why don't we go and see a Shakespeare play here. The University theatre is putting on Romeo and Juliet on October the 23rd. It only costs £4.00 for students.
- Kenneth: Great, I think I'll go to the play with you then (93, 94).
- Annie: Good, we can all go together (95). Do you think Luke might come along too?
- Kenneth & Carol: I don't think so!!
- Annie: Here he is now. We've planned the trips we are taking Luke. Are you planning on taking any?
- Luke: I've just been to the Student Union to book them. In fact, I've already paid.
- Annie: Which trips are you going on?
- Luke: All of them.
- Kenneth: You mean you're going to London, Bath and Stratford?
- Luke: Of course not. Do you take me for a sissy? I'm going to Scotland for the rugby (97), Birmingham for a concert (98) and Manchester for a tour of Manchester United's home ground (99). You've obviously been reading the wrong information. Anyone fancy coming with me?
- Announcer: That's the end of Part 3. You'll now have 10 minutes to tidy up your answers. Keep your earphones on until you hear the announcement at the end of the 10 minutes.

(10 minutes of The Blue Danube)

TONE

That's the end of the test. Stop writing now and put down your pencil. Close your Question-Answer Book and leave it on the desk in front of you for the invigilator to collect. Take off your earphones now and turn off your radio.