

B2 LISTENING COMPREHENSION

PART 1.

Listen to the following news extracts (1 - 8) and match them with the corresponding headings from the box below (A - I), as in the example (0-X). There are TWO extra headings you do not need to use. You will hear the recording twice. You have one minute to read the headings.

NEWS EXTRACTS

Headings:

x. *OFF THE BEATEN TRACK*

- A. A DISAPPEARING ACT
- B. ADAPTING TO ADVERSITY
- C. AN UNCONVENTIONAL JOB
- D. BALANCED DIETS
- E. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF
- F. NEW ADDITIONS TO A BOARD GAME
- G. PROTECTING THE YOUNG
- H. ROOTS OF THE "NEW WORLD"
- I. A WEBSITE COLLAPSED
- J. UNCLEAR BENEFITS OF A UNIVERSAL MEASURE

Extract	Answer
0	X
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

Source: various news resources

PART 2.

You are going to hear a short talk on Modern Theatre. For questions 9 to 14 choose the answer (a, b or c) that best completes each statement, as in the example (0 - a). You will hear the recording TWICE. You have one minute to read the questions

MODERN THEATRE

0. Example

From the 18th century onwards, the history of theatre...

- a. emphasized subject matters involving common people.
- b. stressed the importance of artificiality in acting
- c. meant an expansion of trade

9. Theatres evolved from...

- a. all segments of society to higher ranks.
- b. being a province of traders to the prevalence of Church.
- c. higher hierarchies to everyone in society.

10. One priority of Realism was...

- a. keeping record of things as they were.
- b. recording complex scientific theories accurately.
- c. the study of simple phenomena.

11. Realist writers...

- a. exhibited an awareness of religious matters.
- b. focused on the individual rather than on society.
- c. fought to change what was wrong in art and society.

12. The speaker says that Romanticism portrayed a type of life ruled by...

- a. idealism.
- b. feelings.
- c. self-indulgence.

13. As regards play production, Realism meant the use of...

- a. an abundance of authentic environments.
- b. detailed costumes plus irrational situations.
- c. accessories that were not always authentic.

14. As a reaction to Realism, 20th century theatre considered...

- a. common Far East dilemmas.
- b. different Asian constraints.
- a. diverse eastern drama techniques.

Source: Columbia Gorge Community College

QUESTION	0	9	10	11	12	13	14
ANSWER	<i>a</i>						

PART 3.

You are going to hear an interview with Shakira, singer, songwriter and producer. For questions 14 to 19, choose the option (a, b or c) which best completes each statement, as in the example (0 – a). You will hear the recording twice. You have one minute to read the questions.

Time Magazine Interviews: Shakira

0. About electronic music she says that it...

- a. *can be a great source for musicians.*
- b. has taken over her Colombian roots.
- c. is more important than other musical influences.

15. On the topic of languages, she says she...

- a. cannot tell which one she prefers to sing in because they're so different.
- b. feels more spontaneous when singing in English.
- c. still needs a dictionary sometimes to write songs in English.

16. On the question of acting, she answers that she...

- a. doesn't feel she's skillful enough.
- b. is seriously considering it.
- c. would if she was sure of her acting skills.

17. After her father went bankrupt...

- a. her outlook on life began to change.
- b. her whole life collapsed.
- c. she mainly played with orphans.

18. Her foundation...

- a. focuses mostly on orphan children.
- b. provides with shelter, food and education.
- c. was set up as a consequence of past tragic events.

19. On getting injured when dancing, she says...

- a. it happens all the time.
- b. she needs a warm bath after recording.
- c. she was in pain all over after recording the *She Wolf* video.

20. *Hips don't lie* refers to...

- a. a body response towards music.
- b. a song she does not particularly react to.
- c. an essential part of the recording process.

QUESTION	0	15	16	17	18	19	20
ANSWER	a						

PART 4.

Listen to the following talk about the fashion industry and for each question, choose the correct option (a, b, c) to complete the sentence, as in the example (0-c). You will hear the recording twice. You have one minute to read the questions.

WHAT AM I GOING TO WEAR TODAY?

Example:

0. According to the speaker, scientists have been...

- a. giving us solutions.
- b. using fuel efficient cars.
- c. **warning us about environmental problems.**

21. According to the speaker, who holds the power?

- a. Citizens.
- b. Industrialists.
- c. The government.

22. Clothing is one of the most ... industries in the world.

- a. harmful.
- b. influential.
- c. profitable.

23. Why do we buy 3 times more clothing than in the 60s?

- a. Cheaper materials and taxes.
- b. Higher trade barriers.
- c. Expansion of fast fashion.

24. This has resulted in... in the U.S.A.

- a. a 10% drop in clothes sales.
- b. a 95% rise in American-made clothes.
- c. an 80% drop in clothes-related jobs.

25. In her first fast fashion shop experience, the speaker...

- a. was horrified by prices.
- b. was terrified by the music and smell.
- c. went crazy buying.

26. Polyester is...

- a. a pollution friendly plastic.
- b. as popular as cotton.
- c. widely used in the clothes industry.

QUESTIONS	0	21	22	23	24	25	26
ANSWERS	c						