

Listening for Gist – proposed script for sample paper

	<p><i>FCO C1 Operational. Listening for Gist. You will hear five short items. Each item will be played separately and it will be followed by a 1 minute and 15 second pause. During the pause you will have time to quickly review your notes and record in English an oral gist of the item you have just listened to. 3 seconds before the next item starts, you will hear the following sound <beep>. You are allowed to take notes at any time during the exam. Listening for gist will start now.</i></p>
	<p><i>Item 1</i></p>
	<p>The Court service calls for improvements to child witness interviews. Changes should be made to improve the way evidence is taken from child and vulnerable witnesses, according to a new report. About 4,900 interviews with vulnerable witnesses under 16s are carried out every year. The interviews are conducted jointly by the police officers and social workers. Video recordings of the evidence should be more widely used in court proceedings, said the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS). Their report claimed the move would protect the witnesses from the potential trauma of appearing in court.</p>
	<p><i>End of item 1. Please record your answer now.</i></p>
1M 12S	<p>ANSWER <i>The passage is about how the court service deals with child witnesses. Vulnerable children are currently present in the courts. More video recorded interviews should be used to protect child witnesses.</i></p>
	<p>BEEP</p>
5S	
	<p><i>Item 2</i></p>
	<p>There is a stark north-south divide in whether young people in England are learning modern languages, an annual survey from the British Council says. In some London boroughs, 75% of pupils take a language GCSE, while in authorities such as Middlesbrough and Blackpool it is below 30%. The British Council says the lack of language skills is costing the UK "tens of billions in missed trade". A Department for Education spokeswoman said: "The introduction of languages as a compulsory part of the primary curriculum and, more importantly, the EBacc at GCSE level, has begun to reverse the decline in modern foreign languages."</p>
	<p><i>End of item 2. Please record your answer now.</i></p>
1M 12S	<p>ANSWER <i>The passage is about the north-south language education divide in the UK. Not many young people in the north are studying languages, this affects the economy considerably. Measures are being taken, such as changes in the national curriculum.</i></p>

	BEEP
5S	
	<i>Item 3</i>
	The UK government's air quality consultation, closing tomorrow, focuses on "tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities". That issue deserves urgent action – but it's not enough. Air pollution is a problem in both rural and urban areas, for people and wildlife. Measures to cut air pollution from transport and other sources need to be extended across the country – not just urban areas. These include better green spaces, public transport, walking and cycling routes. Much faster action is needed to cut ammonia emissions. The main source is farming – livestock and fertilisers – requiring concerted action by farmers, industry and government.
	<i>End of item 3. Please record your answer now.</i>
1M 12S	ANSWER <i>The passage is about the government's consultation on air pollution. Air pollution is affecting both cities and rural areas. A joint action from different stakeholders is needed.</i>
	BEEP
5S	
	<i>Item 4</i>
	A pioneering and life-extending drug repeatedly deemed too expensive will now be offered on the NHS in England. Kadcylla, the undiscounted cost of which had been £90,000 per patient, adds an average of six months of life to women with a form of terminal breast cancer. Campaigners have praised the "monumental" U-turn, which will benefit about 1,200 women a year, and is the result of a confidential deal between the health service and the drug company Roche. "Tough negotiation and flexibility between the NHS and Roche means both patients and taxpayers are getting a good deal," said NHS England chief executive Simon Stevens.
	<i>End of item 4. Please record your answer now.</i>
1M 12S	ANSWER <i>A new drug for cancer treatment (previously deemed to be too expensive) will now be offered on the NHS system. The drug will add an average six months to the lives of women with breast cancer. Both patients and taxpayers are getting a good deal.</i>
	BEEP
5S	
	<i>Item 5</i>
	The orthodox Jewish community in the UK has been divided by a bitter row over a senior rabbi's comments about homosexuality during a lecture. The disagreement over the lecture given by Joseph Dweck last month included accusations of heresy and corruption, and has led to an intervention by the chief rabbi, who said he was

	concerned about the public fallout from the dispute which had been deeply divisive and damaging for the community". The senior rabbi of the Sephardi community in the UK, has stepped aside from the day-to-day activity in an attempt to defuse the row, which has broadened to encompass his teachings on a range of other issues.
	<i>End of Item 5. Please record your answer now.</i>
1M 12S	ANSWER <i>The passage is about a controversy in orthodox Jewish community in the UK about homosexuality. Disagreement over a lecture given by a senior rabbi had sparked a row among the orthodox Jewish community in the UK. The senior rabbi has stepped aside from his activities.</i>
	BEEP
5S	
	<i>End of Listening for Gist</i>