

**Part II**

**Listening Comprehension**

**(30 minutes)**

**Section A**

**Conversation One**

M: There is one more section I'd like to spend a few moments reviewing before we close our books for the day. Who here remembers the film we watched last month on hazardous wastes?

W: You mean the one about computer and television monitors?

M: Yes, that's the one, Lisa. (1) In the film they discussed why some States are making it illegal to dump monitors into regular landfills. Can anyone remember the reason? Yes, Lisa?

W: Um...(2) it's because of the cathode ray tubes, also known as CRT's, inside them. These tubes are high in lead content, and the lead can leak into the ground water. Right?

M: Excellent. It's nice to know that some of you were listening even though it wasn't the most upbeat documentary. Now, does anyone remember the reason why manufacturers place lead in the CRT's of computer and TV monitors in the first place?

W: The tubes are infused with lead in order to shield the viewer from harmful X-rays. There is no known alternative at this time, but I think the film said that researchers are working on it.

M: Yes, that's true. And why wasn't this a problem twenty years ago? Why is it suddenly a major concern?

W: (3) That's simple. It's because nearly every household in the U. S. has a television, and many have three or four. My family is guilty of this, I admit. And, not only are that...people throwing out their TV and computer monitors in

order to keep up with the new technology. You know, like the flat screen LCD monitors. With the digital age upon us, this is going to pose even more of a problem. I have to admit, I got a new plasma TV a few months ago, and there was nothing wrong with my old TV.

M: Well, I'm sure you're not the only one, Lisa. Now, since you're on a roll...why can't these old monitors just be recycled?

W: (4) Well, unlike paper and plastics, there just aren't any services that provide this type of recycling. According to the film, a lot of companies that recognize the threat are storing their unused equipment in warehouses until some better solutions become available.

M: Yes, and this brings us to our next film. Lisa, would you mind dimming the lights? This film is titled *Landfill Solutions*. It deals with a number of products that can be recycled through innovative means.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

1. What is the main topic of the discussion?
2. What makes monitors hazardous to the environment?
3. What does Lisa mean when she says her family is guilty of that?
4. According to Lisa, why can't monitors be recycled?

**Conversation Two**

M: Hello, this is Land Transport Information at Toronto Airport. How may I help you?

W: Oh, good morning. Um, I'm flying to Toronto

Airport next week, and I need to get to a town called um, Milton. Could you tell me how I can get there?

M: Milton, did you say? Let me see. (5) I think that's about 150 miles south-west of here. In fact it's 147 miles to be exact, so it'll take you at least—say, three to four hours by road.

W: Wow! Is it as far as that?

M: Yes, I'm afraid so. But you have a number of options to get you there and you can always rent a car right here at the airport, of course.

W: Right. (6) Well, I don't really want to drive myself, so I'd like more information about public transport.

M: OK. In that case the quickest and most comfortable is a cab and of course there are always plenty available. But it'll cost you. You can also take a Greyhound bus or there's an Airport Shuttle Service to Milton.

W: Hmm, I think for that kind of distance a cab would be way beyond my budget. But the bus sounds OK. Can you tell me how much that would cost?

M: Sure. Let's see, that would be \$ 15 one way, or \$ 27. 50 return...that's on the Greyhound.

W: Oh, that's quite cheap—great! But whereabouts does it stop in Milton?

M: (7) It goes directly from the airport here to the City Centre and it's pretty fast. But you have to bear in mind that there is only one departure a day, so it depends what time your flight gets in.

W: Oh, of course. Hang on, we're due to get there at 11:30 am.

M: Hmm, too bad, the bus leaves at 3:45, so you would have quite a wait—more than 4 hours.

W: Oh, I see. Well, what about the Shuttle you mentioned?

M: OK. That's the Airport Shuttle that will take you from the airport right to your hotel or private address. It's door-to-door service and it would suit you much better, because there's one every two hours.

W: So how much does that cost?

M: Let's see. Yeah, that's \$ 35 one way, \$ 65 return, so I guess it's a bit more expensive than the Greyhound.

W: Oh, that doesn't sound too bad, especially if it'll take me straight to the hotel.

M: But you do need to reserve a seat.

W: (8) OK. Thank you. I'd like that.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

5. How far is it from the Airport to Milton?
6. Why did the woman refuse to rent a car to Milton?
7. Where does the Greyhound bus stop in Milton?
8. According to the conversation, what did the woman decide to take to Milton?

## Section B

### Passage One

No man can change the weather. Nobody can control the weather. But if you study correctly the signs around us we can tell important changes in weather. This way of telling what the weather will be on the following day or two is called weather forecasts.

For many centuries and in all countries people have studied the weather and tried to make weather forecasting. (9) Sometimes distant objects such as hills and tall trees seem to be very clear and near. This is a sign of much water vapor in the air and therefore rain will probably come. Rings round the sun are a sign of the coming rain. Many people feel pain in their bones. This is a sign of the coming of wet weather. Some birds fly high if fine weather is coming. (10) They fly near the ground if rain or stormy weather is on the way. It is probably because of the insects which they are hunting that they fly low. If you see a rainbow during rainy weather, this is a sign that the weather will become clear and fine. Such rainbows always come in the evening. If a fog appears in the morning just about sunrise then the day will be warm. (11) If the stars twinkle clear, then fine weather will continue. If the sunset is mostly red in color, then the following day will be

fine. If the rainbow appears in the morning, rainy weather will probably come.

Most of the above sayings have been made by people who have used their eyes and brains to make weather forecasting.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

9. What will happen when distant hills and tall trees seem to be very clear and near?

10. When do some birds fly lower according to the passage?

11. What will happen when stars twinkle clear at night?

### Passage Two

Organic farming has become one of the fastest growing trends in agriculture recently. Over the past ten years, sales of organic products have increased a staggering 20 percent, with retail sales per year of more than 9 billion dollars. (12) Farmers have realised that organic farming is an incredibly cost-effective method because it can potentially be used to control costs, as well as to appeal to higher-priced markets.

Apart from these monetary benefits, organic farming also naturally results in positive ecological outcomes for the environment. (13) Organic farming relies on practices that do not harm the environment, and for this reason, chemicals and synthetic medicines are prohibited. All kinds of agricultural products can be produced organically, including grains, meat, eggs, and milk.

In order for agricultural products to be certified as organic, they must be grown and processed according to regulations established by the Department of Agriculture. (14) Certification involves two stages: the submission of a system plan and an inspection of processing facilities. The certification process is a stringent one and must be undertaken every year.

(15) In spite of these rigorous requirements, some people remain concerned about the safety of organic food. However, research has shown that or-

ganic produce contains lower levels of both chemicals and bacteria than food which is produced using conventional farming methods.

Last but not least, organic farms are better for wildlife than those run conventionally. Scientists have discovered that organic farms contain more species of plants, birds, and insects due to the fact that the absence of chemicals from pesticides and fertilisers makes these areas richer habitats for animals.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

12. What have farmers realised about organic farming?

13. In what way does organic farming benefit the environment?

14. What comment did the passage make about the certification process?

15. Which concern do some people have about organic food?

## Section C

### Recording One

Hello, everyone. I'm Guy Winch. Today we'll talk about New Year's resolutions. Every new year we make a list of resolutions, hoping to better ourselves and our lives, only to abandon our efforts entirely by Feb. 1 (if not by Jan. 2). (16) Such failures are not mere disappointments, as they can create emotional wounds that impact our psychological well-being. Indeed, too often the annual ritual that is meant to improve our lives leaves us concluding we're lazy, weak, or incapable of change and feeling even worse about ourselves than before we started.

But are we lazy, weak, and incapable of change, or are we judging ourselves unfairly? Rather, it's because we neglect to think through how we plan to achieve our goals. Indeed, we tend to make three very basic but crucial errors before we even start.

(17) The good news is that addressing these mistakes can radically increase our possibility of sticking to our resolutions and finding success. Some

or even all of them will be familiar to you, but don't beat yourself up about past mistakes. As I said, these are very common errors. Instead, invest your energies in fixing them this year.

The first mistake is that many of us compose a list of New Year's resolutions that is longer than our child's list to Santa. New Year's resolutions are not bucket lists, they're statements of short-term intentions. Therefore, choose one or two items at most, and focus on completing those.

The second mistake is that our goals are too vague to be measured in some way. For example, a goal such as "Try harder at work" sounds good but provides no specific benchmarks by which we can measure our progress. To avoid this error, make vague goals more specific: "Complete all assignments on time," or "Ask for more responsibilities."

Apart from the above mistakes, (18-1) the most common one we make is to state our resolution but put no thought into how we will attain it. Then Jan. 1 rolls around and we have no idea where or how to start. (18-2) Therefore, invest time and thought into how best you can reach your goal. Break it down into sub-goals, be specific about what you will need to do to reach each one, and figure out how you deal with setbacks and distractions. This is especially important for health and fitness goals as setbacks and distractions will happen.

Good Luck and Happy New Year!

**Questions 16 to 18 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

16. What do we learn about failing to stick to our New Year's resolutions?
17. Why should we address the mistakes before making New Year's resolutions?
18. What is the most common mistake that we make about New Year's resolutions?

**Recording Two**

Between 11,000 and 10,000 B. C. E. , North America was populated by a wide variety of great beasts, like mammoths and mastodons, both elephant-like creatures with big tusks, and camels, gi-

ant sloths, the list goes on. By about 10,000 B. C. E. , all those giant creatures, the Metgauna of North America were gone. (19) We don't know exactly what happened to them, but there are some theories. One theory is that they were hunted to extinction by humans. The humans who coexisted with these giant species in North America at that time were what we today called the Clovis People. And there is a Clovis site in a valley in southern California where the remains of thirteen mammoths were found. And spear points, tools for processing meat, and fire places. That would appear to be some pretty compelling evidences. Mammoth bones have also been found at some other Clovis sites. But then at other Clovis sites, there's also a lot of evidence that the Clovis people mostly gather plants and hunted small game, like rabbits and wild turkeys. (21) Also there are several places in North America where you have natural accumulations of mammoth bones that look very similar to the accumulations at the Clovis site, except there's no human debris, where the mammoths almost certainly died as a result of some kind of natural disaster. (20) So I think it is quite likely that those thirteen mammoths in southern California also died of natural causes, and that the Clovis people simply took advantage of the situation. Um...OK. That's the hunting theory.

(22) Now let's look at another theory, uh, an alternative to the hunting theory, the climate change theory...

**Questions 19 to 22 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

19. What is the lecture mainly about?
20. Why does the professor mention an archaeological site in Southern California?
21. What is the professor's opinion about the Clovis people?
22. What is the speaker going to do next?

**Recording Three**

(24) Today we're going to begin with a short quiz. No, no, you don't need pencil and paper, just listen. It's only one question. Ready? OK. What do

blogs, Pokemon, tattoos, Cabbage Patch Kids, pet rocks, and hula hoops have in common? Anybody?

OK. Now here's another question: How did you know that? In other words, (23-1) what are the characteristics of a fad, and what's the difference between a fad and a trend? These are the questions we're going to consider together this afternoon. (25) Well, the main difference, I think, between a fad and a trend concerns time. A fad is something that seems to appear suddenly. It quickly becomes enormously popular, and then disappears just as suddenly as it came. A trend also appears rather suddenly, and it also becomes very popular, but it doesn't disappear. A trend can have a long-term influence on its particular market. Fads and trends often resemble each other at first glance, but a fad usually has a definite beginning and end. Um, Pokemon might be a fad, but the idea of fantasy playing cards for children might be a trend, for example.

(23-2) Another difference is that fads usually

stay within one industry. Trends can cross over into many industries. The hula hoop, for instance, has been called the greatest fad of all time. In the late 1950s, 25 million hula hoops were sold in just four months. But a year later, sales had virtually stopped. The hula hoop was a toy. It was fun to play with, but that's about all. Now consider cell phones. They were designed to be portable telephones, but they crossed over into the worlds of fashion, wireless communication, and now even photography. People buy cell phones that match the latest clothes fashions. They use cell phones for wireless Internet access. They take photos with them. Cell phones have become a trend.

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the recording you have just heard.**

23. What is the main topic of the lecture?

24. How does the professor introduce fads?

25. According to the professor, what is the main difference between a fad and a trend?