

FCE
TEST 3

[9] * NUMERAZIONE COME
SITO WEB

▶▶ PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations.
For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1

I always think it's nice to have some early-flowering seeds planted as soon as winter's properly over, maybe March or even April if there's a chance of late frost, so they come up in June, and you have a lovely splash of colour in the flower beds. You may find they're a little later, depending on whether we get a good long warm spell ...

2

- A:** George! It's so lovely to see you again! It must be ages since we last met.
B: Oh, I suppose it is. But weren't you at Michael's twenty-first party last August?
A: No, I wasn't. I got the flu at the last minute. I think the last time I saw you was three years ago at Christmas, when we all had dinner together in that Indian restaurant ...
B: No, surely we've met since then ... Wait a minute ... it was at Peter's place. When he and Jenny got married.
A: Yes, of course it was! Wasn't it a fantastic reception?

3

I suppose the books I like best are somehow romantic, whether it's the lonely individual against the world – like my absolute favourite, *The Big Sleep*, where Phillip Marlowe finds the killers in the end and brings them to justice – or a more traditional kind of romance, in the fairy-tale world of happy endings and everlasting love ...

4

- A:** I haven't played for such a long time. I'm sure you'll beat me easily.
B: We can just practise for a while first, if you'd prefer.

A: Yes, that'd be best. Of course, my racquet is very old, so that's a bit of a disadvantage, too. And I'm not as fit as I should be for a really good game of tennis ...

B: Oh, stop making excuses! The way I remember, your volley was excellent. I bet you'll beat me in the end ...

5

Certainly, sir, the shirts are just over here. Now, we have a very wide selection of formal garments, and casual items with short sleeves, designed to be worn with the collar open. Our non-iron range is very popular. This particular one is a cotton and polyester mix, hard-wearing and also very stylish ...

6

As the day proceeds, we'll see storm clouds building up here on the west coast, moving gradually across the country and bringing temperatures down to well below the seasonal average. Scattered showers over on the west coast will die down during late afternoon. The east coast can expect to get the worst of the bad weather, with very heavy storms hitting during the late evening and in the early part of the night, though the south coast won't escape this entirely; we're forecasting gale-force winds in some areas ...

7

I'm pretty good at Maths, I suppose. I was third in the test we had last week, and I just find it ... I don't know ... pretty easy really. I just sort of look at an equation in Algebra, and I can see what it means. So obviously, the lessons are really boring, because everyone else in the class is trying hard to understand. This isn't much fun for me. Not like Art, which is what I really enjoy most ...

8

Now, Mr Birch, the good news is that I have been able to arrange a flight for you, getting you to Houston by Wednesday morning for the price you wanted to pay, but the bad news is that it does involve a few stopovers. You see, the cheapest airline at this time of year is KLM, meaning you first fly to Amsterdam, arriving late Tuesday morning, and then take the transatlantic flight to JFK Airport in New York, where you have to wait for about three hours for your connecting flight to your final destination, an American Airlines flight from Los Angeles ...

FCE TEST 3

▶▶ PART 2

You will hear part of a conversation between the headmaster of a school and his secretary about the school Open Day. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

Headmaster: Ms Barclay, could we just run through the arrangements again? I really want to make sure everything's clear. After all, it's not every day that we have such a famous old boy from the school attending our Open Day! Who would have thought Zac Challenger would end up as a Hollywood film star!

Secretary: Is Zac Challenger his real name? I always assumed he was called something like Tom Blenkinsop and changed it when he became an actor.

Headmaster: No, that's his real name. And I remember the other boys used to make fun of it. Anyway, about that schedule ...

Secretary: Well, we've arranged for you to meet the staff and address them – before the day really begins – at half past eight in the senior common room.

Headmaster: Yes, fine. I don't have much time though, do I?

Secretary: Not really. Zac Challenger and his entourage are supposed to arrive at nine thirty. His limousine will pull up outside the south entrance, and of course you want to be there, along with the senior staff and the Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Headmaster: Of course. Then it's straight into the guided tour, isn't it? The science block first, if I'm not very much mistaken?

Secretary: Absolutely right. We're scheduled to start the tour at half past ten, and at the close of the tour we'll have the official opening of the new library, which is estimated to take about twenty minutes. This leaves us time to get back for lunch at half past twelve.

Headmaster: In the common room on the ground floor or the second floor canteen?

Secretary: We decided finally on the canteen. A buffet lunch, light and – we hope – fairly quick! Because at half past one we'll be in the school hall for Challenger to meet representatives of the Parents Association. We'll have to keep that fairly brief, because at two o'clock he's meeting the press in the staff room.

Headmaster: Do we have journalists from national as well as local papers coming along?

Secretary: Oh yes, it's quite a big story – local boy made it to the top and returns to his roots, that sort of thing. Anyway, that should take less than an hour, and then we all assemble again in the hall for the speeches. We'll be expecting a few words from Challenger himself, of course, but first of all, we're got the mayor's opening address, and then we've put you down for ten minutes to introduce our guest.

Headmaster: Fine. Is there a tea break after the speeches?

Secretary: I'm afraid not. Don't forget the performance by the school choir! They've been rehearsing for weeks, and Ms Sanderson would be most insulted if you sent everyone off for tea before the seven songs she's arranged specially for the event!

Headmaster: Gosh, you're right! I mustn't forget that. But afterwards we can have tea, can't we?

Secretary: You certainly can. Four thirty in the art centre, where there's an exhibition of modern art by the senior art class ...

FCE TEST 3

▶▶ PART 3

You will hear five different people talking about their favourite films. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–F the reason each speaker gives for his or her preference. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1

I think my favourite film must be *Some Like it Hot*. It's a crazy story about two men – musicians – who pretend to be women to get away from some gangsters and join a women's orchestra. The plot may sound silly, but the film is just hilarious. I've seen it four or five times and every time I see it, I just can't stop laughing. I think the director's wonderful. His name's Billy Wilder and he's made some great films.

2

The film I like best is called *Kes*, and it's a story about a young boy who makes friends with a kestrel, a bird, which becomes his pet. The film's really about how children can feel lonely in some families, I suppose. It's a very intense film, and the performances are simply brilliant. I mean, the two main parts are played by relatively unknown actors, but they are just fantastic! Maybe that's what makes the film so powerful.

3

My favourite film? I would say *Solaris*, by the Russian director, Tarkovsky. It was never a blockbuster or a great financial success, but it's so absolutely gripping, a fascinating psychological study. I don't normally like science fiction films, but in this case the effects are not used just to impress the audience; there's a reason for them. In a way, Tarkovsky uses a futuristic setting so that we can concentrate on the story he is telling.

4

Oh, well, my favourite at the moment is called *Donald*, and it's about a young man who witnesses a bank robbery. Well, the robbers kidnap him and hold him hostage in this big old castle in Scotland. But the police are on their trail, so it turns into a race against time. I was on the edge of my seat all through the film! The tension was incredible! And of course when a film's that exciting, time just flies ...

5

Actually, the film I like best is set in England a couple of hundred years ago. It's called *Barry Lyndon*, and it's the story of a man's life in those times. The photography is great, so it's what we call easy on the eye: it's lovely to watch. I suppose it really captures the way people feel and talk at any time through the history of mankind! This is what makes it absolutely realistic. I mean, you get the feeling the film is sort of universal in that sense.

FCE TEST 3

▶▶ PART 4

You will hear part of a radio interview with a woman called Alice who has a rare ability. For questions 24–30 choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Interviewer: My guest today is Alice Barker, who has a very unusual ability. Alice, thank you for coming into the studio. What kind of unusual ability are we talking about here?

Alice Barker: Well, it's quite easy to describe. Basically, when I read a word or even think of a particular word, such as Tuesday, I see a colour connected with it. It's not

that I imagine a colour – I really see it floating in front of my eyes.

Interviewer: How interesting! Is it a sort of medical condition?

Alice Barker: Yes, and just recently doctors have begun to understand it more. They call it synaesthesia, and it means that somewhere in my brain there are links between sections that should really be separate. Other people have a form of this condition that affects emotions, so they see colours when they feel particular emotions. Apparently, it's generally passed on from parents to their children, which is the case with me.

Interviewer: And do you have brothers or sisters with the same ability?

Alice Barker: Yes, my brother is the same as me. If we start talking about it, people think we're completely mad! When we were younger, we used to have arguments about things like what colour the word Tuesday is. It turns out that everyone with this condition sees different colours.

Interviewer: It sounds as though it could make life quite exhausting.

Alice Barker: I suppose it does, but you see, if you've never known anything different, you don't think of it like that. It does make you aware of your moods. I know if I'm starting to feel depressed because things begin to look grey.

Interviewer: Are there any other advantages, do you find?

Alice Barker: Well, it seems that quite a lot of artists and musicians have this condition, so I guess it can be beneficial if it's combined with some sort of gift or natural talent. Which is not the case with me, unfortunately! But I do find it makes reading very interesting, because sometimes a sentence has a very nice range of colours, so you want to read it again just to experience that. Of course, this makes me quite a slow reader.

Interviewer: When you're listening to someone, do you also see colours connected to that person's words?

Alice Barker: Yes, and that can be pretty distracting! Sometimes I hardly listen to what the other person is saying, because I'm concentrating on the colours I can see. But on the whole, having this condition is not at all unpleasant. At least, now I understand it.

Interviewer: You mean you used to think it could be dangerous?

Alice Barker: When I was a child, yes, but that was because doctors used to think it was a sign of approaching mental illness, so the first doctor I saw, when I was about ten, told my parents I would probably grow up to be insane! At the time there was no name for what we experienced. Now research has shown that synaesthesia is not that uncommon and it may affect one in 25,000 people. It's interesting that for some people smells, tastes or even sounds can have colours!

FCE TEST 4

▶▶ PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1
Well, I bought this player a few months ago, and it seems to have developed a fault. When I'm playing a CD, suddenly, for no reason, it just stops. And before I can do anything about it, it goes on to the next song. I've tried pressing the eject button, but that doesn't seem to help; when I start it up again, it goes back to the first track it was playing. I find it very frustrating.

2
A: I'm afraid this isn't what we ordered. You must have got it mixed up with another table. We wanted a mineral water, a grapefruit juice for the children, and a white coffee, no sugar for me!
B: I'm very sorry. I'll be back with your order in a minute.
A: Don't worry about the mineral water and the juice – the kids are quite happy with what they've got. But I really would like my coffee!

3
It was awful! First of all, there was some delay on the line from London, so we were late starting, and I was afraid I wouldn't get to Leeds in time. Well, I did miss the connection, but luckily, there was a train to Manchester, so I took that. And then there was a bus for the last part of the journey. I was really exhausted when I finally got there!

4
Don't miss the sensational GFI furniture sale this Monday! Incredible reductions on all items in stock. Armchairs at an amazing half price! Sofas with up to 40 percent reductions and double beds with 35 percent reductions! Hurry while stocks last! GFI furniture sale starts Monday at eight o'clock sharp! Don't be late for these amazing bargains!

5
A: Would you please have a look at my car? Do you think you can repair it by the end of the day today?
B: It depends what's wrong with it, doesn't it? What seems to be the trouble?
A: It starts okay, but then the motor just cuts out every time I stop, like at traffic lights. I mean, when I put the brakes on, it slows down okay, but then I have to start the engine again when I want to drive off.
B: Let's have a look at it ...

6
I've been in this business for almost twenty years now, and I have to say it's still very exciting for me. I don't regret for a moment working freelance, although in the beginning I was afraid I might get bored working from home. Of course, things are totally different now I've got a lovely little office in the attic, with a new computer and my favourite software. I wouldn't even dream of going back to working in a multinational company.

7
Good morning, this is Radio Kent with the latest traffic news for the M2 heading into London. Traffic is pretty heavy, especially between junctions 17 and 18, due to roadworks on the A229 which is causing a bottleneck here. Last week road widening was causing long delays between junctions 13 and 14, though I'm glad to say it has now been

completed, and we're getting reports of a steady flow right up to junction 11. And this is where you should expect the longest delays. Delays up to two hours are expected between junctions 10 and 11, lasting right through until evening ...

8
Good morning, this is John MacPherson. It's about my morning newspaper. I've been getting my *Telegraph* delivered from your shop for the last 25 years, and I really think that entitles me to a bit of service! I came downstairs first thing this morning, and what do I find on the doormat? The Sun! And a few days ago it was the Daily Mirror! This is unacceptable! I expect you to send someone round with my newspaper now!

FCE TEST 4

▶ PART 2

You will hear part of a radio interview with a young golf player, John Freeman. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

Interviewer: With me today on 'Sports Review' is John Freeman, the young golfer who is making headlines at the moment with a string of successes. Hello, John.

John Freeman: Hi.

Interviewer: Could you tell our viewers something about yourself? How long have you been playing golf?

John Freeman: Well, I started about eighteen years ago. And there's a bit of a story about that, too. It was my dad who got me interested first of all. He used to be quite a good player himself – strictly amateur, of course, but still pretty good. He never really developed because he couldn't afford the clubs, but he was always very keen on the game.

Interviewer: And were you taken with the game right from the start?

John Freeman: To tell you the truth: no! When I was at school, I was obsessed with soccer, and my ambition was to be a professional one day. But when I was about fifteen, I realised I wasn't really good at soccer. And that was about the time my dad was made redundant, so he decided to take up his old hobby again.

Interviewer: Did you get much encouragement at school when you started taking an interest in golf?

John Freeman: Oh, not at all! Looking back, that really annoys me. When I told them I wanted to practise golf and become a professional golfer one day, all the teachers tried to put me off. I wish I'd had more encouragement from them, but to be honest, I don't think they knew much about the game. And it was a working-class school in a fairly poor part of London, so everyone thought golf was just a game for people with lots of money. Because that is the image golf's got, isn't it?

Interviewer: Do you think the image of golf has changed at all these days?

John Freeman: I think it has, yes, but not much. I'd like to see a lot more things change. For example, I think the government should help schools with the cost of golf

equipment, because it really is quite expensive. Financial help, I mean.

Interviewer: That wouldn't necessarily make children more interested in the sport, would it? Surely, the huge success of young British players like yourself is more likely to raise the sport's profile among youngsters?

John Freeman: Well, I certainly hope so! I mean, I'm not a crusader or anything – I'm in this sport because I like it and I can make a reasonable income from it. But at the same time I'd be delighted if I could make kids feel the sport is a possibility for them.

Interviewer: I remember that in the beginning of your career you used to dye your hair blue. Was there a reason for that?

John Freeman: Yes, there were two: I thought it would show up nicely on television, and it was a sort of joke against those conservative golfers who treat the game like a kind of religion.

Interviewer: Well, thanks for talking to us, John Freeman, and good luck with your career.

John Freeman: Thank you.

FCE TEST 4

▶▶ PART 3

You will hear five different people talking about holidays. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–F the reason each speaker gives to explain why they remember one particular holiday. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1

A couple of years ago I went cycling in Holland with my mum, dad and Alice, my sister. I hadn't really been looking forward to it; I was a teenager, and I didn't get on with my parents. As I had expected, Holland wasn't all that interesting, and for the first couple of days I was in a really bad mood. However, by the end of the first week I found myself having a good time with my parents. I wasn't a kid anymore, and I felt that we were forming a friendship.

2

The most unusual holiday I've ever had was before going to university, when a friend dragged me along on an archaeological dig. We were uncovering the remains of a Roman villa in Kent, and I had somehow imagined we'd just be pottering around in the sun all day. Well, it was very hard work, but I started to feel fascinated by the whole subject of the Romans in Britain and the effect they had on our modern society. The main thing I got from the holiday was the feeling that I knew better where I had come from and who I was.

3

I was just seventeen when my parents agreed to let me go away with two friends on a holiday in Wales. We were staying in a youth hostel that was next to a farm with horses. On the second day, we visited the farm and got talking to the farmer, and the next thing we knew he had agreed to show us how to ride. I got a great sense of

achievement from that, and I'll always remember the feeling of developing a new skill.

4

Well, one summer this colleague from work suggested we should go camping in Scotland. I didn't know what camping was all about, but it sounded like fun. I couldn't have been more wrong! The holiday was a disaster! The weather was awful, our tent started leaking, and we got soaking wet by the rain. But somehow we kept each other's spirits up, and at the end of this camping trip we felt confident that our friendship could survive anything after that.

5

The year I finished school, three friends and I got those student railcards for Europe. It was a big mistake! We spent endless hours travelling from one capital to the next and then went sightseeing to make the best of our holiday. After seven days we were exhausted and decided to get back. I can't describe the feeling of absolute joy when I finally got home!

FCE TEST 4

▶▶ PART 4

You will hear an interview with Laura Bartlett, a florist. For questions 24–30, choose the correct answer, A, B or C.

Interviewer: Welcome to this week's edition of 'Careers for You'. My guest on today's programme is Laura Bartlett, a successful florist. I'm sure there are many young people out there who've never considered floristry as a career. Who knows, they might be inspired by Laura's example! Laura, how did you become interested in floristry?

Laura Bartlett: My parents were keen gardeners. My father used to grow rare varieties of vegetables and my mother grew orchids very successfully. But it was my mother's sister who was the professional. She had a florist's shop, and when I was a kid, I'd help out at weekends. I grew up knowing quite a lot about the business.

Interviewer: So being a florist was something you'd always wanted?

Laura Bartlett: Not exactly! When I was at school, I wanted to be an artist but my art teacher persuaded me to train as a graphic designer instead. After college I got a job working for a magazine, but I hated being in an office all day, so I resigned. I didn't know what I was going to do. I had a number of temporary jobs. And then one day, my aunt fell and broke her arm. She asked me to help out in the shop until she got better. But I liked it so much that I stayed on, and eventually took over from her when she retired.

Interviewer: What exactly did you do?

Laura Bartlett: At first, I did the jobs I'd done as a kid: cleaning, delivering flowers to customers, things like that.

Interviewer: Didn't you work with flowers at all?

Laura Bartlett: Well, that's a skilled job. My aunt's assistant would do the creative stuff and I'd put together simple bouquets – following her instructions.

Interviewer: What kinds of skills did you need to learn?

Laura Bartlett: Lots! Fortunately, I already knew a lot about the different species and varieties of flowers available, but I now had to learn how to look after them, prepare them so they lasted, wire them if necessary.

Interviewer: Wire them?

Laura Bartlett: Yes. In some arrangements, flowers have to keep a certain position, and one of the ways you can make sure they do this is by twisting fine wire round their stems.

Interviewer: Oh, I see. Would you say that being a florist is a good career for a young person?

Laura Bartlett: That depends. You have to love flowers, but you must also be good with people. You see, people come into a florist's for many reasons – often they want some flowers as a gift for a birthday, perhaps they want to apologise to someone, a family member could be ill. They depend on you to help them make the right choice, so you have to take an interest. And it's not all pretty flowers. You have to get up before dawn to buy good quality flowers from the market; it's not much fun when you have to put your hands into freezing water in winter; you stand most of the day; you have to lift heavy containers; and before special occasions like Christmas or Mother's Day, you need to work through the night to prepare orders.

Interviewer: So if any of our listeners would like to become florists, how would they go about it?

Laura Bartlett: Well, they could try getting a job at a florist's and learn the business on the job. Or they could take a course at a college. My advice would be to look for a part-time job and attend courses in floristry at the same time. That way you get a good knowledge of all aspects of the business. Because it *is* a business. If you want to run your own shop one day, you must learn how to manage a budget, run a website and keep accounts. No matter how talented you are, you will fail unless you can do all the other boring things!



▶▶ PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1
The tax increases announced by the government yesterday are clearly going to have a big effect on most people, especially with cigarettes and wine both going up by three point five percent. It's expected that this will mean a huge increase in revenue for the Treasury. With petrol price rises of four percent, the Chancellor has probably made himself unpopular, especially in the countryside, where ...

2
It is odd, when you get to my age, to look back on the formative experiences of your life. My decision to study French was based purely on the fact that I'd been on a school trip to Paris, and I was absolutely enchanted by the city. I never intended to study French or become a translator. In fact, my parents were insisting that I should study Economics.

3
I know it was a very stupid thing to do, but I needed to change the light bulb, and the ladder looked quite stable ... and then it just collapsed. All of a sudden, there I was on the ground, rolling round in agony! I simply never realised that back pain could be so awful! Eventually, I pulled myself to my feet and called a ambulance ...

4
Oh, I think it'll be just marvellous! It's a fantastic character part, really it is! You see, my son robs a bank, and the funny part about the whole thing is that his wife is the manager. He doesn't realise it at first because she's only just been promoted, and she wanted to make it a surprise for him, so she was going to tell him that night, but then ...

5
A: Morning, Mr Roberts. Have you been to that new shop in the High Street?

B: Good morning, Mrs White. Yes, I just thought I'd pop in and browse around – see if there's anything I like. I must say I'm very impressed. They have a very good literature section, and there's a little café where you can go and read a book in peace.

A: Got any nice love stories, have they? That's really what I like. A bit of romance and excitement ...

6
Good evening ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Just to let you know that in a few minutes you'll be able to see the lights of Brussels over to your right if you look out of the window, and we're just coming over Amsterdam now, so the bright lights you can see over to your left is the port of Rotterdam, about 45 miles away.

7
I spent the weekend painting the living room, and on Monday morning I woke up with this terrible backache; I just couldn't get out of bed. The pain's eased off a bit today, but I thought I'd come and see you for a proper examination. I don't like being off work, especially this week when we're organising the annual sales conference ...

8
A: Bob, have you read Ian McEwan's new book? I think it really deserves to be called a masterpiece.

B: You mean *Atonement*? Yes, I have read it actually, and I enjoyed it a lot. I'm a big fan of McEwan. I've read all his novels and collections of short stories, and I think this is his best novel so far. Do you know he's also written several film scripts, including *Sour Sweet* and *The Good Son*?

A: It doesn't surprise me. He's extremely talented.



▶▶ PART 2

You will hear part of a radio interview with David Barns, the director of a company that is building a new shopping mall. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

Journalist: Mr Barns, I wonder if I could start with some

practical information. I know construction is set to begin next month: when do you expect to finish, and what do you think the total cost of Whitesea Mall will be?

David Barns: I'm going to stick my neck out and say we'll meet the original targets, which is to have the mall open by July next year. As for the costs, well, again our estimate was twelve billion pounds, and I'm pretty confident the final cost will not exceed that.

Journalist: Right ... And what are the investors getting for that sort of money? I mean, what's going to make this place special? What will attract customers to the mall?

David Barns: Oh, lots of things! For a start, there's a new train station being built right next to the mall, so people will be able to reach us from the city centre in under twenty minutes. The underground car park has room for 3,000 vehicles, and we're just off the motorway, which will mean easy access for customers living up to 100 kms from the mall. On top of that, we've put in a great deal of thought into how to make shopping easier for families with small children. One excellent idea we have is to provide nurseries – three of them in fact – so people can leave toddlers in completely safe hands while they do their shopping.

Journalist: I see ... And I understand you have the usual wide range of shopping facilities. But don't you need other attractions to persuade people to come here?

David Barns: That's certainly true, and we've done a great deal to provide those other attractions. There's a fairground in one corner of the mall, where qualified staff can supervise children while their parents are doing their shopping in peace! For people who aren't actually shopping, we have seven cinemas showing a good range of modern films, including the latest releases. We also came up with an idea for the older folk, because lots of families these days have grandparents living with them. In one of the cinemas we have classic films – from 40 or 50 years ago – twice a day, morning and afternoon.

Journalist: I read in your press statement that you're also trying to make the place 'greener'. Could you tell me a bit about that?

David Barns: Sure. People have become very demanding and prefer malls that have an open, airy atmosphere. So we have walkways between the different buildings, with flowers lining the paths, giving the impression that you're actually outdoors. And we're building a Nature Centre, where we'll have a permanent exhibition about the ecology of the area. We're going to have models, photographs and displays to inform people about the wildlife of the area.

Journalist: Right ... Well, thanks for talking to me, Mr Barns.

David Barns: You're very welcome.

FCE TEST 5

▶▶ PART 3

You will hear five people who are going on an expedition into the jungle talking about what they will miss most. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–F the reason each speaker gives for the importance of this item to them personally. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1

There's part of Beethoven's 5th symphony that always makes me feel very emotional, because it was playing the evening when I met my future husband. So each time I listen to that particular piece of music, I think of those perfect years when we were deeply in love. That sort of music really has to be played in a large room with good acoustics. I can still listen to it on my personal stereo, but playing it on my excellent hi-fi is what I'll miss most.

2

The first time I went on an expedition like this, I realised that what I really miss is looking at my favourite painting. It's a painting I have on the wall at home of a landscape in Yorkshire, where I come from. It might not mean so much to anyone else, but it gives me that feeling of being calm and strong inside, at ease with myself if you like.

3

Actually, the thing I'll miss is my bike. I suppose what I really mean is that I'll miss the feeling of independence that riding my bike gives me. I cycle everywhere from my home in Cambridge – except for long trips like going to London. When you ride a bike, you decide on the best route and final destination. When you're in the jungle, you're totally dependent on other people.

4

Going on an expedition like this can be quite a culture shock: you suddenly find yourself without any of the luxuries of western life. It's the things that make your quality of life acceptable that you really miss. I know that I'll be dreaming of my washing machine, and a shelf full of lovely clean clothes, ironed and tidy. I don't mind being deprived of the luxuries of everyday life because I know it's only going to be for a limited time.

5

I know it sounds terribly luxurious, but I think the single item I'll miss most is my espresso machine. I can't function unless I have a cup of strong espresso first thing in the morning. Of course, it is a luxury at the end of the day, but it's become so important to me that I'd almost classify it as a necessity now!

FCE TEST 5

▶▶ PART 4

You will hear a radio interview with an expert on memory. For questions 24–30 choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Interviewer: Today on 'Mind Matters' I'm talking to Dr Ann Winters, an expert on human memory. Ann, welcome to the programme. Now, I suppose the first question everyone would ask is: what exactly is the human memory?

Ann Winters: Well, like so many easy questions, the answer isn't very simple. Basically, the human memory is a compartment in our brain, where we store images, rather like the hard disc drive in a computer. And like a hard disc drive, our memories can become infected or even wiped out by accidents. But the comparison breaks down when

we consider that we can train our memories to expand and work better – which computers can't manage ... yet!

Interviewer: When you talk about memory being infected, do you mean by a disease?

Ann Winters: Yes. For instance, people suffering from a physiological disease like Alzheimer's forget things that happened in the past and they also forget how to perform simple tasks, like tying their shoelaces. The good news is that brain exercises can keep the brain young. Research has shown that people who were more successful in education, and have more mentally active jobs, have a lower risk of developing the disease.

Interviewer: And how can someone exercise his brain – by thinking a lot?

Ann Winters: In a way, yes! But you can also practise using your memory, which not only exercises your brain but also improves your ability to remember things. Unfortunately, a lot of devices in modern life are designed to make sure we don't forget things, which can make our brain more idle and weaken our memory.

Interviewer: Would you give us examples of how to exercise our memory?

Ann Winters: Sure. There's a very simple technique, although it works better for some people than for others. Whatever you want to remember, think of a physical thing it reminds you of. If I want to remember a date from history – let's say 1066, the date of the Battle of Hastings – I might think that 'battle' reminds me of 'bottle'. So I think of a bottle with the number 1066 written on the label, and I just picture that bottle to myself.

Interviewer: Why is it easier to remember a physical thing than a sentence such as 'The Battle of Hastings was in 1066'?

Ann Winters: Because our brains are better at recalling pictures than abstract thought. That's why I said it works better for some people than for others; some people are particularly good at seeing pictures in their minds – visualising ideas – and they are the ones that can remember things best using this technique.

Interviewer: Is there anything else we can do to protect our brains?

Ann Winters: You simply have to exercise your brain regularly with new, enjoyable and interesting activities, like learning a new language or playing a new computer game.

Interviewer: Are you suggesting that simple things like doing crosswords can make the brain more efficient?

Ann Winters: Absolutely.

Interviewer: I'll keep that in mind! Ann Winters, thanks for being with us.

Ann Winters: You're welcome.

FCE
TEST 6

[12]

▶▶ PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1

I know the film is supposed to be fantastic, but normally I wouldn't bother going to see one like that. I mean, this is not the kind of film that usually appeals to me. The story is based on a book by Hemingway that we're reading in class this term, and I thought that watching the film would make the book clearer to me, so I think I'll go next weekend.

2

I don't know what the problem was. This wasn't the bottleneck you get when you come off the motorway. I must have been stuck there for over an hour, hardly moving an inch, feeling frustrated and anxious that I wouldn't make it in time. It took me two hours to reach the airport, although it was only a couple of miles away!

3

It really was a lovely surprise. I knew she was thinking of getting me a piece of jewellery, because she'd asked me what sort of earrings I liked, but I hadn't expected pearls! I think she's trying to be especially nice because she wasn't so pleased when Colin told her we were getting married; he's her only son, and she wanted him to wait a few more years before settling down – which is what his sister did. She was over 30 when she married ...

4

I thought it was going to be a big mistake, when he got that transfer from Liverpool. They were going through a bad patch these last two seasons, but they were a good team, and I thought he should have stayed. But it turns out I was dead wrong! He's been getting better and better since he signed with Arsenal, and he scored a hat-trick in the cup final!

5

A: Good morning. Do you have any tickets left for this evening's performance?

B: Let me just have a look ... Well, the rear stalls and circle are completely sold out ... There are a few seats left in the front stalls ... How many tickets do you want?

A: Just two.

B: Yes, I can give you two in the third row ... they're £39 each ...

A: £39? I see ... All right, I'll take them.

B: That's £78 altogether. I'll have to ask you to pick them up here by six thirty. And your name is ... ?

6

News travels fast in a small village, I suppose, so everyone seemed to know, before I got there, that I'd be teaching at the local school. Whether that made the villagers more formal in the way they treated me – for the first few months at least – I really don't know. I gathered from the way they spoke that they regarded me as quite foreign because I came from London, and this did startle me for a while ...

7

It was the decade of peace after the war to end all wars. It was a time of decadence and wild enthusiasm – a time of mourning and attempts to recover from the losses of World War I. The 1920s were the dawn of our modern age, when people were still looking back at the previous

century. Don't miss the Central Museum's special exhibition. Starts Monday.

8

A: I thought the last bit was really great, didn't you?

B: Yes. I never would have guessed what was going to happen; I mean, everyone thought Molly was dead, and then she walks into the room right at the end, except it's not Molly at all – it's her twin sister!

A: Right! You know, that's what makes some soap operas really great – you just have to watch the next episode to find out how it all works out!

FCE TEST 6

▶▶ PART 2

You will hear part of a talk by a woman who designs model railways in Britain. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

One of the most interesting developments in the toy market has been the revival of interest in that most traditional of toys: train sets. Models of all sorts, but especially railways, were unfashionable in the 1980s and 1990s, but they have become big business in the last few years. In Britain there has always been a strong interest in railways, as can be seen from the number of people who go 'train spotting' – collecting information about locomotives and train movements. This also explains why Britain is the largest model railway market in Europe.

Modern train sets are introducing children, who may never have travelled by real train, to the joys of railway modelling. For parents, model railways are a healthier indoor alternative to computers and videogames. Model trains are more lasting than other toy equipment, their quality is superb and that has added to their popularity with both parents and children. Interestingly, the majority of purchasers of model railway equipment today are adults, not children. By that I do not mean that parents buy model railways for their children, although obviously this happens a great deal. I mean adults that are willing to spend a lot of money on miniature locomotives and relive part of their childhood. Purchasers of model trains are wealthy middle-aged men, bankers and business executives.

When it comes to the future, we can assume that children will always have a natural interest in models and miniature versions of real-life objects like toy cars and airplanes. Another aspect of the market for these items is also likely to remain the same: boys will continue to find these toys far more appealing than girls do. Model railway manufacturers are trying to maximise their sales, and they're experimenting with toy trains aimed directly at girls. They are also investing in new markets in countries in Asia, for example, where there isn't the same traditional interest in railways. Researchers and marketing specialists believe that there's a lot of potential in these markets, and manufacturers will be taking part in international toy fairs to promote their model trains. Model railways are becoming more of a 21st century toy. Computer controlled model railways will be available in the toy market in the near future.

FCE TEST 6

▶▶ PART 3

You will hear five different people talking about their memories of the first day at high school. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–F the main thing each speaker remembers from this experience. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1

I went to a private school where it was compulsory to wear a uniform. The school had sent out a list to parents of the items you had to have – school tie, blazer, cap – and the shops where you could find them before the term started. My mother went on a business trip and didn't manage to go shopping. I was the only one from about fifty eleven-year-old boys who didn't have a cap or tie. I felt very awkward dressed in a pair of jeans and sweater ...

2

I remember being very nervous as I was walking into the school, because I thought I wouldn't know anyone at all, which might have been a bit frightening. And then I spotted my cousin, Peter, who was two years older than me. I expected that he wouldn't want to have anything to do with me, but unlike most kids that age, he was very nice, showed me round and helped me settle in.

3

When my mother offered to drive me to school, I suppose I should have known that this could be a bad idea because she has always had the most awful sense of direction. My mum got lost, and it took us ages to find the school. I will never forget how embarrassed I felt when I walked into the first class half an hour after it had started. Awful!

4

I know it may sound unlikely, but I didn't experience any feeling of anxiety. I was confident that everything was going to be fine. I felt optimistic being surrounded by the familiar faces of friends from primary school. My most vivid memory is the warm welcoming speech of Mr Stephens, our Headmaster. I don't recall feeling stressed or lonely.

5

My strongest memory from my first day at high school is simply feeling terribly alone and sad. We moved house at just about the time I was due to go to high school, so I ended up going to a new school two weeks after the term had begun. It's not a long time, but it was long enough for all the other new boys to have made friends with each other, so I really had the impression that I was never going to fit in. Of course, I soon made friends and settled down, but the first few days were rather difficult.

FCE TEST 6

▶▶ PART 4

You will hear a radio interview with a woman who recently gave up a successful career. For questions 24–30 choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Interviewer: On 'People Watching' today I have with me in the studio Emma Astley, who was until two years ago one of the very top advertising executives in the country. Then she decided to stop working completely so she could stay at home with her children, Eve, two and Michael, four years old. Emma has now written a book, *Leaving It All Behind*, which is published this week, and she has come along to talk about her experiences. Emma, perhaps I could start by asking you how difficult a decision it was for you to give up your career?

Emma Astley: Oh, terribly hard. I agonised about it for months, really, before finally making up my mind. You see, it wasn't just that I was making a great deal of money; I actually loved my work! In the beginning of my career I didn't expect to find advertising so artistically satisfying. In fact, I only ever entered the profession because a friend told me it was easy work! Family pressure also made it hard to leave. Friends and relatives were shocked to hear I'd decided to leave advertising. My mother, in particular, thought I was mad to give up my job. She simply couldn't see why I needed to do that. She thought if I organised my time properly, I could keep on working and spend more time with the children.

Interviewer: And did you feel that this just wasn't possible?

Emma Astley: That's right. I mean, I did have a lot of help, really. There was Erica, a German au pair who prepared the meals and did the housework, so I could spend time with my children when I was at home. And I had a child minder who would take care of the children when I had to be at work. Unfortunately, what usually happened was that by the time I got home, I was so exhausted, mentally and physically, that I simply couldn't give the children my full attention.

Interviewer: And can you do that now?

Emma Astley: Yes. In fact, sometimes I think things have gone too far the other way! I mean, now I occasionally feel that my horizons have got smaller, in the sense that my only topic of conversation, my only interest, is how the children are doing! Of course, it's not really like that, and I do get out of the house a lot. But when you're used to having someone do household work for you, and you suddenly start doing it all yourself, you realise just how much time the simplest things take. The job that takes up most of my time is cooking meals, partly because I try to use fresh food all the time.

Interviewer: What aspect of your life as an executive do you miss most?

Emma Astley: I don't miss travelling, going to conferences or business dinners! I suppose the only thing I do miss at times is having people around to talk to.

Interviewer: You said it was a difficult decision to take, so would you advise other women – or men for that matter – to give up their careers?

Emma Astley: I feel quite strongly that you can't advise anyone about such important things in life. What I would say is that the decision becomes easier – in the sense that it's less final and therefore less stressful – if you have the flexibility to return to your job six months or even one year after you've resigned. This is something that you can discuss with your employer before you make your final decision.

Interviewer: Emma Astley, thanks for joining us.

Emma Astley: My pleasure.

FCE TEST 7 [13]

▶▶ PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1

A: Come on! Cheer up! It's not the end of the world!

B: Oh sure, it's easy for you to say that. My grades in History are already pretty bad, and if I fail that test tomorrow, I'm probably going to fail the whole class. And we only have one day to revise for the test!

A: But it's the same for everyone else! Nobody's going to do well in the test. So it really isn't that important ...

2

I wasn't really looking for anything because I got that new coat last week, which was really expensive. But then I saw this lovely black jacket, reduced to £24.99, and I just had to have it. I know Simon'll be furious, but it was a real bargain. I just couldn't resist it.

3

I got a sports car as soon as I could afford it, and it wasn't really very economical, but I decided I could live with that. However, after a few weeks I got a job further away from home, and I realised it was the wrong car for long journeys; it was too noisy, there wasn't enough leg room, the suspension was broken and you could feel every bump in the road. That's why I decided to sell it.

4

Hello, I wonder if you could help me? I'm in room 447 – I just checked in this morning – and there seems to be something wrong with the room ... The radiators won't come on, so it's very cold in here ... No, the heating is out of order in the bathroom as well ... Yes, I tried turning the control knob on the radiator, but it simply won't move ... Yes, if you could send someone to have a look at it, please ...

5

A: So how many kids from your class are going on this trip?

B: Practically everyone's going, dad! We go on a guided tour of the city, including the Eiffel Tower and a boat trip on the Seine, and then we're back in London by Sunday afternoon, so I'll be home early on Sunday night.

A: Oh, I'm sure you'll enjoy it. Paris is a lovely city. I just want to make sure you have enough supervision ...

6

As soon as we took off, the basket started swaying from side to side, which took a while to get used to. Apart from the slight creaking that caused, there wasn't a sound to be heard. After doing quite a bit of flying in commercial planes, I think that's what stunned me most about this

flight. Drifting along with the wind meant there was hardly any whistling from the breeze ...

7

You have reached the Local Government Helpline. For general enquiries, press 1. For tax and finance enquiries, press 2. For planning enquiries, press 3. For school and further education enquiries, press 4. For road and highways enquiries, press 5. To hear this list again, please press 6 ...

8

I remember the magazine used to come out on Fridays, and every Friday after school I'd race round to the newsagent's and buy a copy, and then spend all evening reading it. It was aimed at girls exactly like me; it gave you ideas how to choose accessories, how to wear make up and had information about the latest trends in fashion. The only thing it didn't have was interviews with pop stars and free posters!

FOR TEST 7

▶▶ PART 2

You will hear part of a conversation between a journalist and the director of a new community college. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

Journalist: Ms Underwood, could I start by asking for some basic information? When is the College actually going to open?

Irene Underwood: We have the opening ceremony on 21st April, and we start summer classes on June 15th.

Journalist: I see. And do you expect a lot of students to enrol for the summer school?

Irene Underwood: It's hard to say, but there's certainly been a lot of interest – especially after a series of adverts we did on the radio. So I would hope we'll have a lot of people signing up for courses.

Journalist: Will the opening ceremony attract a lot of publicity?

Irene Underwood: Yes, I think so. The mayor will be here to declare the College officially open, and then we have a number of local figures to make speeches – including Harry Watson ...

Journalist: The footballer? Really? Well, he should be popular!

Irene Underwood: That's what we thought! The whole idea is to get local people interested and asking what the College is, and what it can do for them.

Journalist: So the idea is to get local people signing up for the courses ... And how do you plan to do that?

Irene Underwood: Mainly by involving local people in all sorts of ways. For instance, as far as possible we're going to have local experts teaching classes here instead of academics who have little connection with the area. We'll have the chief accountant from a local business teaching accountancy classes – that sort of thing. And we'll put the emphasis on practical subjects, to attract students who might not be interested in a theoretical course.

Journalist: So you're hoping to get students who are keen on developing their skills – perhaps people who are already working?

Irene Underwood: That's right. You see, a lot of people didn't do very well at school and are now in jobs they don't really enjoy. These people have a great deal of potential, and many of them want to study. We're going to be flexible about the students we accept. We believe that students who didn't do well at school should enjoy the benefits of higher education, and we're prepared to give them a chance to do so. Our policy is to accept students who didn't have the admission qualifications required by traditional colleges.

Journalist: I'm sure a lot of young people will be tempted to enrol.

Irene Underwood: I hope so. We want to attract people who wouldn't normally think about enrolling for a college. That's why we have an applications office in the centre of the city, to create interest.

Journalist: And how else can members of the public get information about the college?

Irene Underwood: They can go to our website for a full description of what we do: the Internet address is ...

FOR TEST 7

▶▶ PART 3

You will hear five different people describing what they like most about New York. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–F the reason each speaker gives for why the city appeals to them personally. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1

I've only been there a couple of times with my wife, who's a diplomat. I must say the pace of life there is rather hectic. Although it may sound rather trivial, what appeals to me most about the city are the absolutely fantastic department stores! I have to be very careful when I go shopping there not to overspend. The service is excellent, they have a very wide range of goods, and prices are quite reasonable.

2

Oh, definitely the restaurants. There's such an incredible range of places to go. There's Italian, Greek, Chinese, French, German, Indian, Thai ... everything you could think of. There's a culture of going out – some New Yorkers I know literally never eat at home. And there's a lot of competition, so that means the quality's usually great!

3

Well, for me the attraction of a city is its inhabitants. In New York the fact that the people there are from such different cultural backgrounds makes it a really exciting place to be. New York is a mosaic of civilisations, which is absolutely fascinating. I find cities without different ethnic groups terribly boring.

4

I'm not so keen on most aspects of big city life, but I do enjoy the facilities that only big cities have to offer. In artistic terms, New York is absolutely splendid, with a wide variety of museums and a very active cultural life. There are numerous small art galleries with works by exciting new artists, who perhaps wouldn't be given an exhibition of their own in a more conservative city.

5

Oh, New York! Yes, I love the place. I remember being just stunned by the skyscrapers and that magical view of the Statue of Liberty ... Now that I've been there a few times, I think what I like most is the dry wit of the people there. They make a joke out of everything, but it's that clever type of humour that you get in big cities where people have suffered a lot but still enjoy a good laugh!

FCE TEST 7

▶▶ PART 4

You will hear part of a talk by a deep-sea diver. For questions 24–30, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

My name's Ray Garrett, and I'm a professional deep-sea diver. Let me explain how I came to be working in this profession. When I left school, I got a job in a lawyer's office, and by the time I was 25, I'd worked my way up to the position of office manager. I was good at my job, and it never occurred to me to leave or do something else.

When our company was bought out and the local office closed, I started thinking about other jobs. I'd always been interested in scuba diving, as a hobby, and just about that time I saw an advert in a magazine. A company was looking for people to train as divers, so I put my name down for the training. My mother wasn't at all keen; in fact, she and my dad didn't believe I'd last out the three months' training! Scuba diving doesn't take great physical strength or unusual exercise tolerance. All it takes is the desire, plus some basic classroom and in-water training.

A qualified diver can safely remain underwater for anywhere from a few minutes to over two hours. Most of the work I do now isn't very dangerous – or very exciting! My job involves working on ships that have to be repaired, so we're not even very deep underwater.

Working underwater can be dangerous, especially if we do need to go right down to the sea bed, perhaps to do some work on a shipwreck. People have accidents when they stop thinking about the dangers facing them in their job, and I never do that; I always remember that diving can be dangerous. I'm aware of the potential hazards, and I never exceed the time limit of my dives, which depends on various parameters like depth, rate of air consumption, and the profile of any dives I have done in the previous six to twelve hours.

At the moment we're doing quite an exciting job: looking for buried treasure! Well, I suppose it's not exactly like that.

We're working off the coast of America, examining a ship on the sea bed that sank almost a hundred and fifty years ago! The ship is the SS Union, and she was travelling from the Northern States of America to the South just after the American Civil War. For a long time, nobody knew where the shipwreck was, but a team from the University of New Orleans found it last year, using some new sonar equipment. The ship is supposed to have a lot of gold on board – although we haven't actually found any yet.

Working on a shipwreck sounds absolutely fascinating, but it can be extremely dangerous at the same time. Potential hazards of diving at such depth include de-compression sickness, air embolism, hypothermia and physical exhaustion. On top of that, the ship can break up at any time, which means that you run the risk of being trapped inside. A couple of days ago I had a lucky escape when part of the shipwreck fell, and that's the sort of thing that can really cause problems for divers. Still, it's a great profession!

FCE TEST 8

▶▶ PART 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1–8, choose the best answer, A, B or C.

1

According to a recent survey, text messages have superseded phone calls as the most common use for a mobile phone among young people. More than eight out of ten people under the age of 25 are more likely to send someone a text message than call. At the other end of the scale, just 14 percent of those aged over 55 said they preferred to text. Sending a birthday greeting was the most popular use of text.

2

Good evening, and welcome to a special edition of 'Driving Force', devoted this week to the issue of car security. Why is there an increase in the number of vehicles being stolen, despite technological advances in security systems? Can a stolen vehicle be tracked electronically? Do steering wheel locks really work? And with me to discuss these issues is Betty Crawford, designer of the new Vortex GT6, the car which was recently declared car of the year.

3

Terry, I need you to do something for me. You remember the enquiry we had from Head Office about cost-cutting measures? Yes, they want a summary of not more than 500 words describing our basic attitude – which is that we can't cut costs without reducing essential services. No, I'd much rather you faxed it, and let me check it before you send it off.

4

A: John, hello! I haven't seen you since we went out at Christmas!

B: That's right, Audrey! What a great evening! I really hadn't expected to enjoy myself so much.

A: Oh, I thought you'd like it. You just haven't had enough

opportunities to see really good plays in a first-class theatre.

B: I think you're right. I expected it to be really boring, but it was one of the most exciting things I've ever seen!

5

Aunt Maude was rather a rebel for her time. She grew up just after the Great War, when women weren't really expected to have any profession. At the time the common belief in upper middle-class families was that decent, respectable girls couldn't have a career in show business, so her parents were absolutely furious when she told them she had enrolled at drama school and was leaving home!

6

A: Amanda, I got mum's present, but are you sure she's going to like it? A guide to Italy?

B: But it's a guide to the cooking in different parts of the country. You know how mum likes to experiment with cooking, and she's been getting really keen on Italian cooking.

B: Yes, she can read about the cooking and then try out the dishes on us ...

A: That's right; there's a recipe section in the back of the book. She'll love it!

7

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to Gallery Multiplex. Please check your tickets for the start times of the films, and make sure you go to the right section of the cinema. This evening we have *Eve and Adam* just starting in Screen 1, and at 18.45 *Hurricane* starts in Screen 7. In just over 20 minutes, at 18.55, *Racing Fever* begins in Screen 6, and at the same time *Details of the Fall* starts in Screen 5 ...

8

Acupressure is an ancient Chinese healing method that involves applying pressure to certain parts of the body to relieve pain. It relaxes muscular tension and balances the vital forces of the body. Acupressure can provide relief from head, neck and shoulder aches, promote healing of injuries and give an overall feeling of well-being.

FCE TEST 8

▶▶ PART 2

You will hear part of a radio programme about three types of computer software. For questions 9–18, complete the sentences.

This week I'm going to be taking a look at three new software products that are just about to hit the market. The first of these is a programme that explains exactly how all sorts of machines, devices and instruments work. Called 'Tell me How', this extremely useful package from the Highland Software company in Edinburgh deserves to be a great success, in my view. It combines virtually all the features that good software should display, and at a very affordable price. It's intended for users of thirteen years old and upwards, although I suspect younger kids who are

experts at computer use will also find it attractive. The only limiting factor is the kind of PC you have, since the system requirements here are quite sophisticated. However, there is a problem with the speed of operation, which rather lets the product down; things often move far more slowly than you would expect, especially when accessing the special feature that connects you to Internet sites.

The second product I've been testing on your behalf is aimed at a completely different market. 'Balances' is a financial software package to be released next month by Expert Software, the company that started off providing software for presentations and other office applications. It's basically designed for self-employed people and small companies that don't have their own accounting departments. It allows you to forecast income and expenditure for the coming year once you have fed in all the relevant information. What's more, the designers of the software have made a special arrangement with the tax office so that updates are regularly available; you just download from the tax office website and it automatically updates the software.

Finally, the very latest in software applications for the motorist. 'Road Works' is a package designed to make sure you get to your destination as quickly and easily as possible. The idea is relatively simple: a special service gives you information about roadworks, traffic jams and any other sorts of delay on the road ahead. You need to have a satellite navigation system in your car, and this software plugs into that and then uses your mobile phone to connect to the special service centre. And to make sure you really are kept aware of the current situation, the software supplies the latest information every five minutes. I predict this will be very popular with commercial travellers and lorry companies. Well, that's all for now, and next week I'll be looking at ...

FCE TEST 8

▶▶ PART 3

You will hear five different people talking about a journal or magazine they read regularly. For questions 19–23, choose from the list A–F the reason each speaker gives for the importance of this publication to them personally. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

1

I write about style and fashion, and although I have my own ways of finding out what the big fashion houses are doing for the next season, I also want to know what consumers are thinking. I always read *Fashion World* because of what it tells me about people who buy fashion – about consumers. I think it must be the only magazine that has got articles about the latest trends by very professional fashion editors.

2

I think it's vital in this day and age to be well-informed about current affairs, which of course isn't difficult now the Internet has developed into a news medium. But I also find it's essential to know what intelligent people think about various issues, so you need to get a range of opinions, right across the political spectrum. That's where the *London Review of Books* is so good...

3

I've been taking the *National Geographic* for years now. It's really an excellent magazine, with lots of interesting articles about wildlife and the natural world in general. I think the pictures are always first-rate. They must have the best photographers in the world working for them, and you can see the results. It's really fascinating.

4

I'm a subscriber of the *Economist*, which is a weekly financial magazine. I'm an economist, and reading the *Economist* is the best way to keep up with the latest trends. The main reason I get the *Economist*, however, is that I don't have time to read a serious daily newspaper like the *Financial Times*, so the summary it provides, especially of the news in general, is really invaluable for me.

5

I take a monthly magazine called *Railway Modeller*, which keeps me informed about model railways, which is a great hobby of mine. I'm a collector of antique miniature railways, and I can always find information about auctions or model trains on sale. They also have articles comparing prices of different models and descriptions of new products available.

FCE TEST 8

▶▶ PART 4

You will hear a radio interview with an actress who is dyslexic. For questions 24–30 choose the best answer, A, B or C.

Interviewer: Today I'm going to be talking to one of the most successful young actresses in Hollywood, Kay Stanley, about a special aspect of her work – one that's not very well known on this side of the Atlantic. And that's the Stanley Trust. Kay, welcome to the programme. Would you start by explaining what the Stanley Trust is?

Kay Stanley: Sure. It's basically an organisation set up by my father to help kids who have problems reading and writing – kids with dyslexia. I'm dyslexic myself, you see, and after I had been diagnosed, my dad realised there weren't many organisations for dyslexic kids, and he decided to set one up himself a few years later.

Interviewer: I believe one of the problems with dyslexia is that it isn't diagnosed in many cases, or not early enough. Was this what happened with you?

Kay Stanley: I used to learn stories off by heart by playing the tapes of them over and over again, and then pretend to read them. In fact, I was so good at it that my mum only guessed there was something wrong when she caught me learning the stories like that! Then my parents got me examined by a doctor, and luckily, he knew something about dyslexia, so he sent me to an expert. He said I'm pretty fortunate because my condition is less severe, compared to other people with dyslexia.

Interviewer: You mention an expert on dyslexia: you must know quite a lot about it yourself by now?

Kay Stanley: I do, yes, but one of the problems with dyslexia is that even the specialists don't really understand it. They know dyslexics think in a different way from other people. Dyslexics are of above average intelligence, they have distinctive talents and a creative imagination. But whether dyslexia has other effects on the brain or not, nobody really knows. Some people say you use a different sort of logic if you're dyslexic, and it's easier for you to solve problems, but it's hard to test that.

Interviewer: And once you were diagnosed, did you start to improve?

Kay Stanley: Not immediately. At first, I was too unhappy about the whole thing, and my parents felt frustrated and confused. I knew at an early age that I wanted to become an actress, and getting school qualifications was not a priority for me. In the end, I did work hard to improve my reading skills just to show my fellow students that I was every bit as clever as they were.

Interviewer: Is it better for children with dyslexia to get special treatment?

Kay Stanley: It depends what you mean by that. I don't think it's a good idea to isolate them and put them in special schools, because that makes them feel awkward. On the other hand, they do need extra teaching in reading and writing, by teachers who understand the problem.

Interviewer: And getting back to the Stanley Trust; how do you feel you can best help the Trust? Will you be giving speeches about dyslexia in public?

Kay Stanley: I doubt it. I think the public would get tired of someone like me talking about the subject all the time. It seems to me the best thing I can do is set a good example of how dyslexics can live a normal, happy life.

Interviewer: Well, I wish you luck with that. And thank you for talking to us today.

Kay Stanley: Thank you.