

## Listening and Reading

***Time: 1 hour 15 minutes***

## LISTENING

## Task 1

For items **1-10** listen to the interview with a woman engineer and decide whether the statements (**1-10**) are **TRUE (A)**, or **FALSE (B)** according to the text you hear. You will hear the text **TWICE**.

**Task 2**

For items **11-15** listen to the dialogue. Choose the correct answer (**A, B** or **C**) to answer questions **11-15**. You will hear the text **only ONCE**.

**11.** Richard is

- A.** a traveler.
- B.** a journalist.
- C.** the editor of a newspaper.

**12.** Richard was NOT interested in

- A.** South America.
- B.** Arab countries.
- C.** European countries.

**13.** Richard is bilingual in English and

- A.** Spanish.
- B.** Portuguese.
- C.** Arabic.

**14.** The hardest question for Richard was about

- A.** his further qualifications.
- B.** the qualities of a foreign correspondent.
- C.** the articles he had written.

**15.** Richard goes to the gym

- A.** three times a week.
- B.** two times a week.
- C.** once a week.

## INTEGRATED LISTENING AND READING

### Task 3

Read the abstract of a critical review below, then listen to part of an interview with the author of the review. You will notice that some ideas coincide and some differ in them. Answer questions **16-25** by choosing **A** if the idea is expressed in **both** materials, **B** if it can be found **only in the reading text**, **C** if it can be found **only in the audio-recording**, and **D** if **neither** of the materials expresses the idea.

**Now you have 7 minutes to read the text.**

#### Megacities and Atmospheric Pollution

##### ABSTRACT

About half of the world's population now lives in urban areas because of the opportunity for a better quality of life. Many of these urban centers are expanding rapidly, leading to the growth of megacities, which are defined as metropolitan areas with populations exceeding 10 million inhabitants. These concentrations of people and activity are exerting increasing stress on the natural environment, with impacts at urban, regional and global levels. In recent decades, air pollution has become one of the most important problems of megacities. Initially, the main air pollutants of concern were sulfur compounds, which were generated mostly by burning coal. Today, photochemical smog—induced primarily from traffic, but also from industrial activities, power generation, and solvents—has become the main source of concern for air quality, while sulfur is still a major problem in many cities of the developing world. Air pollution has serious impacts on public health, causes urban and regional haze, and has the potential to contribute significantly to climate change. Yet, with appropriate planning, megacities can efficiently address their air quality problems through measures such as application of new emission control technologies and development of mass transit systems.

This review is focused on nine urban centers, chosen as case studies to assess air quality from distinct perspectives: from cities in the industrialized nations to cities in the developing world. While each city—its problems, resources, and outlook—is unique, the need for a holistic approach to the complex environmental problems is the same. There is no single strategy in reducing air pollution in megacities; a mix of policy measures will be needed to improve air quality. Experience shows that strong political will coupled with public dialog is essential to effectively implement the regulations required to address air quality problems.

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**Now listen to part of an interview with the author of the book and then do the tasks (questions 16-25), comparing the text above and the interview. You will hear the interview TWICE.**

- 16** Some people are allergic to the pollutants in megacities.
- 17** A megacity is a large urban area with a population over 10 million people.
- 18** The term *megacity* doesn't have an exact definition.
- 19** There are 9 megacities in the world.
- 20** Air pollution has serious harmful effects on the health of the population.
- 21** Sulfur and smog are the main problems in the developed world.
- 22** The problem of megacities and air pollution is both a regional and global issue.
- 23** Pollutants have different physical properties.
- 24** The world needs a common strategy to reduce air pollution in megacities.
- 25** Political measures may help to improve the situation in megacities.

## **READING**

### **Task 4**

Read the text and answer questions **26-40** below.

#### **An overthinker? That's who I am!**

*Examining every aspect of a question can be exhausting, but the most amazing insights can be gained that way.*

**(A)** The first time I remember someone telling me not to overthink was when I had my first son. “Don’t overthink it,” said my friend, “just go with it.” “Just going with it” is not something I do. I have to really understand what I’m doing and then I think through almost every possibility and eventuality, like a mind map on nootropics. At every second, my neurons are firing signals in a million different directions. My brain constantly races, not necessarily stressfully, but it’s like my thoughts never rest. I cannot let it go, because I’m convinced that if I just run over the details a few more times, I’ll finally uncover some new understanding of the situation or it will somehow change the outcome. And, for myself it’s normal thinking.

**(B)** Of course, it doesn’t take a genius to realise that my overthinking, like most things, probably started in childhood. I had a loving, noisy but at times unpredictable childhood. Dinner was always on the table at the same time, and it was always delicious. My mother and father were always, physically, where they said they would be. But I grew up in a house where emotions weren’t discussed, they were bottled up, only to explode out in random unpredictable ways – or a silence would ensue for some wrongdoing I had to fathom out entirely all by myself.

**(C)** I became a natural observer, able to take the temperature of a room, able to watch people’s micro-movements, listen to their language, their tone. This all became second nature to me. Sometimes, today, my children and husband think I’m a mind reader, but of course I’m not. I’ve just observed what’s been said, what’s gone on, and I’ve overthought what they might do, or say. So sometimes I answer a question before they ask it and they think I have a superpower.

**(D)** It maybe didn’t help that, straight out of school, I joined the military, where you had to think not once, but several times about the simplest task because everything was a potential trap. “Build a model bridge out of these 120 bricks?” Sure, but count the bricks first because they would often not give you the number of bricks they said they would. You must always check the basics. While doing a written exam, someone would come in to give a message to the examiner and afterwards you’d be told to describe that person who just flitted in while you were concentrating on something else. The message there was never let your guard down. I once stunned my examining officer by giving a description of a person so detailed, he had to turn over the A4 page to make notes.

**(E)** Honestly, I didn’t realise just how much I thought until one day someone at work asked me what I was thinking (as a child I was a natural daydreamer) because I was

quiet. I went through what I'd been thinking about for the past minute and realised it was a different thought for every second. The look of horror on their face said it all. "All that in the last 60 seconds?" "Sure," I said, "what have you been thinking about?" I asked. "Lunch," they answered. And they are all underthinkers.

**(F)** I do have to be super-careful to have boundaries and give myself time off because burnout is never far away. Because, like all emotions and ways of working, there's a plus and a minus side. Overthinking, gone wrong, can be about anxiety. I consulted Susanna Abse, a psychoanalyst to ask her about that. "People may persevere or reflect," she said. "It's about whether you are going over and over something in your mind without a resolution or whether you are able to sit back, replay something and learn something useful from it." Abse also said that "in an action-focused world, being a thinker isn't necessarily a bad thing. But ruminating in a way that doesn't lead anywhere may be a sign of anxiety."

**(G)** The interesting thing is that when I am with people who overthink, I relax. I let them do the thinking for me, and I know they'll never fail me. Just because I know what their thinking is like. This very much looks like delegating, and most likely it is. When I am with underthinkers this leads me to feel uncomfortable, because I sense I am not "safe". So my number one tip is: if you are an overthinker, try not to spend too much time with underthinkers, as you will end up thinking not just for yourself, but for them, too. I tend to prefer travelling alone and definitely try to avoid travelling with underthinkers, or else I end up feeling like I'm leading a school trip.

**(H)** The next one is taking up yoga. Yes, I used to hate it, too, and anyone who suggested it. Today I can't live a day without it. Then, I also realised repetitive tasks were my friends: this is why running is the overthinker's friend. Knitting is another one. Fairly mindless but absorbing. And also sewing. If you start to get overwhelmed, shorten your focus to the next five minutes and no more, and ask yourself, "What do I need right now?" and then just concentrate on only that single aim. My final top tip is something that never fails to recalibrate me: cold showers. Start slow but try to build up to two to three minutes in less than 15C water. Cold showers have all sorts of other health and psychological benefits, but in those three minutes, I think of nothing else. Heaven.

**In which part of the text is the following mentioned?**

- 26     the amount of thinking done by different people in a given amount of time
- 27     a changed attitude to a physical activity
- 28     the necessity of constant vigilance under any circumstances
- 29     distinctions between seemingly similar thinking processes
- 30     contradictions of a regulated yet erratic lifestyle
- 31     narrowing one's attention span to just one thing
- 32     taking in more than you are supposed to focus on
- 33     mental work considering all prospects and options
- 34     heightened attention to a person's actions and diction
- 35     undisclosed feelings and reactions to one's actions
- 36     the potential negative outcome of overthinking
- 37     craftwork done to unburden one's mind
- 38     aimless thinking leading to apprehension and angst
- 39     the psychological and mental effect of the group
- 40     an extraordinary ability similar to clairvoyance

**TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET**

## Use of English

Time: 45 minutes

### Task 1

**For items 1-10**, solve the crossword using the definitions of the required word given in brackets. **The first example (0) is done for you.**

**Example: 0. clerk**

#### A Literary Giant

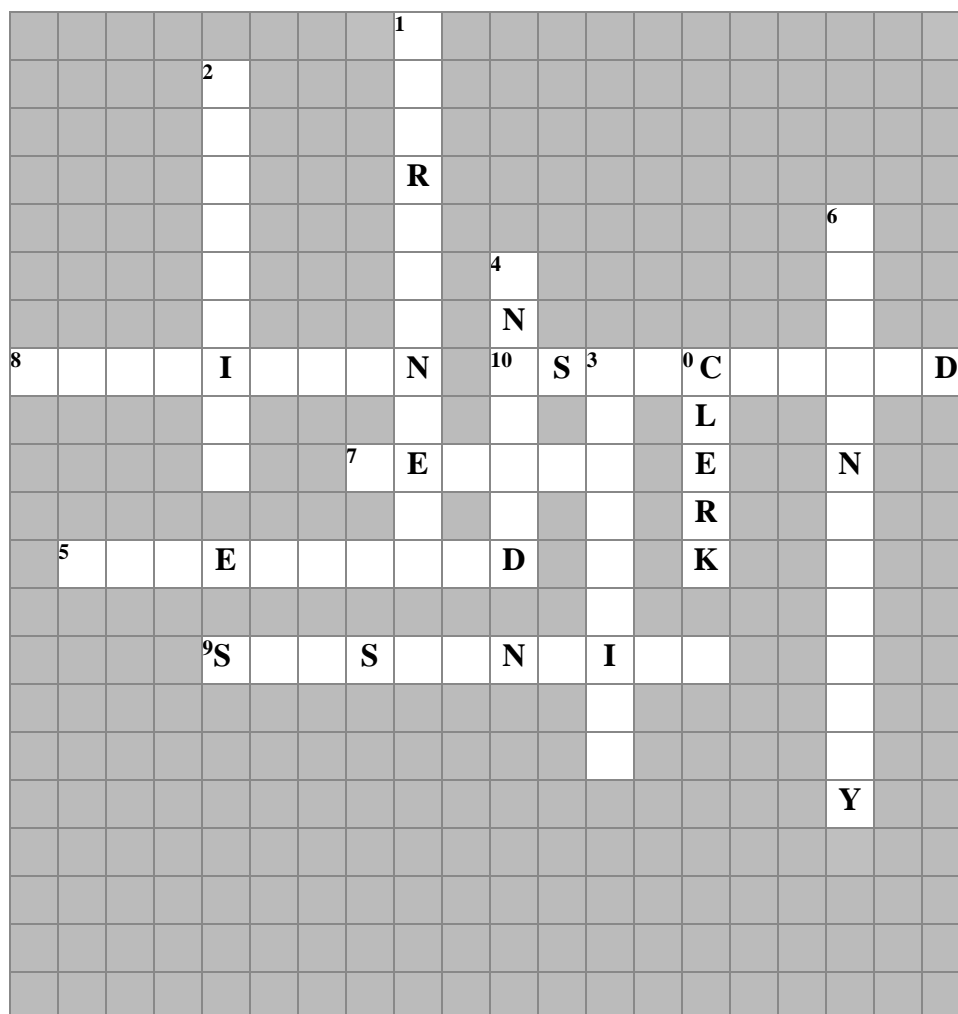
Born in Portsmouth, England, on 7th February 1812, Charles Dickens was the second of eight children. His father was a (0) ... (**someone who works in an office or bank, keeping records and doing general office work**) who worked for the Navy Pay office until his (1) ... (**the act of putting somebody in a prison or another place from which they cannot escape; the state of being there**) for debt. Charles was very young at the time of his father's incarceration and the resulting financial hardships forced him to seek work at the age of twelve. The deprivation that Charles experienced together with the social (2) ... (**a situation or action in which people are treated unfairly**) he observed affected him deeply and would influence his writing.

Although Charles had little formal (3) ... (**the education you receive at a special educational place**), he managed to teach himself shorthand. This (4) ... (**made something possible**) him to get a job as a parliamentary reporter at a newspaper. He went on to publish work in magazines but it was not until he published *The Pickwick Papers* that he became really successful. Another of his most (5) ... (**famous for a special ability or quality**) works, *A Tale of Two Cities*, was written twenty years after he had read a book about the French Revolution and (6) ... (**behaving or reacting naturally and without thinking**) knew that he had to write a novel set in the same period.

Dickens' (7) ... (**the state of a person's body or mind**) began to deteriorate in the 1860s and the fact that he had begun to do public readings only aggravated his



(8) ... (***the state that someone is in***). He died on 9th June 1870. By the time of his death, he had written 15 (9) ... (***large in amount, value or importance***) novels and countless other works. He was undoubtedly a great literary figure whose name will always be (10) ... (***having a connection between/relating people or things in your mind***) with a criticism of greed and the notion that good will be rewarded.



## Task 2

**For items 11-20**, match the borrowings from other languages existing in English (column 1) with their descriptions (column 2). One description is not needed.

**Example 0. has been done for you: 0. F**

1	2
<p><b>0. curriculum vitae</b></p> <p><b>11. magna cum laude</b></p> <p><b>12. pied-à-terre</b></p> <p><b>13. tour de force</b></p> <p><b>14. shtick</b></p> <p><b>15. glitterati</b></p> <p><b>16. modus vivendi</b></p> <p><b>17. syllabus</b></p> <p><b>18. bolshie</b></p> <p><b>19. taco</b></p> <p><b>20. cognoscenti</b></p>	<p><b>A.</b> a small apartment or house, often in the centre of a city or town, that is not your main home but which you own and stay in sometimes</p> <p><b>B.</b> people who are rich, famous, and fashionable</p> <p><b>C.</b> the style of humour that a particular actor or comedian is typically known for</p> <p><b>D.</b> a corn tortilla folded in half and filled with meat, beans etc.</p> <p><b>E.</b> with high honour – used to show that someone has finished American high school or college at the second of the three highest levels of achievement that students can reach</p> <p><b>F.</b> a document giving details of your education and past employment</p> <p><b>G.</b> a plan that states exactly what students at a school or college should learn in a particular subject</p> <p><b>H.</b> the subjects that are taught by a school</p> <p><b>I.</b> tending to be angry or annoyed and not to obey people</p> <p><b>J.</b> an arrangement between people with very different opinions or habits that allows them to live or work together without quarrelling</p> <p><b>K.</b> people who have special knowledge about a subject, especially art, literature, or food</p> <p><b>L.</b> something impressive that is done very skillfully and successfully</p>

**TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET**

## Writing

***Time: 1 hour 30 minutes***

### Task 1

A student magazine is running a writing competition. The prize is an adventure weekend in Australia. Readers are invited to send in short stories for a series entitled “Fill your life with adventures, not things”. Your story must include the proverb:

*“A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles”.*

You decide to take part and submit your own **short story**. Your **short story** must have a title, an exciting plot, a problem to solve, (a) courageous character(s), and direct speech.

**Write 250–300 words.**