

Listening and Reading

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

LISTENING

Task 1

For items **1-10** listen to part of a lecture about reading in Great Britain. The lecture was delivered in 1995. Decide whether the statements (**1-10**) are **TRUE (A)**, or **FALSE (B)** according to the text you hear. You will hear the text **TWICE**.

1. The British are comparatively uninterested in reading books.
A. True **B. False**
2. Salman Rushdie won the Nobel Prize in 1981.
A. True **B. False**
3. Fourteen winners of the Booker Prize were writers from former British colonies.
A. True **B. False**
4. Detective fiction is a typically British literature genre.
A. True **B. False**
5. Romances written by Norah Lofts are reviewed in the serious literary press.
A. True **B. False**
6. In 1993, the most popular novels among British readers were of average or low quality.
A. True **B. False**
7. British publishers sell as many poetry books as novels.
A. True **B. False**
8. Many of the British poets who perform on radio and at arts festivals do not teach at colleges and universities.
A. True **B. False**
9. The British library contains a copy of all the books produced in Great Britain.
A. True **B. False**

10. There are 6,000 copies of Shakespeare's plays in the British library.

A. True

B. False

Task 2

For items **11-15** listen to an episode of Pushkin House Podcast and answer the questions. Choose the correct answer (**A, B or C**) to answer questions **11-15**. You will hear the text **only ONCE**.

11. Which is NOT true about Frenkie

A. she's a volunteer at Pushkin house.

B. she has never been to Russia.

C. she is interested in Russia.

12. Vijay Menon made his journey to Russia in

A. 2013

B. 2018

C. 2015

13. Vijay's day job is

A. making software.

B. publishing.

C. writing.

14. People in Moscow underground

A. laughed at him.

B. trapped him.

C. were glued to him.

15. Vijay thinks the Russians are

- A. attractive
- B. outgoing
- C. helpful

INTEGRATED LISTENING AND READING

Task 3

Read the text below, then listen to a talk on the same topic. 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 10 minutes to read the text.

Why Do We Teach?

“Why do you teach?” It is a question we quietly ponder at times and one that those outside the profession occasionally ask. How we answer this question reveals a lot about the profession.

Often we recall those rare and special occasions when our actions result in a breakthrough moment for a student. Many years ago, I had a girl in my junior special needs class who passionately loved the colour purple. The staff of the school knew that wearing purple was dangerous. Her response to seeing the colour was extreme and at best would result in her throwing herself at whoever was wearing the purple item and clinging to them with all her might. At worst, it would be a catalyst for a fit and would end with calls for medical assistance. One day we were cleaning paint brushes in the sink. Blue paint mixed with red in the sink and the signs of over-excitability emerged as the water flowing down the drain turned purple. I removed one of the brushes and almost immediately the purple vanished and the water returned to a much less exciting colour. I slowly returned the brush to the flow and the purple came back. Repeating the process a few times allowed the girl to enjoy her favourite colour without the usual dangers. By the end of that year her family was able to paint a wall in her bedroom purple. It remained her favourite colour but became one she could calmly enjoy. Moments like this are special.

Teaching is something closely linked to our concept of self. We are teachers. It is part of our nature and our professional practice is an expression of who we are. It connects with a desire to share and to partake in something bigger than ourselves. An opportunity to make the world a better place by shaping the next generation. We teach

because we believe what we do matters and has purpose.

We teach because we choose a career path where every day brings a new challenge, every day is different and our creative abilities are required. Teaching is an art form, a rich canvas for self-expression and imagination. We take the raw material from the syllabus, blend it with our understandings of our students' needs and create patterns of learning that engage, inspire and empower. Our classrooms reveal our passions, our creativity and our values. We maintain a performance schedule like no other artist, with morning, matinee and afternoon shows every day of the week and frequent evening, pre-dawn and all-day events. It is no wonder that by Friday we are ready to collapse.

Our roles are diverse. We are, on a daily basis a mix of administrator, counsellor, nurse, cleaner, photocopier repairer, data analyst, detective, consultant, curriculum expert, mathematician, entertainer, scientist, author, actor and so much more. Learning new skills and adapting to change are the norm and it is this diversity that ensures we are never bored. We work with limited resources and discover novel ways of turning every moment into a chance for learning. We are worn down by the challenges and built back up by the triumphs.

Only those who have taught a class for a year, who have struggled with the challenges faced by students and who have shared in the moments of success will truly understand why we teach. Teaching is a beautiful thing to be a part of.

By Nigel Coutts

Now listen to a talk made by a teacher and then do the tasks (questions 16-25), comparing the text above and the talk. You will hear the talk TWICE.

- 16 Teachers make mistakes sometimes.
- 17 Teaching will never make you bored.
- 18 Teachers become actors when doing their job.
- 19 Teachers' main task is to teach their subjects.
- 20 Teaching is a way of self-expression.
- 21 Teachers may raise their students' self-esteem.
- 22 Teachers are worn down by tough kids.
- 23 It is not all their students that teachers like.
- 24 Teachers influence their students' lives.
- 25 Teachers are adaptable.

READING

Task 4

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

The Dreamy Aesthetic of Cottagecore

(A) On Saturdays, Jessica knits. Maybe she'll go to the farmer's market for some fresh fruit or try a new craft, like beeswax candle-making. She wears long flowing dresses in floral patterns with puff sleeves and spends her free time reading with her cat and tending to her plants. On Instagram and TikTok, where she shares images of her rosy-tinted life, her followers look on in wonder, asking if she lives in a forest cottage somewhere in the English countryside of *The Secret Garden* or *Middle Earth*. Jessica has amassed a following of more than 200,000 on TikTok because she makes Orlando in central Florida seem like a fairy tale. She is an influencer of cottagecore, the soothing, (26) ... aesthetic dominated by meadows, teacups, and pretty cottages.

(B) Here is what cottagecore looks like. It's the stuff of flowy prairie dresses and sourdough starters, of hand-dried wildflower arrangements and hand-stitched quilts strewn on antique beds, of handmade pies cooling in open windows with the sun shining in. It is illustrations from *Frog & Toad*, it is a laughably difficult (27) ... on how to make homemade rosewater whispered to you in a British accent. It is eyelet blouses and soft cardigans and hair ribbons and much blush.

(C) The word "cottagecore" first appeared as a hashtag around 2018 and quickly boomed as an internet phenomenon. But what *The New York Times* called a "budding aesthetic movement" is in fact just the latest iteration of movements that romanticize the countryside, an age-old nostalgia for an agricultural life that humans routinely long for when human invention accelerates the pace of modern life. (28) ..., the Arts and Crafts movement of the 19th and 20th centuries was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution and Victorian-era opulence. The countercultural movement of the 1960s and its back-to-nature, DIY ideal that carried into the 1970s was in part a rejection of capitalism.

(D) Nevertheless, cottagecore has become the standout aesthetic of 2020 for the same reason that everything else happened in 2020. When the pandemic hit, idle homemaking became more like an inescapable reality. Cottagecore under lockdown,

then, became a way to change the terror and **(29)** ... into something adorable. Every time there was a spike in cases, there was a spike in cottagecore posts and hashtags right along with it.

(E) The sentiments around and about the aesthetic are described as “wistful”. Like, “Oh God, if only I could have this.” Or “Just looking at this thing brings me joy and this is what I need right now.” It is like a wish that “maybe things would be and feel different if we went back to our roots, and looked a little bit like in our parents’ times.’ The glaringly obvious irony is that cottagecore is the first movement that has existed almost exclusively online, posted and participated in through a smartphone from cluttered apartments or suburban bedrooms.

(F) Most online cottagecore followers praise the virtues of second-hand shopping, growing vegetables, and cooking food at home. They’re also proponents of all cute and handmade clothing things. Through that lens, cottagecore is a subculture devoted to a simpler and more considerate lifestyle. In times of anxiety, people seek self-soothing products such as weighted blankets, slime, organic skincare, food-making videos, and more. With eco-friendly blankets, vegan leather handbags, and billowy dresses, Cottagecore fashion completes the idea of a thoughtful, ‘in sync with nature’ lifestyle.

(G) But for many, cottagecore is more than just an aesthetic. Noemie Sérieux, founder of the Instagram account CottagecoreBlackFolk, says that her account is “a community,” one that has allowed her to expand the traditional definitions of cottagecore that referred to it nearly exclusively as a white, colonial-era, European aesthetic. She recounts, that when she set up her own Instagram account, “I wanted to be as inclusive as possible for my people,” consciously showcasing a wide variety of Black people **(30)** ... a range of sizes, genders, skin tones, and religions. For Noemie, it’s important to remember that cottagecore takes place in the present, and that it’s capable of reclaiming the past. “For those of us who don’t see people who look like us, a little reimagining of these periods as inclusive rather than exclusive is just as important as preserving the complete history,” she says.

Questions 26-30

In each of the paragraphs (A-G) a word is missing. These words in a DIFFERENT WORD FORM are listed below:
compass
drudge
escape
similar
tutor
DERIVE NEW WORDS from the given words to fill in the gaps 26-30 .

Questions 31-35

Are the statements **31-35 true, false or not given**? If a statement is **true**, circle **A** on your answer sheet. If it is **false**, circle **B** on your answer sheet. If it is **not given**, circle **C** on your answer sheet.

31. Cottagecore as a subculture exists mostly in a digital form.
32. Cottagecore subculture recreates actual life of the countryside.
33. A strong connection to environmentalism underlies the aesthetic of cottagecore.
34. Stylistic components of cottagecore are in natural colors or palettes of warm tones.
35. The pandemic brought about the appearance of cottagecore.

Questions 36-40

For questions **36-40** choose one answer **A, B, C** or **D** which best fits according to the text.

36. Being the cottagecore trend follower Jessica
 - A) makes posts demonstrating her genuine life.
 - B) perceives herself as a fantasy book character.
 - C) creates images of picture-perfect pastoral fantasy.
 - D) tries to make her home town resemble rural England.

37. During the pandemic the interest in cottagecore

- A) ran counter to what happened outside.
- B) dropped due to the fear of the outside world.
- C) was in no way affected by the disease.
- D) helped to cope with daily routine.

38. The cottagecore perception is mostly about

- A) yearning for a rural lifestyle.
- B) moving house to the countryside.
- C) finally returning to your ancestral home.
- D) spending time in the great outdoors.

39. In Part F cottagecore lifestyle is described as

- A) inconsistent and debatable.
- B) ordered and consistent.
- C) “green” and comforting.
- D) inexpensive and rational.

40. The stereotyped cottagecore imagery

- A) offers an opportunity to pay tribute to the past.
- B) summarizes new limited elements.
- C) highlights racial and gender issues.
- D) praises white, female, and colonialism.

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Use of English

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Task 1

For items 1 - 5, fill in the gaps in the text choosing the word from the table that FITS BEST. Choose one word only once. Use the correct grammatical form. There are some extra words in the table which you don't have to choose. Write the correct word on your answer sheet. Use one word for each gap. The first example (0) is done for you.

Example:

0 *judge*

encounter, establish, hold, judge, mode, reflect, strong, sweeping, take, trait

PERSONALITY AND PREFERENCE

'You can't (0)..... a book by its cover', goes the saying, and if the frequency of its use is anything to go by, there are plenty of people willing to vouch for its validity. However, it might be that this saying requires modification since several psychological studies have revealed strong associations between personality (1) ... and aesthetic tastes. Although researchers have guarded against making (2) ... generalizations, they can, to a fair extent, (3) ... links between an individual's characteristics and preferences with regard to media. Through extensive research, psychologists have determined that someone who is social is likely to gravitate towards songs, magazines and television shows in the public eye. Alternatively, those who are highly emotional will probably turn to culture and art for comfort or distraction. Thus, personality (4) ... tremendous sway over what a person reads, listens to or watches. So, given these findings, adding 'but the cover of the book (5)... the personality of its reader' might make it more complete.

Task 2

For items 6 – 10, look at the words and figure out what they have in common. Write the correct word on your answer sheet. The first example (0) is done for you.

Example: 0 – stars

0. The U.S. flag, Hollywood, the night sky – they all have ...

6. An airplane, a tuxedo, comet – they all have ...
7. A battery, an ocean, electricity - they all have ...
8. Eyeglasses, a bed, a picture – they all have...
9. A pair of jeans, a pool table, a catcher’s mitt – they all have ...
10. A pen, a newspaper, a squid - they all contain ...

Task 3

For items 11-20, fill in the gaps in the text choosing the word from the table that FITS BEST. Choose one word only once. Form NEW WORDS from the words in the table. There are some extra words in the table which you don’t have to choose. Write the correct grammatical form of the word on your answer sheet. Use one word for each gap. The first example (0) is done for you.

BYRON	CHURCHILL	DICKENS	FREUD	HYPPOCRATES
LONDON	MACHIAVELLI	ROOSEVELT	SHAKESPEARE	
STEVENSON	ADVERTENT	DEPENDENCE	INFLUENCE	
MEMORY	MARVEL	NIGHTMARE	SCRUPLE	

Example: (0) *Hippocratic*

Science is full of examples of family names becoming adjectives. The most famous is of the Greek medic born around 460 BC, who gave his name to the ...(0)... Oath still used by doctors today.

In cases where most people know something of the life or work of the person in question, their adjective often takes on a broader meaning. For example, we use the phrase ‘...(11)... slip’ alluding to something that people say unintentionally, which ...(12)... reveals their true thoughts.

Many adjectives formed from authors' names have also taken on a wider meaning based on characteristics of their works. We use Kafkaesque to talk about ...(13)..., ghastly and illogical situations, while ...(14)... describes scenes of poverty and squalor such as those depicted in the author's novels.

Unusually among writers, an adjective can derive as much from the author's life as from his works. For example, a ...(15)... character is brooding, lonely and romantic.

Politics is another area in which names often become adjectives, not always flattering. For instance, ...(16)... means using clever lies and tricks and derives from the name of the politician who wrote about ...(17)... political practices in Renaissance Florence. And conversely, when we praise articulate public speakers, we characterize their speech as ...(18)... .

Becoming an adjective is a strange kind of ...(19)... , but it is often a sign of a person being or having been enormously ...(20)... .

Task 4

For items 21-30, read the text below and look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there.

If a line is correct, put a tick on your answer sheet. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word on your answer sheet. There are two examples at the beginning (0 and 00).

0	<i>any</i>
00	<i>V</i>

0	It is often said that there are no any more frontiers to explore. Alaska is the great exception.
---	--

00	America's 49 th state is so broad, so unpeopled, and so roadless that small airplanes are more common than cabs in other states.
21	There are much more private pilots than truck drivers and cabbies combined, and men outnumber women, although women have coined the phrase 'The odds are good, but the goods are odd'.
22	The population numbers just over 730,000, almost half of whom live in one city, Anchorage. Nearly the entire state is raw, wild and impressive.
23	The Last Frontier has taunted early explorers and still challenges modern-day researchers, while attracting more and more travellers looking for something that conventional vacations cannot give them.
24	The hint of urban sophistication in Anchorage and Juneau rapidly gives its way to the frontier, where outdoor survival skills are among the most useful attributes residents can possess.
25	Alaska has lush rain-drenched forests and fragile windswept tundras. There are lofty mountains and spectacular glaciers, as well as three million of lakes and endless swamps.
26	Alongside with a handful of modern high-rise buildings, there are countless one-room log cabins. Within hours of dining in a first-class restaurant it is possible to tread on ground no human has ever stepped on.
27	This varied land cannot be seen properly from a car (though increasing numbers of people are exploring parts of the state by travelling in the highways). And, although it would take forever to cover on foot, hiking is often the best way to appreciate its vastness and discover its mysteries.
28	Alaska is an outdoor world, a wilderness, a land of many faces, few of which can be explored by moving from the hotel to hotel. No one person has ever seen it all or ever will.
29	The Alaskan experience includes the sheer wonder of finding what hides beyond the horizon or over the next ridge. Something very rare in today's world always awaits for the traveller around the next bend of the river or twist of the trail.
30	Only those who have been looked upon Alaska, however briefly, can appreciate its fierce and wild majesty. Its huge, untamed spaces, it has been said, are the great gift Alaska can give to a hectic world.

Task 5

For items 31 - 40, read the texts and complete each description with the suggested time periods, choosing the correct letter from the box. There are some extra options in the box which you do not need.

Margaret Thatcher was the United Kingdom's first female prime minister. During her time in office (31...), she reduced the influence of trade unions, privatized certain

industries, scaled back public benefits and changed the terms of political debate, much like her friend and ideological ally, U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Nicknamed the “Iron Lady,” she fought a war to maintain control of the Falkland Islands. The longest-serving British prime minister, she was eventually pressured into resigning by members of her own Conservative Party. In 2007 she became the first living ex-prime minister in British history to be honored with a statue in the Houses of Parliament. It stands opposite a statue of Winston Churchill in the lobby of the House of Commons.

The long reign (32...) of Elizabeth I coincided with the flowering of the English Renaissance, associated with such renowned authors as William Shakespeare. The arts flourished during Elizabeth's reign. Miniature painting reached its high point, theatres thrived. Composers such as William Byrd and Thomas Tallis worked in Elizabeth's court. Her reign also saw many brave voyages of discovery, including those of Francis Drake, Walter Raleigh, particularly to the Americas. These expeditions prepared England for an age of colonisation and trade expansion. She passed into history as one of England's greatest monarchs.

Queen Victoria (reigned 33....) was the last of the House of Hanover and gave her name to an era. During her reign the English monarchy took on its modern ceremonial character. She and her husband had nine children, through whose marriages were descended many of the royal families of Europe. Her reign saw advances in industry, science (Darwin's theory of evolution), communications (the telegraph, popular press), and other forms of technology; the building of the railways and the London Underground, bridges and other engineering feats; a vast number of inventions; a greatly expanded empire; with the growth of great cities like Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham.

Following her election as Leader of the Conservative Party, Theresa May was appointed Prime Minister. As Prime Minister, she oversaw the largest ever cash boost to the NHS and the largest expansion of mental health services in a generation; launched a 25-Year Environment Plan and introduced legislation to end the UK's contribution to global warming entirely; published a Modern Industrial Strategy to ensure that the jobs of the future are created across the whole country not just in London; and established the first ever Race Disparity Audit to shine a light on injustices. During her time in Downing Street (34...), the UK's national debt fell, there were more people in work than ever before.

In her phenomenally popular novel set in Georgia in one of the hardest periods of the US history Margaret Mitchell tells of the three marriages of the central character, Scarlett O'Hara, and of the devastation caused by the war. The film version of *Gone with the Wind*, made shortly after the book had been published, is

one of the most successful films ever made. Steeped in the mythology of the south, Margaret claimed that she didn't realize that the Confederacy didn't win the Civil War until she was 10 years old. She grew up hearing stories about the war, the burning of Atlanta, and Reconstruction. A story began to take shape, though writing it was agonizing to the fledgling writer. When the book went on sale (35...), the person most surprised by the book's immediate success was the author herself, a writer completely unknown to the public.

Her husband was born into the Greek and Danish royal families and gained greater fame when he married his distant English cousin. But he continued active service with the Royal Navy until his wife's accession on February 6, 36....., from which time he shared with her official and public life. Elizabeth II surpassed the record of 63 years and 216 days on the throne set by Queen Victoria (her great-great-grandmother) to become the longest-reigning British monarch in history. Extremely popular for nearly all of her long reign, the Queen is known for taking a serious interest in government and political affairs, apart from her ceremonial duties, and is credited with modernizing many aspects of the monarchy.

Emily Brontë (37...) produced one of the most iconic novels of passion and tragedy in the English language. *Wuthering Heights* remains an enduring classic. A rather dark study of desire and obsession, it also touches upon economic, social, and psychological issues and is often cited as the ideal "romantic novel." The novel was published when the author still found herself having to use the male pen name Ellis Bell. Emily was still very young when she died of tuberculosis, so close on the heels of *Wuthering Heights*' publication that it remained her first and last novel.

Harriet Beecher Stowe was a world-renowned American writer, staunch abolitionist and one of the most influential women of her day. Although she wrote dozens of books, essays and articles during her lifetime, she was best known for her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life Among the Lowly*, which brought unprecedented light to the plight of enslaved people and, many historians believe, helped incite the American Civil War. Stowe became the first American author whose book could claim the distinction of being an international best seller. After the publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (38...), no book sold faster out of the gate. 1.5 million copies were sold worldwide by the end of its first year, and in the entire century, only the Bible sold more copies.

At age 11, Agatha Christie published her first piece, a poem about electric trams that appeared in an English newspaper. As a teenager, she then had several additional poems printed in *The Poetry Review*, while also working on short stories that at the time failed to attract publishers' interest. Detective novels did not appear on her radar until after her sister bet that she couldn't write a good one. Her initial attempt, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (39...), in which retired Belgian policeman Hercule Poirot solves the murder of a wealthy widow, was eventually picked up by a publisher on the condition that she alter the ending. From that point forward, detective novels would dominate her career. To celebrate the centenary of Agatha Christie's first triumphant attempt, HarperCollins issued a new edition of *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, now featuring a "missing chapter" and exclusive content from the Queen of Mystery.

This English writer is best known for her horror novel *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* (40...). Mary Shelley wrote several other books, including *Valperga*, *The Last Man*, the autobiographical *Lodore* and the posthumously published *Mathilde*. One summer, her husband, the English poet, and she were in Switzerland with Jane Clairmont, Lord Byron and John Polidori. The group entertained themselves one rainy day by reading a book of ghost stories. Lord Byron suggested that they all should try their hand at writing their own horror story. It was at this time that she began work on what would become her most famous novel.

- A. 1558-1603
- B. 1641-1686
- C. 1818
- D. 1818-1848
- E. 1852
- F. 1837-1901
- G. 1920
- H. 1936
- I. 1952
- J. 1979-1990
- K. 1995 - 2002
- L. 2016-2019

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Writing

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Task

Below is a piece of news from a newspaper:

Astronomers searching for alien life spot signs of intelligence beyond the solar system

Parkes Observatory's Murriyang radio telescope has detected "promising" radio signals that seem to be extraterrestrial. The strange signals appeared to come from Proxima Centauri, the Sun's nearest neighbouring star.

Proxima Centauri is a mere 4.24 light years away, and is orbited by two planets. One of them is Earth-like and thought to be in the "habitable zone" where liquid water exists.

Scientists involved in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (Seti) have processed the signals and found them to be a "technosignature", evidence of alien technology.

The news has inspired the editors of a student magazine to run a writing competition. Readers are invited to send in short science-fiction stories **based on the piece of news** given above.

You decide to take part in the competition and write your own science-fiction story with the following quotation as an epigraph:

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." (Isaac Asimov)

Your **science-fiction** story must be related to the epigraph, it must have a title, a clear storyline, a risky situation and direct speech.

Write 250–300 words (the words in the epigraph are not counted).