

Cambridge IGCSE™ (9–1)

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

0993/21

Paper 2 Listening

May/June 2026

TRANSCRIPT

Approximately 50 minutes (including 6 minutes' transfer time)

This document has **18** pages.

R1 Cambridge International Education, Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language, Paper 2, Listening.

[BEEP]

Exercise 1

You will hear eight short recordings. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D, and put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

You will hear each recording twice.

R1 Question 1

Where is the man now?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, twenties, mild US accent

- M:** * Hi Jenny, just a quick call to let you know where I am. Unfortunately, there was a load of traffic on the street that goes past the museum, so my bus was stuck there for quite a while. Anyway, I've just got off and jumped into a taxi instead, so I'm on my way to the market, where we're meeting. Oh, and I noticed there were crowds of people going into the museum – we should visit it sometime! Anyway, I'm not far away now. Are you at the market yet? **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 2

Which sport does the girl enjoy most at college?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

F: female, early twenties, UK accent

M: male, forties, UK accent

M: * How's college going this term? Joined any sports teams?

F Well, actually I'm part of the basketball team, although I'm just a beginner really! It's quite enjoyable, though – and I'm probably better at it than tennis, as my last game was just embarrassing! I missed so many shots!

M Maybe you were just tired – you're usually good at sport!

F Well, thanks! Actually, football's going well. I have more fun with that than anything, even hockey, which I really loved until I got injured!

M I can imagine. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 3

Which TV job would the woman like to do?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

*M: male, thirties, UK accent**F: female, thirties, UK accent***F:** * I'm thinking of applying for a different job at the TV channel I work for.**M:** Oh? I thought you were happy working on news programmes.**F:** Yes, but you never see me in front of the cameras!**M:** So would you prefer that?**F:** Absolutely! There's a job available for someone to do the weather forecasts – it sounds ideal for me. And with my science background, I'm qualified for it.**M:** Oh, I always imagined you'd be more interested in something like studio lighting...**F:** Really?**M:** ... or even operating the cameras.**F:** That'd be really tough! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 4

What is the boy going to do at the weekend?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

F: female, late teens, UK accent

M: male, late teens, UK accent

F * Doing anything this weekend?

M I'll be helping out on the environmental project I'm involved in, to check the health of the river. We've been taking samples of water there and the project leaders have also shown us how to identify different river plants. And we looked at how many different species of fish there are in the river. Anyway, our next job'll be to measure how deep the water is – we think the level's dropping, as there hasn't been much rain. Why don't you come along and help?

F Sure! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 5

Which of her photos is the woman most pleased with?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

F: female, thirties, mild Australian accent

F * Hi Jon! I've taken loads of photos on my walk. I managed to get quite a good photo of a bee, although I might've taken better ones before. And I did get a close-up of a butterfly – a rare one, I think, so it's a really precious shot. I'm proud of that one! I also spotted a tiny mouse in a field, but it was too quick for me. I got a photo of your favourite bird, so I'll print it for you! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 6

What did the boy injure while he was skiing?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, late teens, mild US accent

F: female, late teens, mild US accent

F * How was your skiing trip?

M Fantastic – until I fell on one of the slopes.

F Oh no! I hope you didn't hurt your knee like I did – or your ankle?

M Oh, those survived OK, luckily! I thought to begin with I'd hurt my elbow, though – but actually my wrist took my weight as I fell. I reached out to save myself and really hurt it. But it didn't stop me from carrying on skiing later in the day!

F Well, that was brave of you – well done! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 7

How did the man get home last night?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

M: male, thirties, UK accent

F: female, thirties, UK accent

F * Did you have to walk home last night?

M Well, after I'd left you, I went to the station to collect my bike – as it was late, I intended to load it onto the train and go home that way. But the last train had gone – and my friend who lives nearby and has a car had gone to bed. Otherwise he could've driven me home. So I cycled – I had no other choice. It's quite far, so I didn't really feel like walking!

F Ah, OK. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Question 8

Which sculpture do the friends both like?

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
3 seconds	4 seconds	5 seconds	6 seconds

F: female, late teens, UK accent

M: male, late teens, UK accent

M: * There are loads of sculptures around our town. I'm not keen on them all, although I like the ones that look like people. They're better than the one that looks like one triangle on top of another, for example.

F That's really nice! I spend ages looking at it. And the same with the big round shape with a hole in it – you can see the sky changing through it.

M I know the one you mean – it's way cooler than that lion displayed in the city square.

F Oh, that's interesting, I think. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 1. Now turn to Exercise 2.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Exercise 2

You will hear five short recordings. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C, and put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box.

You will hear each recording twice.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a couple talking about their plans for a day out.

Now look at Questions 9 and 10.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

F: female, thirties, UK accent

M: male, thirties, UK accent

- M** * I've been thinking about our next day out. Does hiking appeal to you? I know you've never done it before but I did a trip once and enjoyed it. I mean, I know we've had some reasonably priced trips to the beach, but we'd come back feeling much fitter after a walk than spending the day lying on the sand somewhere.
- F** Well, it's an interesting suggestion but I really enjoy chilling out on the beach – I would really miss that. I mean, I'm sure I could find the right gear to wear for hiking, even if it poured with rain. But it really wouldn't be my first choice for something to do.
- M** Hmm ... OK. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a girl talking to her father about her college history project.

Now look at Questions 11 and 12.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

M: male, forties, mild Australian accent

F: female, twenties, mild Australian accent

M * Have you submitted your history project?

F Yes! But I was so concerned about it before I started. I'd done loads of reading around the subject, but I'd never had to produce so many words before. I didn't need an extension though, as we were given loads of time to complete it.

M Did you get any help from anyone?

F Yes, from my tutor, actually – he was brilliant. I'd chosen the various points I wanted to include, but it was hard to decide what to put first and then how to follow on, so he gave some great tips on that. But I'm still not sure I've done a great job on it. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a woman telling a friend about a TV documentary about three poets.

Now look at Questions 13 and 14.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

F: female, thirties, UK accent

M: male, thirties, UK accent

M * How was the documentary?

F Good – it featured three late-20th century poets, and showed the long process they went through to produce their work – that was new to me. It never explained what gave them their ideas, though – and there was no mention of the places they'd made their homes, which must've influenced them.

M Mmm ... So did you enjoy it?

F Well, the person presenting it was quite well known and I expected her to bring the whole programme to life but actually she was a bit dull. What appealed to me though was that I'd actually studied these poets on a literature course at college ages ago. And the poets' friends and relatives who were interviewed on the programme were also fascinating.

M Right. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a man talking to a friend about his plans for the evening.

Now look at Questions 15 and 16.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

M: male, mid forties, any accent

F: female, mid forties, any accent

F * What are you thinking of doing tonight?

M Well, there's a play on at the local theatre that I thought looked quite interesting. So I started reading what the newspaper theatre critics have said about it – and it was reasonably favourable. I thought I knew the play, but it didn't sound familiar at all. Anyway, I couldn't get anyone to accompany me – and I don't fancy going alone.

F Aw. Well, I always forget to book for the theatre, and then I find the play's no longer on. And the performances can be quite long, so I always miss the last bus. It's more convenient for me to go to the cinema these days.

M Right. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 You will hear a man talking about arranging a holiday.**Now look at Questions 17 and 18.**

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
15 seconds	19 seconds	23 seconds	30 seconds

M: male, mid twenties, mild US accent

M: * In the past, whenever I planned my holidays, I always started with the destination – popular cities with beautiful architecture. But it was hard to meet many local people, so I didn't get a true picture of where I was – you know, what normal everyday life was like there. I eventually realised that was the aspect I really wanted to focus on.

So for my most recent holiday, I thought about the holidays I'd loved in the past. Sometimes it was down to who came with me, of course. And friends had plenty of suggestions for destinations but none of them were really my thing. Anyway, I eventually found somewhere that was fascinating – and had a great holiday! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 2. Now turn to Exercise 3.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Exercise 3

You will hear a man called Mark giving a talk about a building conservation project he recently took part in. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C and put a tick in the appropriate box.

You will hear the talk twice. Now look at questions 19–26.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
40 seconds	50 seconds	60 seconds	90 seconds

M: male, early thirties, UK accent

M: * I'm Mark, here to tell you about a conservation project I took part in. It was to help restore an old building, called a mill, where wheat was made into flour centuries ago. It hadn't been used for many years so the new owners hired experts to restore it, and I joined a group of volunteers to help them.

Anyway, I've known the building and its location since I was a child, although nowadays there's lots of traffic speeding past! From our farm, we can see the mill in the distance, as there are hardly any trees between us and the building.

I've always thought the building was very attractive. The windows are a really unusual shape – they're circular, which I love. The high roof is painted red, so there's a contrast with the walls, which are all completely white, reflecting the sun.

I was really keen to get involved with the conservation project. I wasn't skilled enough to fix anything in the building, but I knew it'd be dirty inside, so I could've tackled that. But instead, I was asked to find information online about how it once looked inside. It was absolutely fascinating to see it being restored.

The experts brought in to run the project took the building's old metal lamps away and got them working, then re-installed them. And several of us were in the building to see them make the original stone floors look as good as new. I was away when they fixed the wooden stairs inside the building, though.

Buildings like this one needed power. Similar structures often had wooden sails, which turned when the wind blew – and the power they generated operated the machines inside. But this one had an old water wheel attached, which was repaired. These days, it works well enough to run everything! Solar panels were considered at one point, to get energy from the sun but it was decided to keep the original feature instead.

During the project, I was also asked to record the work everyone was doing. I took lots of photos, although they failed to show people's enthusiasm for the work, somehow. So then I did some quick drawings – and I was really proud of what I produced. I'd wanted to paint the scenes, too, but that would've meant carrying too much equipment.

Restoring the building was a long process. It was 2019 when the project was initially discussed, but it wasn't till 2023 that the building welcomed its first paying visitors. And in 2024, record numbers of people came to see it.

Anyway, I recently went back to visit the building. The new owners were selling goods made from the flour produced in the mill. I'd hoped to get some biscuits, but they'd sold out, so I had to be satisfied with some cake – but promised to return for some bread very soon! **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Now you will hear the talk again.

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 3. Now turn to Exercise 4.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
5 seconds	6 seconds	8 seconds	10 seconds

R1 Exercise 4

You will hear six people talking about their favourite park.

For questions 27–32, choose from the list (A–H) which idea each speaker expresses. Write the correct letter (A–H) on the answer line. Use each letter only once. There are two extra letters which you do not need to use.

You will hear the recordings twice. Now read statements A–H.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
30 seconds	38 seconds	45 seconds	60 seconds

R1 Speaker 1

M: male, twenties, mild Australian accent

M: * There's a park in my home city, close to the sea, that I visit often. Unlike many typical parks around here, it's not on the main tourist routes, so there aren't usually many people there, even locals, so it's perfect for me. There are colourful flowers here and there, which my sister spends ages drawing, as she's quite artistic. I usually just sit on a bench and read. The café serves good coffee but the snacks could be better!

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 2

F: female, mid twenties, UK accent

- F:** Lots of people go to my favourite park because it holds sports competitions and film shows. However, if like me you're not a fan of that kind of thing, it's best to go at other times. There are still plenty of people around, but for me, I like having the chance to really explore the park's strange rocks and caves. Some say they've been there since the age of the dinosaurs, so I literally spend hours there, looking at them!

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 3

M: male, mid twenties, mild US accent

- M:** I guess if people enjoy painting, the park I go to the most often might be good for them, as it's so lovely. There's a coffee shop in the middle, and in summer, while I'm having lunch, I can pick up the scent of the roses there. And the park is situated high up above the coast, so for me nothing beats what you can see when you stand there looking out.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 4

F: female, thirties, mild Australian accent

- F:** My favourite park is by the beach, overlooking the sea. I usually go in the evenings when it's quiet – not to mention every weekend, when there's always something on, like an art exhibition or music performance. They're fantastic – although people living nearby say they avoid visiting the park then because it's so busy – and the flowers even get damaged because people walk on them. I still go and take part, but I can see their point.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 5

M: male, thirties, UK accent

- M:** I often walk around my lovely local park, and I've occasionally spoken to the various painters sitting there and admired their work. I'm not surprised they're so keen on the park, with all the colourful flowers and trees growing there – which are by far the biggest attraction for me. They've been in a number of my photos. And there's also a waterfall on the river, which was there long before the park was built.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Speaker 6

F: female, mid twenties, UK accent

- F:** I go to my city park when there's something on that I'm interested in, like a theatre performance, although I often also wander around looking for familiar faces from the neighbourhood to hang out with – and I always come across some, as there's such a pleasant atmosphere there. That's key for me. And on a summer's day, I tend to sit and relax by the flowers along the banks of the river watching the wildlife. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Now you will hear the six speakers again.

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 4. Now turn to Exercise 5.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Exercise 5

You will hear an interview with a woman called Jane Evans, who recently bought a boat and started sailing unaccompanied. For each question, choose the correct answer, A, B or C, and put a tick in the appropriate box.

You will hear the interview twice. Now look at questions 33–40.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
45 seconds	56 seconds	68 seconds	90 seconds

M: male, thirties, UK accent

F: female, thirties, UK accent

- M** * I'm talking to Jane Evans, who recently bought a boat – and has since done lots of solo sailing! Jane, tell us your first impressions of the boat.
- F** Well, I live close to the sea in the UK, and this boat, a classic sailing yacht, had been in a nearby harbour for months. It'd been repainted – and it turned out it needed extensive work to fix it too, although I didn't know that at the time! It was a bargain, anyway, so I agreed to buy it. The only thing was, my sailing qualifications were fairly basic. But it seemed just the kind of boat I could handle by myself, and I was soon ready to set off.

M So where did you decide to go first?

F Through a really busy sailing area along the coast! I knew the boat'd cope well but I wanted the opportunity to push myself to see how I'd manage out on the open water. And luckily, I got through it without crashing into anyone! And I later realised that wherever I stopped, people would come and admire the boat, so I began to stop deliberately in places where I knew that'd happen!

M But then you had to return home at the end of your trip?

F Well, yes – I went back to the city where I worked as a journalist on a magazine, and where my family lived, so of course it was nice to see them again. But I soon realised living there didn't suit me any more, and I needed to be back on my boat. My boss then said he'd be happy to pay me to work on a freelance basis, which meant I could write while I was on the boat and keep sailing, too!

M So you set off again – for the coast of France!

F That's right – very ambitious, as I'd previously barely travelled alone on land, and very little on the sea! And I hadn't seen much of France at all. But once I'd set off, I became more confident about my judgement, and realised I was capable of looking after myself.

M And on one occasion, some friends joined you for part of the journey along the French coast.

F Yes – and of course I had to tell them where and when I'd be able to collect and drop them off, but that was relatively simple to sort out. They arrived with loads of stuff, though, and there was just no space for it on board! But at least they all agreed that the views were nothing short of spectacular!

M And were there any problems during the trip?

F Well, obviously I was spending lots of time alone – although strangely, I didn't mind that, as I always had plenty to do. And doing my writing gave me a sense of purpose. What I'd never been very good at was planning – that was essential for working out what supplies I'd have to pick up at each port. It was tricky at first but I did get the hang of it!

M And you must've seen some amazing wildlife along the way?

F Absolutely! I sailed past whole families of seals when heading out to sea, although what'll stay with me for a long time was spotting lots of dolphins, swimming together alongside the boat. Sometimes there were often huge groups of birds flying overhead – I've got some great photos of those.

M So what's next?

F Well, I've considered getting a bigger boat, but I don't know if I'd really want to handle that. I've come to the conclusion that another person on board, with sailing experience would be a good addition – I'll get more sleep then! And people keep asking me if I intend to sail further now I've got more experience, but I'm happy with the distances I'm doing.

M Thanks, Jane. **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 Now you will hear the interview again.

REPEAT FROM * TO **

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
10 seconds	13 seconds	15 seconds	20 seconds

R1 That is the end of Exercise 5.

You now have six minutes to copy your answers onto the separate answer sheet. I will remind you when there is one minute left.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
300 seconds	375 seconds	450 seconds	600 seconds

R1 You have one more minute left.

Standard pause	25% extra version	50% extra version	100% extra version
60 seconds	75 seconds	90 seconds	120 seconds

R1 That is the end of the examination.

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (Cambridge University Press & Assessment) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.