Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination

The teacher should instruct the candidates to answer the questions on the paper provided. The following procedure for reading the Listening Comprehension passage is to be explained to the candidates immediately before proceeding with the examination.

You have been given a sheet containing the Listening Comprehension questions. You will be given three minutes to read the questions based on the passage. I shall then read the passage at normal reading speed. You may take notes during the reading. After this reading there will be a pause of another three minutes to allow you to answer some of the questions. The passage will be read a second time and you may take further notes and answer the rest of the questions. After this second reading you will be given a further three minutes for a final revision of the answers.

a. 3 minutes – Students read questions
b. 3 minutes - First reading aloud of passage while students take notes
c. 3 minutes – Students answer questions
d. 3 minutes - Second reading of passage and possibility to answer questions
e. 3 minutes - Final revision by students
Note to teachers:  
*It is advised that between the reading of each news item there should be a reasonable pause.*

**Text**  
Here’s the 12 o’clock news on Radio-88.

Voting is taking place today in the Euro-constituency of London South-West. This by-election for the European Parliament is being held because of the death of the previous member, Mr Harold Friend who at the last election had got 17,000 votes.

* * *

The flight recorder of the Airbus airliner which crashed in the Antarctic a fortnight ago has shown that the plane was flying normally just before impact. All two hundred and fifty seven people on board the aircraft died when it hit the side of a volcano. The investigation into what happened is still going on.

* * *

Three people were killed in storms sweeping across the north of England and southern Scotland. A woman was killed in Kent when a chimney on a house collapsed and two men were killed when their car crashed into a fallen tree on a country road near Melrose. More high winds and rain are forecast for tonight.

* * *

Heathrow Airport Police are investigating how a mailbag containing nearly £750,000 worth of jewels went missing between Geneva and London. The mailbag was believed to be on its way to a London dealer from a jeweller in Geneva five weeks ago, but it was not realised it was missing until the Post Office reported the fact to Scotland Yard two days ago. The mailbag contained a diamond, an emerald and two rubies valued at £635,000 plus a number of stones of lesser value, according to a police spokesman at Heathrow.

* * *

In central Italy, several small towns and villages are still cut off by avalanches following the earthquake during the night which killed five people. It was central Italy’s strongest earthquake for several years and hundreds of people have been made homeless. In Rome, as well as in Florence, Naples and Perugia, gas pipes were broken, windows shattered and electric cables thrown onto the streets.

* * *

Surgeons at Cambridge have successfully transplanted a pancreas – the organ that produces insulin – in two patients suffering from diabetes. One patient, a 23-year-old electronics worker also had a liver transplant. The other patient, a 55-year-old housewife, had a kidney transplanted at the same time. Both patients are doing well.
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Name: _______________________________  Index No: ________  Class: __________

1. Put a tick (√) to show whether the following statements are True or False.  (6 marks)

   T  F
   a. A general election is being held to elect a new parliament in the UK.  
   b. Mr Harold Friend was the previous prime minister.  
   c. The flight recorder showed the plane was flying normally before crashing.  
   d. Twenty five people survived the crash.  
   e. A woman was killed when a chimney collapsed.  
   f. More stormy weather is forecast for tonight.  
   g. A mailbag went missing between Geneva and London.  
   h. The mailbag was reported missing five weeks ago.  
   i. Several people were killed by avalanches in Italy.  
   j. Hundreds of people in central Italy have been made homeless.  
   k. The pancreas is the organ that produces oxygen.  
   l. A patient had her pancreas and kidney transplanted at the same time.

In questions 2 and 3 tick (√) the correct statement.  (1 mark)

2. Heathrow Airport Police are investigating
   i. the disappearance of a mailbag.  
   ii. a London dealer.  
   iii. a jeweller in Geneva  
   iv. the Post Office

3. The earthquake in central Italy
   i. destroyed several small towns and villages.  
   ii. occurred at midday.  
   iii. killed five people.  
   iv. shattered windows in Venice.

4. Say what the following refer to:  (2 marks)
   a. 17,000
   b. 257
   c. £635,000
   d. Cambridge

Total - 10 marks
TEXT 1
The island of Corsica is best known for its world-class hiking trails but it has much more to offer thrill-seekers. Indeed, there are few places in Europe where you can find the mouth-watering combination of first-class mountain activities and water sports in such close proximity to each other.

Many are surprised to learn that the waters around Corsica offer some excellent places for diving and snorkelling. It’s not unusual to catch sight of lobster, octopus, sea slugs and more among the coral and anemones. For snorkelling, try the rocky coves of Arinella near Calvi and Campomoro near Propriano. The gulf of Sagone, close to the ruined Genoese tower of Sagone, is also a beautiful and quiet spot.

For diving, the real jewel is the Marine Park off the south of the island. Take a boat over to the Lavezzi Islands, a string of rocky outcrops surrounded by perfect diving waters. Many divers come here to see the enormous grouper fish, a protected species, found off Merouville; there are other sites where you can find schools of barracuda.

As well as the natural underwater sights, there are also underwater objects of man-made origins. Near Calvi, divers can explore the wreck of a crashed American aircraft which is now home to an impressive group of moray eel. Just east of Campoloro, there is the wreck of the Italian cargo ship Alcione, sunk in 1943, which lies at a depth of around 25 to 35 metres.

Calvi, on the north west coast, has established itself as a leading watersports centre in the Mediterranean. The Calvi Nautique Club offers individual or group lessons in windsurfing, sailing and sea-kayaking. Expert windsurfers flock to the island’s west coast to tackle challenging seas whipped up by Mistral winds. The quaint fishing village of Algajola is another good place for the water-sports enthusiast, thanks to the sandy beach of Aregno. However, most holiday resorts on the island will also rent out water-sports equipment and offer lessons.

In Corsica’s interior, it is the mountains that are the real draw. The Asco Valley and its surrounding mountains, long-famed for the production of white honey, have a good reputation among adventure seekers. One of the main attractions of this area is La Manicella. This is a stunning “via ferrata” – a climbing route, which is one of a handful in the area, where you are helped along by fixed cables. The itinerary, which takes around three hours, is fairly tough.

If you prefer your climbing without assistance from cables, Corsica has some spectacular options. Some of the best climbing is on the island’s almost vertical chalk cliffs in the northwest of Corsica near L’Île-Rousse. The Bavella Needles, a series of jagged tooth-like granite peaks around 20km south west of Solenzara, also has some excellent climbing.
Canyoning is another popular activity holiday in Corsica. In this high-octane sport, you travel through gorges by means of climbing, scrambling, abseiling and swimming. Top of the list for canyoneers on the island has to be the canyons of the Spelunca Gorge, just outside Porto. While it doesn’t match the Grand Canyon for size, the red granite cliffs provide a spectacular backdrop as you make your way down the Spelunca river.

So say goodbye to lying in the sun (although the island does offer that too) and get up and get active for a Corsican thrill of a lifetime.

**TEXT 2**

Rachel and George have a second home on the island of Corsica. They have two children, John and Susie. Rachel and her daughter Susie have decided to become members of the *Get Fit Sports Centre*. George and his son John have not become members but are interested in going occasionally to the centre. Rachel has a leaflet which tells her about the prices of membership and types of exercise classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Get Fit Sports Centre</th>
<th>PRICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual membership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>€70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>€30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWIM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim (30 min)</td>
<td>€2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim Course</td>
<td>€35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private lessons (x6)</td>
<td>€60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GYM</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction</td>
<td>€15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Visit</td>
<td>€5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORKOUT</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Class</td>
<td>€24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tickets (x10)</td>
<td>€60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SQUASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 min</td>
<td>€6.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>€4.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The first one (0) has been given as an example.

About twenty years ago the British government (0) wanted (want) to move clocks by plus one hour in winter and plus two hours in summer. However, Scottish politicians objected to this proposal because they (1)_______________________(argue) that mornings in Scotland (2)_______________________(will) become too dark. Many farmers (3)_______________________(not like) the idea either. A similar proposal (4)_______________________(make) last year but it now (5)_______________________(seem) that there (6)_______________________(be) widespread support for the change. Today many politicians feel that the change (7)_______________________(bring) clear benefits such as lower energy bills and lower carbon emissions. Moreover, since the turn of the century, resistance from Scotland (8)_______________________(diminish) and in recent months studies (9)_______________________(show) that there might be an added advantage: if British people moved their clocks forward there (10)_______________________(be) fewer road-accidents.
B. Complete the second sentence so that it has a meaning similar to the first. An example has been given.

Example:
   a. I don’t want to go out tomorrow.
   b. I’d rather **not go out tomorrow**.

1a. I’m sorry I didn’t tell you earlier.
1b. I apologise for ________________________________.

2a. The only thing that Roland could see was the dark tower.
2b. Roland ________________________________.

3a. Malta attracts many tourists from England.
3b. Many English tourists ________________________________.

4a. He said, “I watched Avatar last week.”
4b. He said that ________________________________.

5a. I speak better English than Robert.
5b. Robert’s English is not ________________________________.

(5 marks)

C. Fill in the numbered blanks with ONE word. The first one (0) has been provided as an example.

In Britain persons suffering (0) **from** dental problems often receive expensive treatment (1)_______________________ is paid for by government health schemes. Some dentists believe that the funding (2)_______________________ be stopped (3)_______________________ patients continue to drink large amounts tea (4)_______________________ sugar, or soft drinks, or eat lots (5)_______________________ sweets. Prof. Jimmy Steel, (6)_______________________ is a lecturer in dentistry, believes that all patients should (7)_______________________ reasonable steps to look after (8)_______________________ oral health and that it should not be difficult to cut down (9)_______________________ sugar. He adds that if dental care is not valued (10)_______________________ the patient, it will become a waste of money.

(5 marks)
D. Fill in the blanks with a word formed from those underlined. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Undersea oil provides an (0) **increasing** (increase) amount of the (1)_______________________(globe) supply. In 2020 wells more than 400 metres below the sea surface will (2)_______________________(probable) provide 10 per cent of the world’s oil. But although oil (3)_______________________(explore) is going ever (4)_______________________(deep), there are serious (5)_______________________(technique) challenges and (6)_______________________(safe) risks. Since the early 2000s, the oil-industry has issued (7)_______________________(warn) of deepwater blowouts, and the (8)_______________________(difficult) of stopping a deepwater spill after it started. However, such concerns were downplayed because it was found that from 1992 to 2006, only 39 blowouts occurred during the (9)_______________________(drill) of more than 15,000 oil and gas wells in the Gulf of Mexico. Few of them released much oil, although it is rumoured that (10)_______________________(official) sources suggest that the number might be much higher.
E. Comprehension 30 marks

TEXT 1:

First read Text 1 and then answer the following questions:

1. Where would you find the above text? Tick (✓) the correct answer. 1m [       ]
   a. In a catalogue.
   b. In a travel magazine.
   c. In an encyclopaedia.
   d. In a thriller.

2. Mark the following as TRUE or FALSE by writing either T or F in the brackets next to each statement. Give a reason to show whether each statement is True or False. 4 m [       ]
   a. The tower of Sagone has just been restored. [       ]
      Reason: __________________________________________________________________
      _______________________________________________________________________
   b. There are no boat trips to the Lavezzi Islands. [       ]
      Reason: __________________________________________________________________
      _______________________________________________________________________
   c. Corsica offers different kinds of water sports. [       ]
      Reason: __________________________________________________________________
      _______________________________________________________________________
   d. Spelunca Gorge is as big as the Grand Canyon. [       ]
      Reason: __________________________________________________________________
      _______________________________________________________________________

3. What TWO contrasting activities can Corsica offer? 2m [       ]
   a. ___________________________________________________________________
   b. ___________________________________________________________________

4a. Mention ONE place in Corsica where the waters are excellent for diving 1m [       ]

4b. Mention ONE place in Corsica where the waters are excellent for snorkelling. 1m [       ]
5. In what parts of Corsica can one find the following?
   a. enormous grouper fish
   b. a crashed American aircraft
   c. a wreck of an Italian ship

6. Why is the west coast attractive to expert windsurfers?

7. Why is Algajola a good place for water-sports enthusiasts?

8. Give two reasons why Asco Valley is well-known?
   a. 
   b. 

9. What do these words/phrases mean in the passage?
   a. thrill seekers (line 2)
   b. real jewel (line 10)

10. What do these words/phrases refer to in the text?
    a. spot (line 9)
    b. which (line 17)
    c. itself (line 18)
    d. one (line 28)

11. Explain the following:
    So say goodbye to lying in the sun (line 40)
12. Summary. In a paragraph of not more than 60 words explain why some places in Corsica are attractive to climbers.

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

TEXT 2: 3 marks

Read Text 2 and fill in the table.

Rachel is checking some of the prices at the Get Fit Sports Centre. She makes the following list. Write out the correct prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Annual Membership for Rachel.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Swimming Course for Susie.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 10 Workout Sessions for John.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A 30 min squash session for George.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. A 45 min squash session for John.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Visit to the Gym for Susie.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 marks

F. COMPOSITION 30 marks

Write a composition of between 250 and 300 words about ONE of the following topics:

1. Parents should control the way teenagers use the internet. Discuss.
2. Write a page of a diary of a student who is bullied at school.
3. Write a review of a thriller that you have recently watched at the cinema.