



Annual Examinations for Secondary Schools 2022

YEAR 11

ENGLISH
LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TIME: 15 min

TEACHER'S PAPER

Instructions for the conduct of the Listening Comprehension Examination

In the event of a power cut, teachers of English are to read the instructions below.

You have been given a sheet containing the Listening Comprehension questions. You now have **THREE** minutes to read the questions based on the passage, which you will listen to **TWICE**.

Pause – 3 minutes

You will now listen to the passage for the **FIRST** time. You may answer the questions while listening. After the passage is read, there will be a pause of another **THREE** minutes to allow you to answer the questions. I will read the passage now.

(Reading of passage)

Pause – 3 minutes

You will now listen to the passage for the **LAST** time and you may answer the rest of the questions. After this, you have a further **THREE** minutes for a final revision of the answers. I will read the passage now.

(Reading of passage)

Pause – 3 minutes

This is the end of the Listening Comprehension examination.

TEACHER'S PAPER

You are going to listen to this week's podcast in the series Tourist Attractions.

Good morning everyone. Today we're going to talk about one of the most visited tourist attractions in the city of Verona. Verona is one of the main tourist destinations in Italy because of its artistic heritage and the several annual fairs, shows and operas held there. But Verona is also well known for being the setting of Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

Recent plans to curtail the number of tourists who flock to Verona to take a selfie beneath the balcony where Romeo is said to have wooed Juliet have been blocked amid a feud over the site that has lasted more than a decade.

Tourists can enter the tiny courtyard – free-of-charge – simply to take a photo of the balcony or to touch a bronze statue of Juliet as part of a ritual that is said to bring luck in love. Before Covid-19 struck, up to a thousand people at a time would cram into the four hundred-metre space while creating long queues on Via Cappello outside.

The vast majority forgo a visit to the adjacent Casa di Giulietta, a museum which houses a collection of paintings, Renaissance-era costumes and the bed that featured in Franco Zeffirelli's 1968 film adaptation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The Casa di Giulietta is a renovated 13th-century residence that once belonged to a noble family, the del Cappellos, who are believed by locals to have inspired the fictional family of Juliet Capulet in Shakespeare's play. The balcony was added to the building in the 20th century.

Several Verona mayors over the last 10 years have tried to introduce measures to manage the flow of visitors, but have always come up against fierce opposition from the owners of the handful of businesses located in the courtyard. The site still drew big crowds last summer despite the pandemic, and security guards were hired to ensure no more than 24 people entered the courtyard at a time.

The current mayor, Federico Sboarina, went a step further by installing turnstiles at the site, with visitors booking entrance tickets online. But the owners of the two gift shops and a Bed & Breakfast appealed to the administrative court, which said the courtyard is not a public-owned space, and it blocked the initiative.

Despite the Romeo and Juliet story being fictional, the courtyard attracted 3 million visitors a year before the pandemic, but less than 300,000 of them went into the museum. Vincenzo Tiné, the region's Superintendent for Cultural Heritage, supported the mayor's plans as the Superintendent stated that the business owners were obviously interested in maintaining an influx of visitors to generate custom but Verona suffered from over-tourism.

And that brings us to the end of today's podcast.

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