

This is the ESB Level 2 - C1 Certificate in ESOL International All Modes examination.

Section one, Listening.

I'm going to give you the instructions for this part of the test. You will hear this sound **BLEEP** at the start of each piece. Remember to transfer your answers to the Optical Mark Sheet before the end of the exam.

Now, open your question paper and look at Part 1A.

**Listening Part 1 Section A**

Listen to the first section of a radio programme about tribute bands. For questions 1 – 5, choose the correct answer A, B or C. You will hear Section A TWICE. You have one minute to read the questions for Section A.

*[Wait one minute]*

**BLEEP**

**PRESENTER:** Hi everybody. I'm Mike Childs and for the next thirty minutes I'll be bringing you all the latest from the world of popular music. This week we're featuring tribute bands, you know, those groups who specifically play the music of well-known music acts, often ones who've disbanded or ceased touring. In the studio today to talk us through all this, we have Lindsay Fowler who's part of the Abba tribute band, Abba Gold. Some of us remember the original Abba, the 1970s Swedish group with guys, Bjorn and Benny and girls, Frida the brunette, and Agnetha the blonde, with their catchy tunes and over-the-top outfits. And even if you weren't around at the time, lots of you will have seen 'Mamma Mia' in the cinema which features all the old Abba hits. Lindsay, you've got fair hair so I guess you must be Agnetha.

**LINDSAY:** Well sorry, Mike. I wear a black wig on stage so I'm Frida. When we're performing in our tight, white costumes and silver boots and the guys in their satin flared trousers, we look so different from what we do in real life that nobody would ever recognise us in the street. Quite good really because we can live a normal life without being pestered by fans every time we set foot outside.

**PRESENTER:** OK Lindsay. Can you tell us how you got started in this line of work and what makes you different from the other Abba tribute bands because there are a lot of them out there?

**LINDSAY:** Well, originally I trained as a classical pianist and I used to play with jazz groups in local clubs to make a bit of money. One evening, a group came on, two guys and two girls, all dressed in the Abba style and they really couldn't sing or dance but the crowd loved them. I thought, 'I could do better than that', so I got together with some other impoverished music students and that was the start! As far as other tribute bands are concerned, a lot of them send up Abba. I know it's very easy to parody them and make fun of them but

we're not like that. We aim to recreate the original Abba sound absolutely live on stage, with authentic costumes and choreography and no hidden backing.

**PRESENTER:** And you're very successful. You've just finished a tour of Europe and you've got a new recording contract. So what's next?

**LINDSAY:** Well, apart from our usual concerts and appearances at music festivals, we've an album coming out next month and a couple of TV appearances and, very exciting, we are negotiating with a film company to provide the music tracks for a new movie. So Hollywood, here we come!

**PRESENTER:** As you say, very exciting..... (fade)

**NOW LISTEN AGAIN.**

*[Replay Part 1 Section A ]*

**That is the end of Part 1 Section A of the Listening test. Now turn to Part 1 Section B**

**ESB Level 2 – C1 Listening Part One, Section B**  
**Listen to the second section of a radio programme about tribute bands. For questions 6 – 10, choose the correct answer A, B or C. You will hear Section B TWICE. You have one minute to read the questions for Section B.**

*[Wait one minute]*

**BLEEP**

*[Paul, Barbara, Russell and Marina are all calling in on phone lines]*

**PRESENTER:** Lindsay's a fantastic performer and if you want to catch Abba Gold's next gig, look on our website. We've got our phone lines open now and we'd like to hear what you think about Abba Gold. OK, our first caller is Paul from London. Hi Paul!

**PAUL:** Hello! Abba Gold are one of the best tribute acts around and as a theatre manager; I know what I'm talking about. Abba Gold stand out because not only are they as close to the real thing as you could get, but they actually play their own instruments and very well too.

**PRESENTER:** Thanks Paul. Barbara what do you think?

**BARBARA:** I agree with your previous speaker. The whole show is fabulous from start to finish, a non-stop barrage of Abba hits. All the breathtaking costume changes, immaculate vocals, fantastic sound and lighting, it's just exactly what the fans want!

**PRESENTER:** Great! We've got Russell on the line now.

**RUSSELL:** Abba Gold certainly set the place on fire when I saw them last month. Everyone was on their feet dancing. The band sang their hearts out and we all went home happy. They're just as good as their namesakes. So thank you for the music.

**PRESENTER:** It seems we have a lot of satisfied customers! Last caller now, Marina from Oxford.

**MARINA:** Sorry to introduce a sour note here. Abba Gold are a fantastic band. They provided a wonderful evening's entertainment and we all danced our socks off but the ticket prices are astronomic. They are only a tribute band after all, not the real thing! So don't price yourself out of the market, guys! Remember that a lot of families and people on fixed incomes can't afford spend upwards of €100 on each ticket. If you've got a family of four or five people, you're talking.....

**PRESENTER:** Sorry Marina, I'll have to stop you there. Thanks to all our callers. That's all we have time for today. (fade)

**NOW LISTEN AGAIN**

*[Replay Part 1 Section B]*

**That is the end of Listening Part 1 Section B of the Listening Test.  
Please turn to Part 2.**

**ESB Level 2 – C1 Listening Part Two**

**Listen to three conversations. For questions 11 - 20, choose the correct answer A, B, or C. You will hear each conversation TWICE. You have two minutes to read the questions.**

*[Wait two minutes]*

**BLEEP**

**Conversation One**

**David:** We've got a whole weekend ahead of us in London so I think we should plan what we're going to do so as to maximise our time. Any suggestions?

**Mandy:** Well, there's a very good exhibition of Renaissance portraits at the National Gallery which I'm dying to see. Oh! and I believe Buckingham Palace is open to the public in the summer when the Queen is away on holiday in Scotland. And there's some lovely old churches I've never been to.

**David:** All seems a bit too energetic for my taste! I'd quite like to take a boat trip up the River Thames to the Tower of London. It's one of the oldest

buildings in the city; you know and full of historical associations. Still, I'm not adverse to a bit of culture so I don't mind a few art galleries and theatres.

**Mandy:** The theatre! That's a good idea. We'll look on the internet and see if we can book something for Saturday night. There should be some Shakespeare on.

**David:** You're a real culture vulture! OK, how about the paintings on Saturday morning, then we'll take to the river in the afternoon and finish up with a musical on Saturday night.

**Mandy:** That's fine by me, and Sunday; we can start with a stroll round Hyde Park and maybe a nice lunch somewhere and then see if we can gatecrash on the Royal Family!

**David:** Sounds as though we're going to have a great weekend!

### NOW LISTEN AGAIN

*[Replay conversation one]*

**BLEEP**

### Conversation Two

**Assistant:** Can I help you, Madam?

**Pauline:** Yes, I'm looking for something to wear at my daughter's wedding. I'm having a lot of trouble finding anything suitable so I hope you can advise me.

**Assistant:** You've come to the right place, Madam. We specialise in outfits for the mother- of- the- bride and we're very experienced in this area. Now if I could ask a few questions, just to put myself in the picture?

**Pauline:** Certainly.

**Assistant:** When's the wedding going to be and how many guests have been invited?

**Pauline:** Well, it's at the beginning of December and it's quite a large, formal event with about 200 people. About half are family and the rest are my daughter's friends and her fiancé's too of course!

**Assistant:** I see. Do you have any particular colour scheme in mind?

**Pauline:** The bridesmaids are wearing dark red satin dresses with white fur capes and the bridegroom's mother is planning to appear in lilac so I want something different that's not going to clash.

**Assistant:** Well, you can't guarantee good weather in December, so I would recommend a dress and matching coat, with contrasting shoes, bag and gloves and to finish everything off; a stunning hat.

**Pauline:** I like the sound of that and, as for a colour; I'll just pick something that takes my fancy.

**Assistant:** If you'd like to follow me Madam, I can show you a few outfits that I'm sure you'll like. Then you can try them on and see what you think. This way..... (fade).

## NOW LISTEN AGAIN

*[Replay conversation two]*

**BLEEP**

## Conversation Three

*[phone conversation]*

**Operator:** (female) Good morning. Atlantis Airlines. How may I help you?

**Passenger:** (male) Hello. I'm booked on the flight from London to Moscow leaving on 18<sup>th</sup> October at midday. I must explain that I'm in a wheelchair and I'm going to need some help getting on and off the plane.

**Operator:** Of course, Sir. We take great pride in the service we offer to passengers with impaired mobility and we can help you on every step of the journey.

**Passenger:** Yes, I know what you say in all your publicity material but last time I travelled with you, I was stranded at Amsterdam Airport because there was nobody there to help me and I missed my connection. I don't want to experience that again, I can assure you.

**Operator:** I must apologise on behalf of the company. I can't imagine how such a slip-up occurred!

**Passenger:** We won't go into that now. I was given compensation but I really want to ensure that everything runs smoothly this time.

**Operator:** Of course! We can arrange for one of our ground staff to meet your taxi on arrival and take you to the check-in desk and through security. If you wish, they will accompany you round the duty free shop and then, help you onto the aircraft. You'll board before all the other passengers of course. Then the air crew will take over. When you reach your destination, our Russian ground staff will take you through passport control and retrieve your luggage from the carousel and find a taxi for you.

**Passenger:** This all sounds very reassuring. I just hope your systems work better than they did last time, otherwise I can assure you that I won't be flying with you again!

**Operator:** You can rely on us absolutely, Sir..... (fade)

**NOW LISTEN AGAIN**

*[Replay conversation three]*

**That is the end of the listening section. Do not forget to transfer your answers to the Optical Mark Form before the end of the examination. You will not be given extra time to do this.**

**You may now continue with the rest of the exam.**