

Listening & Reading

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Listening

Task 1

For **items 1-15** listen to a passage from an audio guide and decide whether the statements (**1-15**) are **TRUE (A)**, or **FALSE (B)** according to the text you hear. Circle the correct option (**A or B**) on your answer sheet. **You will hear the text twice.**

- 1) The Central Park walk starts near 72nd Street.
- 2) The *Imagine* mosaic is in the middle of Strawberry Fields.
- 3) The *Imagine* mosaic was donated to Central Park by John Lennon.
- 4) Robert Wagner was the head of the New York City government.
- 5) Wagner Cove was restored a few years ago.
- 6) There are seven water reservoirs in Central Park.
- 7) The Pond park entrance is not very popular.
- 8) The pond setting is kept as it was created by nature.
- 9) Most of the Central Park ducks don't migrate.
- 10) Cherry Hill fountain was dedicated to Queen Victoria.
- 11) The longest bridge in the park is the Bow Bridge.
- 12) Whoopi Goldberg's favorite place in Central park is an *Alice in Wonderland* sculpture.
- 13) Alice in the sculpture is sitting on a mushroom.
- 14) Whoopi Goldberg once played the Cheshire Cat.
- 15) There are several *Alice in Wonderland* sculptures in Central Park.

Integrated listening and reading

Task 2

Read the text about marsupials – the animals that carry their newly born babies in a pocket on the mother’s body, then listen to a part of a lecture on a similar topic. You will notice that some ideas coincide and some differ in the two materials. 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 7 minutes to read the text.

Marsupials

Marsupials are a group of mammals that are born alive after a very short gestation period. Since a marsupial appears quite early in its life cycle, it must complete its development while nursing. In order to survive, the young underdeveloped marsupial, immediately after its birth, must crawl over its mother's body to a fold of skin known as a pouch. During further development, which can last weeks or months, depending on the species, a marsupial nurses and grows inside the pouch. Most marsupials do not form family groups. It is the female marsupial that cares for the offspring. The young marsupial may stay with the mother for more than a year, climbing in and out of the pouch to nurse or sleep.

Although marsupials once ranged throughout North and South America, as well as in Antarctica, only a few species now live outside of New Zealand and Australia where more than 250 species are still found. There is quite a diversity of marsupials within these species, and they have adapted to a number of different habitats; however, some characteristics are universal among them. The senses of hearing and smell are very important to marsupials because they are nocturnal creatures that depend on their ears and nose to locate their food at night. Some marsupials prefer plants, although others eat insects or meat. Like other mammals, marsupials are covered with hair. Unlike other mammals, however, marsupials have additional bones to support the pouch, which is their unique adaptation.

Now listen to a part of a lecture on a similar topic and then do the tasks (16-25), comparing the text above and the lecture. You will hear the lecture twice.

16. The time spent by a marsupial in its mother's body before it is born is very short.
17. Babies of this species stay with their mother for a year or so and only then become independent.
18. Very few marsupials live in Eurasia.
19. Years ago these animals populated other continents though today most of them live in Australia and New Zealand.
20. When it is born, the animal is only 19 millimeters long and has no fur.
21. These animals sleep in the daytime and search for their food at night.
22. Of all types of food, it prefers the leaves of a particular plant.
23. These animals look like bears, though they belong to another group of mammals.
24. The skeleton of marsupials differs from that of other mammals, as it is adapted to reinforce the pouch.
25. The koala came to Australia from New Zealand.

Reading

Task 3

Read the text "The Penny Black" and answer questions 26-40 below.

The Penny Black

It might not have looked very impressive, but the Penny Black, now 170 years old, was the first stamp to be created and it launched the modern postal system in Britain.

Before 1840 and the arrival of the Penny Black, you had to be rich and patient to use the Royal Mail. Delivery was charged according to the miles travelled and the number of sheets of paper used; a 2-page letter sent from Edinburgh to London, for example, would have cost 2 shillings, or more than £7 in today's money. And when the top-hatted letter carrier came to deliver it, it was the recipient who had to pay for the postage. Letter writers employed various ruses to reduce the cost, doing everything possible to cram more words onto a page. Nobody bothered with heavy envelopes; instead, letters would be folded and sealed with wax. You then had to find a post office – there were no pillar boxes – and hope your addressee didn't live in one of the several rural areas which were not served by the system. If you were lucky, your letter would arrive (it could take days) without being read or censored.

The state of mail had been causing concern throughout the 1830s, but it was Rowland Hill, an inventor, teacher and social reformer from Kidderminster, who proposed a workable plan for change. Worried that a dysfunctional, costly service would stifle communication just as Britain was in the swing of its second industrial revolution, he believed reform would ease the distribution of ideas and stimulate trade and business, delivering the same promise as the new railways.

Hill's proposal for the penny post, which meant any letter weighing less than half an ounce (14 grams) could be sent anywhere in Britain for about 30p in today's money, was so radical that the Postmaster General, Lord Lichfield, said: “Of all the wild and visionary schemes which I ever heard of, it is the most extravagant.” Lord Lichfield spoke for an establishment not convinced of the need for poor people to post anything. But merchants and reformers backed Hill. Soon the government told him to make his scheme work. And that meant inventing a new type of currency.

Hill quickly settled on “a bit of paper covered at the back with a glutinous wash which the user might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the back of a

letter”. Stamps would be printed in sheets of 240 that could be cut using scissors or a knife. Perforations would not arrive until 1854. The idea stuck, and in August 1839 the Treasury launched a design competition open to “all artists, men of science and the public in general”. The new stamp would need to be resistant to forgery, and so it was a submission by one Mr Cheverton that Hill used as the basis for one of the most striking designs in history. Cheverton, who worked as a sculptor and an engineer, determined that a portrait of Queen Victoria, engraved for a commemorative coin when she was a 15-year-old princess, was detailed enough to make copying difficult, and recognizable enough to make fakes easy to spot. The words “Postage” and “One Penny” were added alongside ornamental stars. Nobody thought to add the word “Britain”, as it was assumed that the stamps would solely be put to domestic use.

With the introduction of the new postal system, the Penny Black was an instant hit, and printers struggled to meet demand. By the end of 1840, more than 160 million letters had been sent – more than double the previous year. It created more work for the post office, whose reform continued with the introduction of red letter boxes, new branches and more frequent deliveries, even to the remotest address, but its lasting impact on society was more remarkable.

Hill and his supporters rightly predicted that cheaper post would improve the “diffusion of knowledge”. Suddenly, someone in Scotland could be reached by someone in London within a day or two. And as literacy improved, sections of society that had been disenfranchised found a voice.

Tristram Hunt, a historian, values the “flourishing of correspondence” that followed the arrival of stamps. “While I was writing my biography of Friedrich Engels I could read the letters he and Marx sent between Manchester and London,” he says. “They wrote to each other three times a day, ping-pong ideas back and forth so that you can almost follow a real-time correspondence.”

The penny post also changed the nature of the letter. Weight-saving tricks such as cross-writing began to die out, while the arrival of envelopes built confidence among correspondents that mail would not be stolen or read. And so people wrote more private things – politically or commercially sensitive information or love letters. “In the early days of the penny post, there was still concern about theft.” Hunt says. “Engels would still send Marx money by ripping up five-pound notes and sending the pieces in different letters.” But the probity of the postal system became a great thing and it came to be expected that your mail would not be tampered with.

For all its brilliance, the Penny Black was technically a failure. At first, post offices used red ink to cancel stamps so that they could not be used again. But the ink could be removed. When in 1842, it was determined that black ink would be more robust, the colour of the Penny Black became a sort of brownish red, but Hill's brainchild had made its mark.

Questions 26-28

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D. Circle the correct letter in boxes 26-28 on your answer sheet.

- 26** One of the characteristics of the postal service before the 1840s was that
- A postmen were employed by various organizations.
 - B letters were restricted to a certain length.
 - C distance affected the price of postage.
 - D the price of delivery kept going up.
- 27** Letter writers in the 1830s
- A were not responsible for the cost of delivery.
 - B tried to fit more than one letter into an envelope.

- C could only send letters to people living in cities.
- D knew all letters were automatically read by postal staff.

28 What does the text say about Hill in the 1830s?

- A He was the first person to express concern about the postal system.
- B He considered it would be more efficient for mail to be delivered by rail.
- C He felt that postal service reform was necessary for commercial development.
- D His plan received support from all the important figures of the day.

Questions 29-34

Look at the following statements (Questions 29-34) and the list of people below.

*Match each statement with the correct person, **A, B, C, D, E** or **F**.*

*Circle the correct letter, **A, B, C, D, E** or **F** in boxes **29-34** on your answer sheet.*

You can use any letter more than once. You may not need some of the names.

- 29** His inspiration came from a particular image.
- 30** He claimed that the postal system would lead to the spread of information.
- 31** He organized the creation of the first stamp.
- 32** He expressed doubts about the plans to change the postal service.
- 33** He sent pieces of banknotes to his friend in different envelopes to avoid theft.
- 34** He studied the correspondence of two famous people.

List of names mentioned in the text

- A** Rowland Hill

- B** Lord Lichfield
- C** Cheverton
- D** Friedrich Engels
- E** Tristram Hunt
- F** Marx

Questions 35-40

Complete the notes below.

*Choose **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** from the passage for each answer.*

*Write your answers in boxes **35-40** on your answer sheet.*

The Penny Black

- Design came about as a result of a competition organized by the **35**
- It was based on an engraving of Queen Victoria featured on a **36**.....
- Apart from the Queen's face, the stamp had just three words and pictures of **37**as decoration.
- There was no mention of **38**, as the plan was for the stamps to be for domestic use only.
- The **39**, which was applied to indicate that the stamp had been used, proved to be ineffective.
- In 1842, the **40**of the stamp was changed.

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Use of English

Time: 60 minutes

Task 1

For items 1-5, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Write down the needed word in your answer sheet. The first example (0) is done for you.

Hard Work of Rescue Teams

Example: (0). *by*

Last year over 200 climbers were rescued from the mountains of Scotland alone (0) ... local rescue teams who go out in all weathers to do whatever they can to help when disaster strikes. These people are volunteers, giving their time and energy freely and, (1) ... occasion, putting themselves in danger. They risk life and limb in an emergency when they are called on to rescue foolhardy or unlucky climbers.

A whole range of things can go wrong up in the mountains. A storm can brew up without warning, reducing visibility (2) ... virtually zero. Then only the most experienced mountaineers could find their way back down to safety. And it is easy to (3) ... to grief, breaking a leg – or worse. Many climbers owe a huge debt of gratitude to the rescue teams!

While rescue teams work for no pay, there are considerable costs involved in maintaining an efficient service. Equipment such as ropes and stretchers (4) ... of some vital importance, as are vehicles and radio communications devices. Though some of the costs are borne by the government, the rescue teams couldn't operate without donations from the public. Fortunately, fund-raising for a good cause like this is not difficult; anyone who has ever been up in the mountains will gladly (5) ... a contribution.

Task 2

For items 6 – 10, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. DO NOT CHANGE the word given. You

should use between three and six words, including the word given. Write down the needed words in your answer sheet. The first example (0) is done for you.

Example: 0. I consider him my worst enemy.

LOOK

I..... enemy.

0. I *look upon him as my worst* enemy.

6. Even if we drive very fast, we'll never get to the theater on time.

HOW

No, we'll never get to the theater on time.

7. At no time did we think that Mike might be planning to leave London.

OCCURRED

Itthat Mike might be planning to leave London.

8. Paula had just reached the gate when it began to rain.

THAN

No soonerit began to rain.

9. He behaved in an incomprehensible way at the party.

BEYOND

Hisour comprehension.

10. You may not have noticed but Sam is wearing an engagement ring.

ESCAPED

Itnotice but Sam is wearing an engagement ring.

Task 3

For items 11-15, fill in the crossword by working out the meanings of the phrasal verbs in the clues. Underlined phrasal verbs require synonyms. Write down the required synonyms in your answer sheet. The first example (0) is done for you.

Example: 0. (across) Why do you always let me down by arriving so late?

0. disappoint

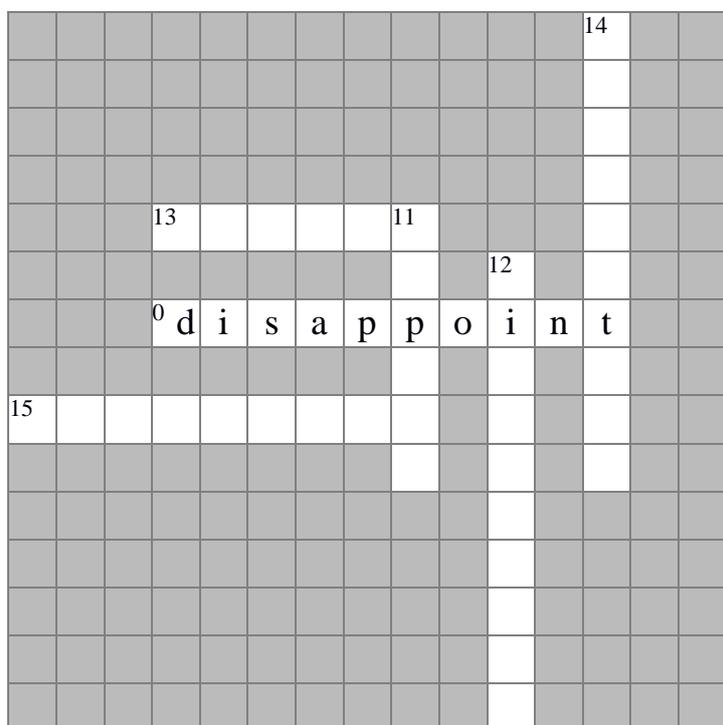
11. (down) The guarantee is due to run out next week.

12. (down) I hope my words do not put you off.

13. (across) The coach doesn't get into Victoria until 6 p.m.

14. (down) It isn't possible to take in all these phrasal verbs.

15. (across) The waving of a white flag can signify that one side in a battle is prepared to give up.



Task 4

For items 16-20, choose from the box the necessary animal (1-13) that would fit in the gap of the given sentences (16-20) to produce a proverb or an idiom, then match the sentence with the correct definition (A - F). There are some extra words in the box, which you do not have to use. The first example (0) is done for you.

Example: 0. It's raining ... and.... .
0. 2, 6 E

1-cat, 2-cats, 3-cow, 4-dog, 5-dogs, 6-dogs, 7-goats, 8-horse, 9-lion, 10-mice, 11-rabbit, 12-sheep, 13-tiger

16. When the ...'s away the will play.

17. That's a ... of a different colour.

18. Better to be a live ... than a dead

19. To separate the ... from the

20. To go to the

Definitions:

- A) a situation or a subject far from what you expected
- B) there are some situations when being a coward is an advantage
- C) when a person in authority is absent, those under the person's rule will enjoy their freedom
- D) to deteriorate, to become bad
- E) something that you say when it is raining very heavily
- F) to group people or things into superior and inferior

Task 5

For items 21-30, identify the names of an English or an American city/town, hidden in the sentences below. Write down the correct names in your answer sheet. The first example (0) is done for you.

Example: 0. After competing in a triathlon, Donna was very tired. (the capital of the UK)

0. London

21. The bank won't be able to issue a new credit card if for some reason you forget your PIN, so be extra careful. (the capital of Wales)

22. The pilot had to decide whether to initiate a go-around or land on the ground in inclement weather. (a city in the U.S. state of Florida, Walt Disney World Resort, also the name of a famous Hollywood star, whose surname is Bloom)

23. The gingerbread ingredients are on the table. I will help you to make it. (the names of two cities, situated in the UK and the USA, and a homograph to an activity connected with books)

24. Housekeepers usually prefer washing to not doing anything. (the name of a city that is associated with the first name of a famous American writer and the surname of an American president)

25. The local Congressman Chester Charing spoke about the environmental problems of the region. (people who live in this city are called Mancunians)

26. A person who wants to purchase a car usually either buys it brand new or leans towards getting a used one. (a major United States port on the Mississippi river, known also as the birthplace of jazz)

27. Please, use the suggestion box for direct comments about the quality of the food in our restaurant. (a city where Lewis Carroll lived and worked)

28. The sacrament of marriage is one of the key rituals of the Catholic Church. (the capital of California)

29. Mabel fastened her seat belt before the plane took off. (the capital of Northern Ireland)

30. As one considers history, it becomes quite apparent that living like a nomad is on the border of civilization and absence of culture. (a city named after the 4th president of the USA, the author of the Bill of Rights)

TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET

Writing

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Imagine that you are doing a project on **how students in the USA spend their time on an average weekday**. You have collected some data on the subject (see the charts below). Write a brief report describing the data. Try to use **all the information given** and compare the data for 2014 and 2015.

Use the following words in your report (put them in the correct grammar form if necessary):

1. assess
2. extracurricular
3. catch on
4. pursuit
5. substitute

Underline the required words when used in your report.

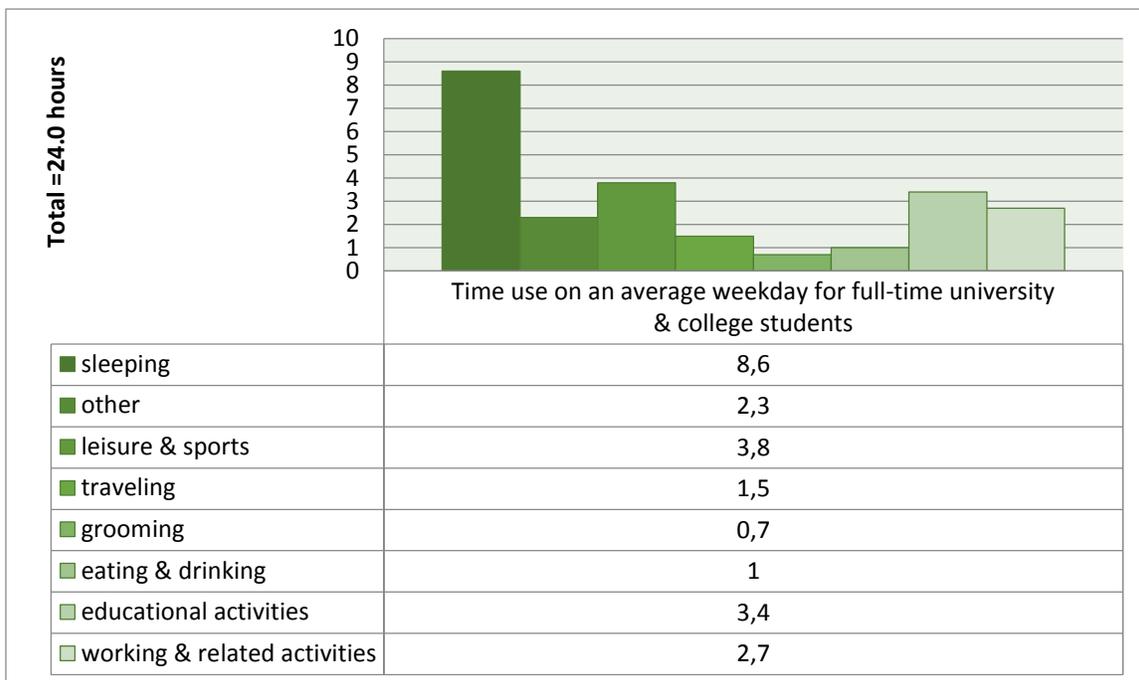
Write 220–250 words.

Use the following plan:

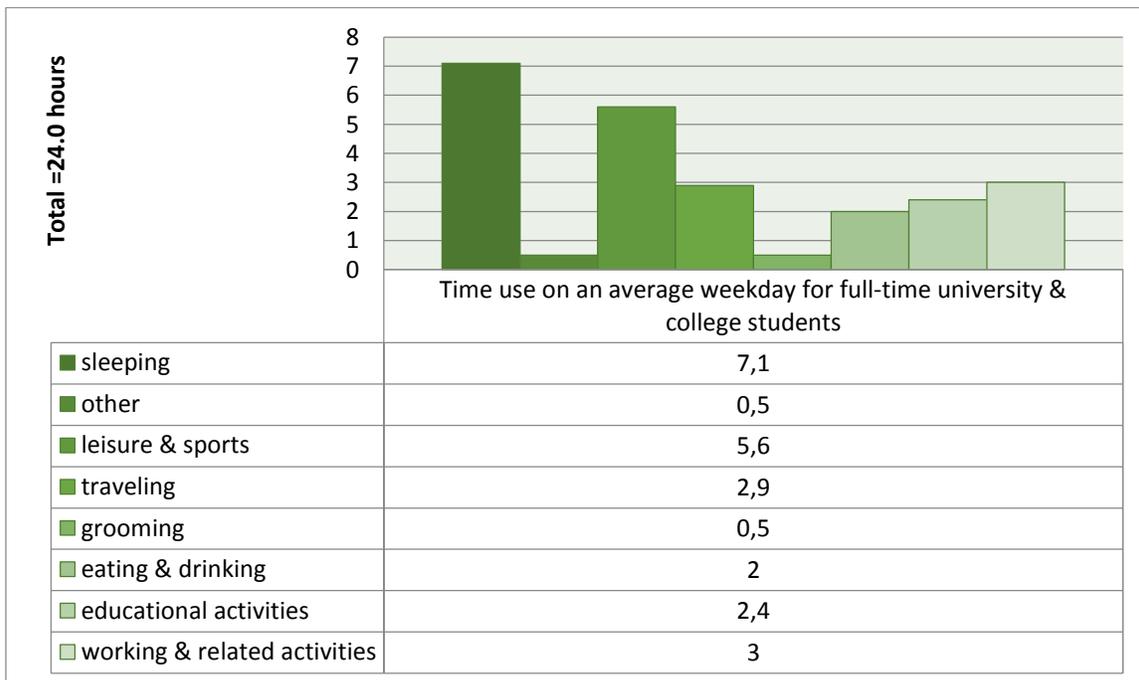
- make an opening statement
- give some general information and outline most significant trends
- compare the information given in the charts
- make a conclusion

USE YOUR OWN WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS in your report.

2014



2015



Listening & Reading

1	A	B				
2	A	B				
3	A	B				
4	A	B				
5	A	B				
6	A	B				
7	A	B				
8	A	B				
9	A	B				
10	A	B				
11	A	B				
12	A	B				
13	A	B				
14	A	B				
15	A	B				
16	A	B	C	D		
17	A	B	C	D		
18	A	B	C	D		
19	A	B	C	D		
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25	A	B	C	D		
26	A	B	C	D		
27	A	B	C	D		
28	A	B	C	D		
29	A	B	C	D	E	F
30	A	B	C	D	E	F
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Use of English

ANSWER SHEET

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