LRN International GCSE: English Language (2031)

Candidate Name	
Candidate Number	
Centre Name	
Centre Number	

Paper 2: Listening transcript **Sample Paper**

(10 minutes)

This is the listening test for the LRN level 2 certificate in international general certificate in education (English language).

Exercise 1

You are going to listen to four short recordings. Answer each question on the line provided. Write no more than three words for each answer.

Each recording will be played twice.

One

You have 10 seconds to read questions 1(a) and (b)

[10 seconds]

Pilot: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome aboard Voyager Airlines flight VA327 with service from Sydney to Kuala Lumpur. We are currently fourth in line for take-off and expect to be in the air in approximately eleven minutes time. We ask that you please fasten your seatbelts and ensure that all baggage is secured underneath your seats. You may not use the overhead compartments on this flight. Please put your seats and table trays in the upright position for take-off. All personal electronic devices, including tablets and mobile phones should be turned off until we are in the air. Smoking is prohibited for the duration of the flight. Thank you for choosing Voyager Airlines. Enjoy your flight.

[10 seconds]

Two.

You have 10 seconds to read questions 2(a) and (b)

[10 seconds]

Newsreader: And finally, some great news for sky watchers. Next week, the 17th and 18th of the month will be the height of the annual Leonid meteor shower. It should be possible for people to see up to 15 meteors every hour, that's about 4 every minute. So often, watching this fantastic event is spoiled by clouds and rain. However, the weather forecast for next week is clear skies. It's November, though, so remember to wear lots of warm clothing and have a thermos of coffee with you. If you get any good photos, please send them to us at the TV centre.

[10 seconds]

Three

You have 10 seconds to read questions 3(a) and (b)

[10 seconds]

[*Production note: this is a phone conversation*]

Alice: Hey, Barbara! It's Alice. I'm going to book tickets for the Flying Lemon's concert at the Astoria on Saturday. I'm getting tickets for Bill, Tracy, Kay and myself. Do you and Fred want to come too?

Barbara: I'm afraid I'm going to be working on Saturday evening. But Fred will love it. Get him a ticket, please. Are you driving there?

Alice: We thought about it, but parking's impossible. We're going by bus. It's cheaper than a taxi.

[10 seconds]

Four.

You have 10 seconds to read questions 4(a) and (b)

[10 seconds]

Man: How can I help you, madam?

Girl: I want some soccer boots. Quality ones, but not boring black ones. I want some that will really stand out. Yellow, if you've got them.

Man: Well, we have these BJ Striker boots. We don't have them in yellow, but we do have them in red or orange. Take a look.

Girl: Oh yeah, the orange looks really cool. I'll take those. How much are they?

Man: You're lucky. They're normally £80, but there's 20 per cent off this week, so that's £64.

10 seconds]

That is the end of exercise one.

Exercise 2

You are going to listen to a short lecture by a teacher on the writer George Orwell. But first, you have one minute to look at questions 5 to 12.

[60 seconds]

Teacher: Okay, This week, we're going to take a quick look at George Orwell the creator of Big Brother. George Orwell was the pen name of Eric Arthur Blair (that's B-L-A-I-R). He was born in 1908 and died in 1950, and was an English novelist and journalist. His work is noted for its clarity, intelligence and wit, awareness of social injustice, opposition to totalitarianism, and a belief in democratic socialism.

Orwell wrote literary criticism, poetry, fiction and journalism. His novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (published in 1949) and the novella *Animal Farm* (published in 1945), have together sold more copies than any two books by any other 20th-century author. His 1938 book *Homage to Catalonia* is an account of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War, where he fought for the Republican Army and was injured. In 2008, the British Newspaper The Times ranked him second on a list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945".

Orwell's work continues to influence popular and political culture, and the term *Orwellian*—an adjective meaning totalitarian or authoritarian —has entered the language with several of his other terms, such as doublethink, thoughtcrime, newspeak, and thought police. Many of these come from the novel Nineteen Eighty-Four. This is a dystopian and satirical novel where the world consists of three countries: Eurasia (what we know as Russia and Europe), Eastasia (China and South-East Asia) and Oceania. These countries are constantly at war with each other.

The action of the novel takes place in Oceania, made up of what we know as the Americas, Australasia, and Southern Africa. Britain is now an Oceanian province called Airstrip One. This is controlled by a political system called Ingsoc (English Socialism). It is led by a figure called Big Brother, or "BB", who may or may not actually exist.

The protagonist of the novel, Winston Smith, is a member of the Ingsoc Outer Party who works for the Ministry of Truth (Minitrue), which is responsible for propaganda and historical revisionism. His job is to re-write past newspaper articles so that the historical record always supports what the government says and does now. Smith is a diligent and skilled worker, but he secretly hates the Party and dreams of rebellion against Big Brother. Winston believes there are truths beyond the party. In particular, he says 2 plus 2 equals 4. Always.

People like Winston Smith are not meant to have personal feelings. Women reject sex in favour of artificial insemination. Loving relationships are discouraged. You can only love Big Brother.

Winston begins an affair with another party worker called Julia. This is less about love and is more an act of protest. They know they will be caught one day but maintain that as long as they don't betray each other, it will have been worth it. When they are caught by the Ministry of Love (Miniluv), Winston's interrogator, O' Brien, tries to teach Winston that he is wrong about everything. He teaches that 2 and 2 might make 4, or 5, or whatever the party wants it to make.

In the novel, a major feature is newspeak. This is the deliberately impoverished language promoted by the state. Newspeak is closely based on English but has a greatly reduced and simplified vocabulary and grammar. The totalitarian aim of the Party is to prevent any alternative thinking — "thoughtcrime", or "crimethink" in the newest edition of Newspeak – by destroying any vocabulary that expresses such concepts as freedom, free enquiry, individualism, resistance to the authority of the state and so on. One character, Syme, says admiringly of the diminishing scope of the new language: "It's a beautiful thing, the destruction of words."

Orwell was inspired to invent Newspeak by the constructed language Basic English, which he promoted from 1942 to 1944 before emphatically rejecting it in his essay "Politics and the English Language". In this paper he deplores the bad English of his day, citing dying metaphors, pretentious diction or rhetoric, and meaningless words, which he claimed to encourage unclear thought and reasoning.

[5 seconds]

That is the end of exercise two. You now have 30 seconds to check your answers.

[30 seconds]

Exercise 3

You will hear six people talking about books and reading. For each of the speakers 1- 6, choose from the list, A to G, which opinion each speaker expresses. Write the letter in the space. Use each letter only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

First, you have some time to read the opinions A-G

[45 seconds]

Speaker One.

Speaker 1: Well, when you have a house full of books, you have to think how much easier it would be to have my library on an e-reader. However, I get a lot of pleasure from holding a book and turning the pages. I don't think I'll ever give up that pleasure for an e-reader.

[5 seconds]

Speaker 2: When I was, I don't know, eight or nine, I decided I hated reading. It was dull. It was schoolwork! I just wanted to get home and watch a movie or my favourite cartoon show. That attitude stayed with me through school. I discovered, or re-discovered, reading in my twenties, and now I can't get enough of it. If I'd read more before, maybe I'd have done better at school.

[5 seconds]

Speaker 3: The mistake people make is thinking science fiction is about aliens, robots and fantasy worlds. It isn't. It is all about the here and now. What I love is how science fiction lets me look at the world today in different ways, and to have a better understanding of reality.

[5 seconds]

Speaker 4: Oh, getting lost in a book is wonderful! I mean, you're not just sitting on a sofa, you are climbing Mount Everest, swinging through the vines in jungles, shielding your eyes from a blazing desert sun, or meeting a tall, dark stranger on a moonlit beach. Nothing else can do that. Not TV, not music. I've even been to places that were better when I read about them and disappointing in real life. Books for me, every time.

[5 seconds]

Speaker 5: What I don't like is when an author is trying to get me to believe in some wizard in a fantasy castle or dashing through the universe faster than light. That's just another form of magic. I need to believe what I'm reading, even if it is fiction. I want stories that could happen with people who could exist in places I could visit. If a book is about some Chosen One and their search for a magical sword … No, that's not for me.

[5 seconds]

Speaker 6: [*Laughs*] Well, now most of my real books have gone to the charity shops and I do my reading on screen, I've found new homes for my DVDs, stereo system,

ornaments and so many other things. My cats prefer the high shelf spaces as well. It has been very liberating, and my house looks much less cluttered. Books on devices are the future. No going back for me.

[5 seconds]

That is the end of exercise three.

Exercise 4

You will hear a podcast presenter talking to Alicia, from Italy, who plays football. Listen to their conversation and answer the questions.

For each question choose the correct answer, A, B or C. Write the letter, A, B or C in the space in your answer sheet.

But first, you have one minute to look at questions 19 to 26.

[60 seconds]

Interviewer: Welcome to Penalty Spot, the soccer podcast. Today, we're going to be talking to Alicia Belognisi, forward of one of Italy's leading women's football teams, and indeed for the national team. Born in 2004, Alicia looks to have a great future ahead. Alicia, good afternoon.

Alicia: Good afternoon. It's wonderful to be here.

Interviewer: Now Alicia, one thing I didn't realise is that you are still at school, aren't you?

Alicia: Yes, I'm still working hard at my Liceo classico and studying for my exams. And then I'm in training nearly every day. I sometimes wish I could read a book and kick a ball at the same time, but it's just not possible.

Interviewer: So, not much free time, then?

Alicia: None at all. But it's important. Football is my life right now, but most soccer players only have short careers, maybe eight years at most. It's important I have the education that gets me ready for my next stage in life.

Interviewer: And what will that be?

Alicia: *[Laughs]* Well, my parents want me to study business or architecture, but I think I'd like to study sports psychology and become a coach.

Interviewer: When did you start playing football?

Alicia: Mama would say just before I started walking! Seriously, I started when I was 6 years old. For three years, I gained experience playing alongside the boys of the local men's team's youth side.

Interviewer: What do you think about the fact that many girls start playing football with males, before moving to the women's teams? Is it true that it can give you something more?

Alicia: Yes, playing football with males at the beginning gives you an extra skill, even if at that age the physical difference is irrelevant. Playing with them helps you grow. I think it is the most beautiful experience I had as a child.

Interviewer: What memories do you have about playing football with boys?

Alicia: On my first day of training, everyone looked at me puzzled. You know, “What is she doing here?”. Then when I showed them I knew how to play football, they started to look at me with amazement. From that moment I felt I was one of them.

Interviewer: And now you are a part of one of the best teams in Italy. How did you feel when you joined them?

Alicia: When I was asked to go for trials at the team, I was confused and excited at the same time. I have always dreamed of playing in a women’s team, especially as important as they are. However, I felt the strongest emotions the first time I went into the locker room. I already wanted to give my best to this team, because it had the most advanced youth provision. It still does.

Interviewer: What do you think are your strengths this year?

Alicia: We are a young team with a great desire to achieve and improve things. Moreover, behind us we have players with great experience and many years of playing football. Our strength this year? Being a team!

Interviewer: And now you’ve joined the national team. What’s been your best moment so far?

Alicia: Oh, that would definitely be my first goal, in my first international match. I was really happy also because our opponents weren’t a team like Andorra or Mauritius. We were playing against Spain. They are two places above us in the international rankings. Spain is a great team.

Interviewer: Do you have any pre-match rituals or superstitions?

Alicia: Not exactly. Before every kick-off my friend and I look at each other and we both touch the Scudetto that we wear on the chest in order to charge and support each other for the match.

Interviewer: A Scudetto?

Alicia: It means "little shield" in Italian. It is a decoration, a cloth badge, worn by the football club that won the annual championship in the previous season.

Interviewer: Alicia Belognisi, thank you very much.

[5 seconds]

That is the end of exercise four.

Exercise 5

Part A

You will hear a man giving a talk about a special event for old cars. Listen to the talk and complete the notes. Write one or two words and/or a number only in each gap. You will hear the talk twice.

Before the talk begins, you have one minute to look at questions 27 to 36

Man: Good evening. Welcome to this meeting of the College car group. I've received today some very good news from the Royal Automobile Club, although some of you may have heard it already. The London to Brighton Veteran Car run, which was cancelled last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, is presently on for this year. For the benefit of our new members, especially those from overseas, I thought it might be useful to go through some of the basic details and rules.

If it does go ahead, this will be the 125th anniversary of the London to Brighton run. The first run celebrated the changes to the law in 1896 that meant two things. Firstly, cars were now permitted to drive at the breath-taking speed of 23 kilometres per hour. More importantly, it was no longer necessary for someone to walk in front of a car waving a red flag as a warning to pedestrians. The organisers intend for this year to be a major celebration event with possibly up to 500 participants.

The run covers a distance of 87 kilometres from London's famous Hyde Park to the less-famous Preston Park in Brighton on the south coast of England. There is an official stop for refreshments in the town of Crawley, 51 kilometres from the start. That's an opportunity for coffee and what the organisers call "fettling" – that means giving your vehicles a really good clean. Then you go across the hills called the South Downs and along the A23 road to Preston Park. That's the official finish, and if you make it, you'll get a medal. From there, the cars go to the seafront at Brighton where they are parked and pored over by members of the public.

Now this is a run for veteran cars only. That means more than your car being just old. Every car on the run must have been manufactured before 1905. There is another race for vintage cars, which are vehicles more than 30 years old. If you don't have a veteran car, don't despair. Many drivers want to take passengers who are willing to help on the run, especially those who are also prepared to dress up in period clothing. It is a great chance to make new friends and work with some beautiful vehicles.

The next thing that the organisers want to stress is that this is not a race. There is no winner. In fact, the organisers do not even publish the order in which cars finish. Participants are not permitted to exceed an average speed of 20 mph (32 km/h). And the roads are not closed for the race, so you will need to show consideration for other road users. There is no rush. At the maximum speed, you could be in Brighton by midday, even with a stop for fettling. In fact, you have until 4:30 in the afternoon to finish and be awarded your medal.

[10 seconds]

Part B

You will now hear a conversation between students Lily and her friend, Anwar, about the car run. Listen, and complete the gaps 37 to 40 with words or phrases that you hear. You must write no more than two words and/or a number. You will hear the conversation twice.

But first, you have half a minute to look at questions 37 to 40.

[30 seconds]

Lily: So, Anwar, are you going to go on the London to Brighton run?

Anwar: I'm not sure, Lily. I'm not that keen on old cars. I'm much more into fast, modern sports cars. Why? Were you thinking of entering your car?

Lily: Hey! My car may be old, but it's not that old! Don't be cheeky! However, I do know someone who is looking for someone to drive their 1904 Peugeot Bebe. My uncle, actually. Look, here's a photo.

Anwar: Hmm. Driving in an open car with no roof in November. Don't you think we'll get cold? I hate the cold.

Lily: Oh, you can be so soft sometimes, Anwar! A little bit of cold. That's part of the challenge, part of the fun!

Anwar: So why isn't your uncle driving it himself?

Lily: Because he's 78 and not up to it. He's not been able to drive the Bebe for years. He just wants to see his precious car driving along the Brighton seafront again, even if it's only on television. And I'm going to borrow some old clothes from the drama group. You'd look really good in a gentleman's suit and a top hat.

Anwar: I'd rather wear my national dress if I'm going to look really smart. My thobe and ghutra.

Lily: Oh yes! That lovely headdress blowing in the wind as we coast down the A23. And me in my long, white dress and matching hat. Wouldn't we look romantic?

Anwar: [*L*aughs] All right, you've convinced me! When do I get to meet your uncle and his car?

[10 seconds]

That is the end of exercise five, and the end of the listening test.