**Conversation One**

M: Background music is supposed to influence your attitudes and put you in the right mood. You’re not supposed to notice it, but it’s just there, in the background.

W: I’m not sure I like that idea.

M: Well, it seems to work. Companies pay millions of dollars every year for background music. It’s supposed to give you a better feeling about yourself and the people around you. 2）. Factories use it a lot. It makes the workers happy, and they work better that way. In one factory, music increased production by 4.5 percent.

W: I should think they’d get tired of hearing music all day.

M: They don’t though. One fellow in San Francisco told me, “ If the music stops, somebody always runs to the telephone to complain.’

W: Now that I think about it, I can’t remember when there wasn’t background music in restaurants and stores.

M: 3）.Actually, background music started during World War II when some factories had their own orchestras to keep workers happy and calm. Now, of course, the music is piped in by a machine, and different kinds of music are played at different times during the day. They play faster music at ten in the morning than at eight, for instance, because workers tend to be slower then.

W: What about restaurants? Do they play the same music for dinner and lunch?

M: I don’t know about that, but I do know that hamburger places play fast music. When they started playing faster music, 4）.they found that a customer spent only seventeen minutes eating. The time was twenty-two minutes before that.

W: So they have more people coming in and out to buy hamburgers.

M: Exactly. And that’s good for business. You can see why music has become so popular. In Los Angeles, for instance, thirty different companies are selling background music services.

W: I still think there’s something about it that I don’t quite like.

M: I know what you mean, but lots of people wouldn’t agree with you. The Xerox Corporation in Rochester, N.Y. spends more than $80,000 a year for background music. Prisons use it, and farmers use it to keep their cattle calm. It’s even supposed to have an effect on plants.

W: Well, it may calm cattle, but it’s not making me forget I’m hungry. Let’s try to get that waitress to bring us a menu.

**Questions 1 to 4 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

**Question1.** Where does this conversation take place?

**Question2.** What is the purpose of playing background music in a factory?

**Question3.** Which of the following is true about background music according to this dialogue?

**Question4.** How long did a customer spend eating in a restaurant with faster music?

**Conversation Two**

M: Hello Angela, I was expecting you. Welcome to the university. Take a seat.

W: Thanks.

M: Now, as you know we held the introductory session yesterday…so I’m going to run through the main points for you again. Just let me see… OK, so you are going on to do a master degree?

W: Yes, that’s right, I already have a first degree in Economics, so my Master’s degree will be in Business Studies and Marketing.

M: Well, I’m sure this preparation course will help you with that! So, let me tell you something about it. Basically, the course is divided into two main components: Academic Writing and Study Skills—both nine hours per week, and in addition you will get two hours of Social English.

W: Oh, that sounds like a lot of hours. I wasn’t expecting as many as that! Are there lessons　every day?

M: Yes, the Academic Writing classes are in the mornings and the Study Skills sessions are in　the afternoons—but not every afternoon, Wednesday is free. And you are free at the weekends, of course.

W: And the Social English?

M: That’s in the mornings too—let me give you your timetable and then you will be clear about when your classes are and who will be teaching you.

W: Thanks. Are there a lot of students on this course?

M: Oh, about 35—24 different nationalities—and there are 3 different groups. These groups are divided according to level. Anyway, to get back to the course, the writing classes will focus on academic writing and grammar and you will　have to do a final piece of writing at the end of the course.

W: What, you mean like a dissertation, or a long essay?

M: Well, more of a project report, really. So it doesn’t have to be too long—usually about 2,000 words, presenting findings from some research you will be expected to do.

**Questions 5 to 8 are based on the conversation you have just heard.**

**Question5.** In which field is Angela going to further her studies?

**Question6.** What does the preparation course consist of?

**Question7.** When will Angela have classes?

**Question8.** For which course will Angela write a project report?

**Passage One**

If you were a college student there are several things you should know about renting an apartment. First, you must know how to look for a place to live. Friends, teachers and other people you meet may know of apartments that are available. You may also find a place to live by looking in a　campus or see it in newspapers. In some towns, there are rental agencies that can help you find an　apartment, but think carefully about using agencies. Usually they will charge you a fee. You should　also walk around and look for buildings with “For Rent” signs.

　　When you go to look at apartments to rent, there are several things you ought to do. First, you　should find out if the apartment is safe. Be sure there are good locks on all the windows and doors. It is also a good idea to check all the appliances as well as the water and electricity to be sure everything is working. It might also be a good idea to talk to other people who rent apartments in the same　building. This will help you to find out if there are any problems.

　　If you decide to rent an apartment, the landlord would probably want you to sign a lease. This is a legal contract and you ought to read it carefully. You will also need to pay a security deposit. If　there is no damage the landlord has to return this money to you when you leave.

**Questions 9 to 11 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

**Question9.**  How many ways of finding apartments are mentioned in this talk?

**Question10.**  What does the speaker advise you to do to make sure the apartment is safe?

**Question11.**  What should you do if you decide to rent an apartment?

**Passage Two**

Many studies have been made recently about hand preference in human. They have brought　interesting results. It has been found, for instance, that many more men than women are left handed; that all children use both hands about equally until they are three years old; and that hand preference is not clearly marked until age six. Above that age, most people not only favor one particular hand, but they also have a favorite eye, a favorite ear and foot.

　　We know that the left side of the body is controlled by the right side of the brain. It seems that　this particular half is the seat of emotion, imagination, and of the sense of space. And, indeed, lefties　seem to be more creative than their right-handed fellow humans; they also seem to be more athletic　and to do better in some professions (like sports) require a good sense of space. In a large　school of architecture, it was found in 1977 that 29 percent of the professors and 23 percent of the　graduating students were left-handed, while lefties represent less than 10 percent of the general　population.

　　Lefties manage to drive, to sew, to paint, to use machines as well as any right hander. It is not　easy for them, however, to struggle with tools, school desks, automobile and television controls, and many ordinary objects. Fortunately the creation of Left-Handers International has attracted attention　to their problems and caused the appearance of special stores offering all sorts of objects for lefties, including wrist-watches, musical instruments, pencil-sharpeners, cameras, scissors, and books that　show them how to play left-handed guitar and left-handed golf.

**Questions 12 to 15 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

**Question12.**  According to the talk, when do children usually form their hand preference?

**Question13.**  What does the speaker think about the right-handers?

**Question14.** Which of the following are the left-handed people most likely to be good at?

**Question15.** Why are there more left-handed athletes?

**Recording One**

Hello, Ladies and Gentleman. I am very pleased to introduce our keynote speaker today, Dr. David Henry. Dr. Henry, the lead researcher from Birmingham University, has published a great many essays and works concerning the functions of the brain. Dr. Henry, please!

Dr. Henry:

Thank you for the introduction. Today, I'd like to talk about a discovery about our brain, that is, remembering makes us forget. Members of my research team watched the volunteers remember one memory which in turn caused them to forget another.

In the experiments we were interested in how the brain creates forgetting. And the challenge was that it's been quite hard to study forgetting because you can't really tell. So what you need to find is something in the brain that tells us what exactly a subject or participant is remembering at a given moment. So we developed a method that actually allowed us to track individual memories in the brain. We could directly watch the brain while it forgets. And that was quite exciting for us.

In our experiment, we used images which are all like famous people's faces or well-known places around the world or everyday objects, because they are quite well-known to our subjects already. So they are easier to remember in the first place. But also and probably more importantly we found that these pictures elicit（引起，勾画出） quite a distinct signature in the brain. **So** we can actually tell just based on a participant's brain activity.

You may ask what we have found when we looked at those signatures. Well, they told us when there were words that triggered a memory of two pictures at the same time, the more often we asked participants to only remember one of these pictures, the more we saw the brain picture of that or the brain pattern representing that picture coming up in the brain, but also the more the competing or irrelevant pictures were suppressed by the brain. And that suppression ultimately led people to forget those memories at a later point. So the basic phenomenon which always surprises people that namely that remembering causes forgetting has been known for quite a while. And it's been published in the 1990s. But the new thing about our study is really that we can actually watch the mechanism behind it. So we can watch the brain while it suppresses memories that it doesn't need any more.

**Questions 16 to 19 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

**Question16.** What does the introduction say about Dr. David Henry’s essays and works?

**Question17.**  What was the function of the method the researchers developed?

**Question18.**  Why did researchers use images of familiar things in the experiment?

**Question19.**  What can we learn from the research conducted by Dr. Henry’s team?

**Recording Two**

Lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation is one of the most pressing problems facing the developing world today. These two interrelated requirements are fundamental to healthy lives and prosperous communities, yet nearly 783 million people world wide do not have access to clean drinking water, and more than 2.5 billion people do not have access to safe sanitation for adequate disposal of human waste.

The consequences of inadequate access to water and sanitation are tremendous—diarrhea-related illness and disease, poor quality of life, public and environmental health problems, and low economic growth, but also factors that are far harder to quantify, like dignity and security. Nearly two million people die from diarrhea each year, many of them children under the age of five, living in the developing world. As the global population continues to shift toward urban areas, the challenge of ensuring access to water and sanitation is only expected to become more complex.

India is a case in point. Although the booming economy of the past decades has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty, rapid urbanization and an inadequate water delivery system and sanitation infrastructure are hindering further development. Thus, sanitation and clean water are the Government of India’s top developmental priority.

When President Barack Obama and India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi met in Washington in early October, they signed an agreement that will help bring clean water and sanitation services to all Indians. Consequently, in early November, U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, Administrator Rajiv Shah announced a new financial commitment of up to $20 million to support water and sanitation efforts in India.

Shah also announced a new Urban Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, or WASH, Knowledge Partnership with the India Ministry of Urban Development. Under the partnership, the United States and India, in cooperation with other key partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will share expertise and best global practices, and demonstrate innovative models in urban water and sanitation. Shah also announced USAID support for a new multistakeholder union that will stimulate a nationwide movement around healthy WASH behaviors.

“Together,” said USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah,” we are working to unlock opportunity for India’s most vulnerable people and pioneer solutions that will help end extreme poverty across the globe.”

**Questions 20 to 22 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

**Question20.** What does the speaker say about the consequences of inadequate access to water and sanitation?

**Question21.** What do we know about India’s economy from the recording?

**Question22.** What is WASH Knowledge Partnership going to do?

**Recording Three**

Artist Tiesheng Dai is one of the few Chinese residents remaining in the U.S. Capital’s Chinatown. He used to have two art galleries. But rent hikes forced him to close both of them. A sign outside the building is the only evidence they existed.

The area’s housing costs have been pushed up over the years by other ethnic groups flooding in. The Chinese population has shrunk from a high of 3,000 to around 300 today. Chinatown began to develop decades ago, as new immigrants moved there because most of them faced language and cultural barriers in other neighborhoods.

Tom Fong, vice chairman of the local chapter of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, says things gradually changed. “As quickly as the kids they bring over assimilate the English language, the parents actually lean on them. We don’t actually need a Chinatown English speaking translator or liaison to help get us there.” Most of the current Chinese residents have low incomes and receive government subsidies. Many live in Museum Square, one of Chinatown’s two affordable apartment houses. But the government subsidy for this complex expires in October, and the owner plans to replace the building with modern high-rise apartments. So the residents are being forced to move out.

Dai, the artist, has lived here for almost nine years. He says the remaining residents don’t want to move. “Some families with three generations are living together. Some of them have been here longer than me, for more than ten years. Some for 20 some years.”

If affordable housing is no longer available, the residents may not be able to stay in the Chinatown area, according to Derek Hyra, the director of American University’s Metropolitan Policy Center. Hyra says without Chinese residents, the local government cannot promote Chinatown as an authentic ethnic tourist attraction. “I think that cities that are more racially tolerant and ethnically and racially diverse tend to be the places that have the most innovation. There is association between diversity and economic development.”

And Tom Fong says, when it comes to retaining Chinese culture, Chinatown matters. “My hope is that my kids and their kids will have that touchstone of Chinatown to be a part of and come down here to perform lion dance, and to do Kong Fu and spread our culture, to retain our culture for generations to come.”

**Questions 23 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.**

**Question23.** Why have many new immigrants moved to Chinatown over the past decades?

**Question24.** What does the house owners of Museum Square intend to do without government subsidy?