Extract One *You hear two friends talking about a new office building.*

Now look at questions one and two.

[pause]

tone

Man: So, what's it like, working in that ultra-modern building?

Woman: Well, really weird at first, but I'm getting used to it. One thing is not having your own desk, but I've worked like that before. The latest thing is that you

get moved around different parts of the building.

Man: How are people coping?

Woman: Varying degrees of success, as you can imagine. The technology available is amazing – everybody has a mobile laptop, a mobile phone, so you can work anywhere – with others, by yourself, in a funky design space, in a space like a garden. That's a bit tough – people like to define and personalise their working area – they're really taken out of their comfort zone. Work isn't a place anymore. It's what you do that counts. Teams aren't fixed either. You can be in a different one each week. But there's plenty of direction and you know what needs to be done.

Man: How do you feel about all the moving around?

Woman: It's supposed to be healthier for you – I'm not sure. It hardly matches up to a session in the gym! But sometimes you can bump into somebody unexpectedly, and it's good to bounce ideas off each other. It's thought that'll make people focus better, on their output, but that remains to be seen.

Extract Two

You hear two friends discussing business travel.

Now look at questions three and four.

[pause]

tone

Man: So you're back from the Far East. Do you reckon the company'll be cutting back on trips like that?

Woman: Well, you'd hope they'd make more use of digital communication – things like video – but honestly, there's often no real alternative to face-to-face meetings. In certain circumstances anyway. I suppose it all comes down to being sure to book with the companies whose planes use bio-fuel. Responsible travel you could call it. Because there's no way I can foresee business travel doing anything other than growing in the future ... estimates put it between ten and fifteen per cent, or so I read recently in an analyst's report.

Man: That's certainly what they're saying – so let's hope airlines and rail companies worldwide will be responsible when it comes to planning. There'll have to be plenty of that to deal with the expected growth. All too often they just concentrate on immediate results – like the instant profit they seem to be obsessed with. Though obviously they do have to make things pay. And it's always a good thing for them if they can promote their plans by saying how much work will be provided. Above all though, what's needed is a strategy to cope with what future trends are likely to throw up.

Woman: You're right there.

Extract Three *You hear two friends talking about some research.*

Now look at questions five and six.

[pause]

tone

Woman: I saw a fascinating programme last night – about research into human self-interest.

Man: What's to research? Selfishness is just not giving others a second thought, surely?

Woman: No – there were experiments, they showed that when you give people a financial windfall, they're happier if you insist they spend it on themselves.

Man: Who wouldn't be?

Woman: You're missing the point.

Man: So what did the research consist of exactly?

Woman: Well … they gave two groups of people a sum of cash. One group could choose between keeping it or giving it to charity; the other group had to spend it on themselves. And this second group, virtually forced to be self-interested, turned out to be the happiest. Those that voluntarily kept cash were less happy – presumably because of the undertow of guilt of having made that choice.

Man: I'm glad I didn't have to! Not easy!

Woman: One thing I took from the programme was how it's a good idea to pre-commit to any activities that are 'self-interested'. So … make plans to see friends that are hard to break, buy cinema tickets for next weekend now. You see, apparently, the less freedom you have to back out, the more fun you'll have when the time comes, because doing something for others instead won't feel like an option.

Man: Hmm … that's an interesting angle.

PART 2

You will hear a man called Steven Kane giving a presentation about research into a cargo of children's bath-toys which were lost at sea.

For questions 7–14, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

You now have 45 seconds to look at Part Two.

[pause]

tone

Steven: Hi. I'm Steven Kane. I want to tell you about my research into a cargo of children's bath-toys, lost at sea, which turned up in some unexpected places. About twenty years ago, an American company ordered thirty-thousand plastic bath-toys from a Chinese manufacturer, packed in sets of four: a green frog, a red beaver, a classic yellow duck and a rather uncharacteristically blue turtle; these were dispatched by sea. But en route, a storm washed the cargo overboard, and somehow the container split open, releasing the bath-toys to float away on the waves.

So how did I get involved? I'm a college lecturer but not teaching anything like economics or even geography; media studies is my field. I set my students a vacation project and one guy based his on a TV programme about these bath-toys. It made fascinating reading. Ever since, I've been trying to trace them – temporarily giving up my academic career to travel the world in the process.

Every year since the accident, bath-toys have turned up as far as Hawaii and Northern Europe, but first appeared on the coast of Alaska where I began my search. There I met people whose hobby is beachcombing. They had hoards of bath-toys to show me, along with sneakers – part of another lost cargo – as well as the regular flotsam and jetsam discarded by the currents.

But the amazing thing is, through these discoveries the bath-toys have made an incredible contribution to scientific research. For example, to obtain information about tides and circular currents, oceanographers often release a small number of drift bottles with messages inside to track where they land – but here were thirty-thousand objects to trace and document. They've provided information that's been put into use right away in the shipping industry and should eventually prove invaluable to the oil industry.

I was having great fun, but some of this diminished in Hawaii, when I was shown how the bath-toys lose their identity, in the mass of marine pollutants covering some beaches there. Rumours abounded of poisoned dolphins and porpoises and I saw the remains of a seabird with thirty-two different types of plastic in its stomach.

So I decided to investigate other aspects of the bath-toys' journey, and travelled to China in search of the factory, which I thought of as their birthplace rather than their place of manufacture. I was able to track down not only the building, but also the machine they'd been made on and the person who'd operated it.

One final challenge was to follow the route of bath-toys to Europe via the polar ice cap. An easy option would have been to board an airliner, and get an idea of the vast frozen wastes from above – but I wanted to get through though, so I opted for enlisting as a crew member on an ice-breaker – no ordinary vessel this but one tasked with cutting a sea-passage through the frozen waste. We found no frogs or beavers but I felt a renewed respect for the toys' remarkable endurance.

PART 3

You will hear part of an interview in which two scientists called Jessica Conway and Paul Flower are talking about exploration and discovery. For questions 15–20, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which fits best according to what you hear.

You now have 70 seconds to look at Part Three.

[pause]

tone

Interviewer: Welcome to today's programme, where I'm talking to scientists Jessica Conway and Paul Flower about exploration and discovery. First of all Jessica these days surely everything on Earth has been discovered and mapped?

Jessica: Absolutely not – we've begun. You can use satellites to estimate the shape of the landscape under the oceans, for example, but it's only an estimate. In the Antarctic recently, investigating undersea volcanoes, we found a crater in the ocean floor, about four kilometres across and well over one kilometre deep and it wasn't on any map. We had no idea it was there. And that just amazed me, because there's nowhere beyond the shoreline where we can trip over such big geographical features that we don't already know about.

Interviewer: And are you finding many new animal species around these underwater craters?

Jessica: Well, as we get closer to finding everything out there, it's going to get progressively harder to find new species, but at the moment there's no sign of the rate of discovery slackening off. The real question is just how *many* more new species there might be there. At least one new species has been discovered every month over the thirty-five years we've been exploring deep-sea craters – and we've still got plenty left to record.

Interviewer: So you're clearly expecting to make similar geographical finds elsewhere?

Jessica: Sure, we're going to be exploring these sorts of features and comparing what we find for quite some while. There are still huge unexplored areas, so there'll be lots to focus our minds on in the coming decades, with the aim of all of us across different disciplines building up a kind of jigsaw puzzle of what exists where.

Interviewer: What do you think Paul?

Test 1 Key

Paul: Well ... our different backgrounds make for very different research methods but the ultimate goal is the same. For example, recent work on glaciers by a US researcher has helped me re-evaluate my own data on climate change. In this business the figures can alter from day to day and you have to keep on top of it.

Interviewer: Now Paul, you've actually walked where no one's ever walked before –what's that like?

Paul: Yes – every year I go to Greenland, climb new mountains and travel on previously untouched ice caps ... there are literally hundreds of these. There's a sense of freedom – I think that's what I get. You're still aware your body is exhausted, and yet by travelling to new areas every time there's this renewed feeling that this is where I'm meant to be. It's an experience like no other.

Interviewer: What about other people accessing remote areas?

Paul: You still see great areas where there are no roads, no villages, no permanent habitation whatsoever – despite the current population explosion and the need for development. I'm obviously keen to explore uncharted territory but not, of course, with the 'checklist' mentality of the wealthy globetrotter. These days of course everyone can go everywhere, it seems.

Interviewer: But surely in coming generations the urge to explore will begin to dwindle as these places are visited, catalogued, mapped?

Paul: I wouldn't want the next generation thinking, 'Huh! It's all been done before. And besides, I can get it all off the Internet.' Because you can't, you see. You can spend your life looking at a computer with the world's best search engines, but it's nowhere near the same as actually standing there on a mountain top. You can do all the research you like, but when you stand there, it's so intense, so life-giving, it doesn't matter that someone might have been there before, because now *you* are. And, regardless of your standpoint on green issues, I think people will always hold that view.