

Test 2

Section 1

Agent: Good morning. McMurray Real Estate, Peter speaking. How may I help you?

Susan: Hi, Peter. My name is Susan. I'm calling from Australia.

I'll be moving to New Zealand soon and I was hoping you could help me find somewhere to live in Auckland.

Agent: We'd be pleased to. I just need to get some information about what you want so we can find the perfect place.

Susan: Sounds good.

Agent: Let's start with some personal details.

What's your last name?

Susan: It's Smith.

Agent: And your phone number?

Susan: I only have a mobile. Is that OK?

Agent: That's fine.

Susan: OK. It's 614381997.

But if you want to contact me, usually the best way is by e-mail.

Agent: OK, what's your e-mail address then?

Susan: It's susan.smith@post.com.

Agent: Thanks. Now, you said you're living in Australia.

Susan: Right, in Brisbane.

Agent: OK, what's your address in Brisbane then?

Susan: 234 Becketts. That's B-E-C-K-E-T-T-S Road, Brisbane 4054.

Agent: Right. Will you be working in New Zealand?

Susan: Yes, I have a job at Auckland Hospital.

Agent: Oh, are you a nurse?

Susan: Most people assume that or think I'm a doctor, but actually I'm a chemist.

Agent: Oh, sorry.

Susan: That's OK.

Agent: When will you need the accommodation from?

Susan: Well, I don't start work until the 25th of February, but I'd like to give myself some time to settle in.

A couple of weeks would be nice. Let's say from the 10th of February.

Agent: Our leases start from a Monday and the Monday closest to that is the 8th of February. Would that suit?

Susan: That's fine.

Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you have some time to look at questions 4 to 10. Now listen and answer questions 4 to 10.

Agent: OK, let's talk about what kind of place you'd like to rent.

Susan: Hmm. I like the outdoors, so my dream would be a house that has its own garden.

Agent: Is there anything else you'd consider an apartment, for example?

Susan: I don't know. They usually don't have an outdoor area.

But I guess as an alternative, if you could find me one with a large balcony, I'd be happy.

Agent: How many rooms do you want?

Susan: Usually one-bedroom places are too small. Two would be ideal.

Agent: Now, what would you like to have in the place when you move in?

Susan: I'm bringing most of what I need with me.

I have beds and sofas and a television, all that sort of stuff, so none of that is necessary.

Agent: It sounds like you want a partially furnished house with a washing machine.

Susan: Actually, I'm bringing that too.

All I really need in the places is fridge.

I don't have one, so we'll definitely need one.

Agent: OK

Susan: Can you find something like that for around \$350 a week?

Agent: Well, I'll certainly try.

I'll start looking for places that cost around \$300 and see if there's anything suitable.

You definitely won't need to pay more than \$400 for something like that.

Susan: Oh, that's good. I couldn't pay more than that.

Agent: Alright, I'll see what I can find.

You're working at the hospital.

Do you want to live somewhere near there?

Susan: Most people think it's strange but I don't like living close to work.

But I'm a mad keen surfer, so it's important for me to be close to the beach.

Agent: OK, do you need to be near public transport?

Susan: No. I usually drive to work because I work a lot of shift work.

So wherever I live we'll need to have parking close to the door, so I won't have to walk far at night.

Agent: Anything else? I've heard that power bills can get quite expensive, especially in the winter.

It'd be great if electricity was part of the rent.

Susan: OK, just one last question for our records. Where did you hear about us?
You're...

Section 2

John: Good afternoon listeners. Thanks for tuning in to Four KB.

Jane Lewis is with us from Tourism Queensland to tell us about the annual Queensland festival.

Jane, welcome.

Jane: Morning John. So much is going on for the next couple of weeks in our festival here in the States capital of Brisbane.

The Music 10 opens this week and this will be an event not to be missed.

As the name suggests, the Music Tent is an enormous tent where musical performances and activities will be going on throughout the day for the next two weeks.

Monday is going to be really busy as it's a public holiday and the first day of the event.

It's going to be lots of fun.

But if you're free, it's probably a better option to leave it till Tuesday unless you love crowds.

The following day is when the master classes take place and this requires preregistration so you can't just turn up I'm afraid.

The weekend educational workshops were so popular last year that they have been extended this year.

They now run each afternoon from 1 till 4 o'clock before the evening performances start from 5.

If you're learning to play an instrument, these workshops are great fun, so make sure you get along there.

Tickets for the music tent to events are available from the door or you can purchase them at the ticket office located in the city centre.

For the best deal though, take proof of your home address to any library.

As a local resident, you will be able to purchase discounted tickets.

Apart from music, we'll also be celebrating our local history with a special walking tour around Brisbane City Centre.

Not to be missed on the walk is a tour of Macquarie House, the home of Queensland's first governor.

It has lovely gardens you can walk around or picnic in.

This building has a fascinating history because it was built on the very same spot where the first settlers landed, so it's really worth a visit if you enjoy learning about our local history.

No Australian event is complete without a Barbie and I think the Big BBQ is going to be fantastic.

It's not quite as big as the Millennium year BBQ, but there'll be local and international bands playing on the main stage for the first time this year at no extra cost.

As always, the food will be prepared by top local chefs.

My mouth is watering already.

I really recommend going along to the Railway Museum during the festival because trains are such an important part of Queensland's history.

On loan from Queensland Rail at the moment is our very first steam train.

You won't be able to see it in operation, but you can hop on board and have a meal in the old dining carriage.

There is also a wonderful display of uniforms that have been worn over the last 100 years.

Before you hear the rest of the talk, you have some time to look at questions 17 to 20. Now listen and answer questions 17 to 20.

Jane: Another really special opportunity is the return trip on our only remaining steam train, which runs from Ipswich to Toowoomba.

If you purchase a family ticket as well as a trip on the train, you'll receive a free Australian flag each to wave while aboard.

There is a small charge for the Ipswich Museum tour, but I think it's worth it as it makes an educational day out.

The documentary film you can see there is interesting, and it's well worth the \$2 entry fee.

On the return train journey, the kids get a lovely activity book designed to teach them about the history of the steam train.

Don't forget to bring your sunscreen and hats, it's going to be hot up there in Toowoomba at this time of year.

And finally, I'm going to tell you about an event called Our Favorite Place.

This is an opportunity for the public to vote for their favorite spot anywhere in the state.

Maybe a park or a restaurant, it's up to you.

You can vote even if you're not living in the area at the moment.

You can vote as often as you like by sending in the voting form or if you prefer, send a text message from any Australian mobile phone number with the name of the location. It's so easy.

Not much time left though, so get those votes in as soon as possible.

The winning location will be announced on the last Saturday of the festival.

Also remember that no age limit applies for this one, so this is a great way to get the whole family involved.

Well, thank you very much for that, Jane. Now we have music...

Section 3

Doctor Chang: Right, Ravi, tell me how the research for your assignment about children's outdoor play is going.

Ravi: Yes, well, I've been reading about why children spend less time playing outside now than 20 or 30 years ago.

Doctor Chang: So is it just because of the amount of online time that children have now, which obviously happens indoors?

Ravi: Well, if that was the case, there'd be a correlation between high Internet use and low levels of outdoor play.

And it's nothing to do with whether there are adequate facilities outside.

Playgrounds, for example, as any open space will do.

There's perhaps no single more important factor than parental worries about the dangers of vehicles on the streets.

Doctor Chang: But it could also be that children today prefer playing indoors to outdoors.

Ravi: Well, a study in Tokyo suggests it's the other way round, but children are spending more time in structured activities and out of school clubs than before.

And this has a knock-on effect on...

Doctor Chang: What's left for outdoor play.

Ravi: Right.

Doctor Chang: Your premise is that outdoor play is good.

What exactly do you want to focus on in your assignment?

Ravi: Well, not so much on things that apply to exercise in general, like children's muscles getting stronger because they run around.

And not on what seems, for instance, self-evident that outdoor play helps children to concentrate on things other than lessons.

Doctor Chang: Sure.

Ravi: I'd like to investigate some of the more unexpected benefits, like the children's digestion.

This is because fresh air tends to stimulate hunger, perhaps leaving to one side the question of whether climbing trees helps educate children about the natural world.

Doctor Chang: No, not really relevant.

What sort of decisions do outdoor games and activities force children to make?

Ravi: Well, for example, how they decide how dangerous something might be, and I'd like to outline the main findings on that.

Doctor Chang: OK. And as you're arguing that there's been a shift in play patterns over the last generation or so, how are you going to substantiate this?

Ravi: Yes, surveys have compared parents recollections of their childhood play 30 years ago with what their children do now.

And the nature of what children do when they are playing outdoors has changed.

Doctor Chang: How exactly?

Ravi: Well, surprisingly, it's not so much how often children play outside or preferences for large or small groups, but the fact that the play sessions don't go on for as long.

And games involving one child running after another who tries to get away.

These are still as popular as ever.

But one thing that is declined is improvised games, and I'd like to examine why this might be.

Doctor Chang: Interesting. And what about safety?

Ravi: Well, from my reading, serious accidents are still rare.

More kids hurt themselves falling out of bed than out of trees.

Before you hear the rest of the discussion, you have some time to look at questions 27 to 30. Now listen and answer questions 27 to 30

Ravi: I think the decline of outdoor play is a problem which should worry parents.

I mean, perhaps the children themselves don't miss it.

They may be happy to spend lots of time indoors.

But the links between inactivity and physical problems when they're adults are so well established that I think kids should be encouraged to spend more time outdoors with their brothers and sisters and friends.

Doctor Chang: What about schools?

Ravi: Well, what I think they should do differently regarding outdoor play and it wouldn't actually require a great deal of expenditure, is base their policy on different outcomes, like developing children's confidence.

Not just thinking about exam results, although I don't know how it would go down with the parents.

Doctor Chang: And do children get more contact with nature in rural areas?

Ravi: There's research on this by Smith and Barker.

Intuitively, you'd expect children in rural areas to spend more time out in the open, but in fact they are generally told to keep off agricultural land.

Plus there are difficulties with supervision outside towns and cities.

Doctor Chang: Right, and Smith and Barker's paper was published in...

Ravi: 2001.

Doctor Chang: Not the most up to date, but still valid to use.

But you'll need to stipulate very precisely that their focus was.

If I remember correctly, just on rural areas. So you'd need to consider how far their restricted findings might be applicable to urban areas as well.

Ravi: OK.

Doctor Chang: Right. So now I'd suggest you produce an overview of what you're going to cover.

Section 4

Good morning, everyone.

Now, you'll remember that last week we looked at the migration of people from the interior of West Africa to various coastal towns with special reference to Ghana.

Today we're going to focus on the people known as the Berbers who live in North Africa.

The Berbers inhabited this part of Africa as long ago as the 7th century, and their society was based on tribes which were scattered throughout a number of countries, Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Mali.

However, at some point in the 12th century, the area was invaded by Bedouin Arabs. These people destroyed the Berber's peasant economy.

As a result, many Berbers left their settlements to lead a nomadic life by wandering with their animals through the deserts and across the different mountains.

Over the centuries, many Berbers migrated to other countries like Spain and France to work as labourers, taking with them their culture and traditions, and their descendants remain there until this day.

Not all the barbers led a fully nomadic life.

There were three different groups.

Some became farmers, cultivating the lowlands in the winter and grazing their flocks of animals in the mountains during the summer.

They are called seasonal nomads.

Some Berbers who led a completely nomadic life tended to move from one oasis to another.

A third group settled by the oases and grew fruit and vegetables like dates and eggplants, as well as making olive oil, which they used for cooking.

Traditionally, Berbers kept cattle, sheep and goats together with oxen, mules and horses.

Now in the Sahel region of North Africa, that's the area South of the Sahara Desert.

The region became and still is becoming increasingly dry and arid, so the Berbers relied more and more on camels for transporting their families and their goods.

How did these different groups of people survive in such harsh conditions? Where did they live?

Well, Berbers who stayed put in one place, built single story stone houses for protection by quarrying the local rock, whereas nomadic Berbers carried their homes with them and erected temporary tents.

Settled Berbers developed various small-scale industries such as pottery making and weaving, but these tasks were generally left to the Berber women.

As you might expect, though, the life of a settled community was governed by the men who met regularly in the village square to discuss affairs and make decisions.

Now, let's turn to the Tuaregs, who belong to a nomadic Berber group and move mainly in the central and Western Sahara Desert, north of the river Niger.

The word Tuareg comes from the Arabic 'taarak' and means 'God forsaken'.

Dessert Tuareg carried tents made of strips of goat skins sewn together.

As many as 40 skins were needed to make a complete tent.

If the skins weren't available, they were of mats made of grass or palm leaves and hung them over a frame so that the tent looked like a humped dome.

Tuareg's society was traditionally very feudal and organised as a strict hierarchy, ranging from nobles or aristocrats downwards to labourers whose ancestors had once been slaves.

Tuaregs were famous for their warlike qualities and fierce independence.

In fact, one of the greatest insults was to suggest to a Tuareg that his father had died in his bed and not while fighting.

Tuareg men were sometimes called 'blue men', as all adult males wore a dark blue veil in the presence of women, strangers, and in-laws.

Legend had it that a Tuareg man couldn't be recognized unless he was wearing this veil.

But this custom of the veil began to disappear as more and more Tuaregs became urbanised and moved to the towns.

I mentioned earlier how dry the Sahel region has become and there have been very severe droughts over the past 30 years.

This has meant that the number of Tuaregs living in the area has declined.

Those whose animals were fortunate enough to survive have moved away from the southern Sahara into Burkina Faso in order to find new grazing lands for their herds.

If there's one city which people associate with the Sahara Desert, it's probably Timbuktu.

But what most people don't know is that Timbuktu was founded by Tuareg nomads almost 1,000 years ago.

The city became the focal point of the trans-Saharan caravan routes.

North African merchants flocked there to do business and trading in gold and salt flourished.

For many years, Timbuktu was considered inaccessible.

But today, what is left of the city attracts a small number of tourists.

The Tourism Department of the Mali government employs some Tuaregs who act as guides.

Essential, really, when you realize that it's only the Tuaregs who can find their way around the desert using the sand dunes as landmarks.

Right. I'll take questions now before I go on to discuss Tamasheq, the language spoken by the Tuaregs, which also has an alphabet called...