

## Test 2

### Section 1

Woman: Hello, Winsham Farm Centre.

Man: Oh, hello. I want to arrange a weekend away from myself and some people from work and we heard about your centre.

I wonder if you could give me some details.

Woman: Yes, certainly. We are a residential centre attached to a working farm and we organize educational activities for those guests who want them.

What else would you like to know?

Man: Well, firstly, what kind of accommodation have you got?

Woman: We've got 8 rooms altogether and we can sleep 38 at any one time.

Three of the rooms have got 6 bunks and five of them have got 4 bunks.

Man: Right? And what other facilities are there?

Woman: We have separate toilets and showers for each of the rooms.

There's a large dining room and a large meeting room which can be booked by groups in advance, but I'm afraid we had a flood in there last month and the floor was slightly damaged.

So unfortunately, it's out of use just now.

We've got workmen coming in next week.

When were you thinking of staying?

Man: In three weeks' time, the 28th of September.

Woman: Oh, it should be OK by then.

Man: Oh, well that's OK then. Uh, and what about food?

Do you provide meals or is it self-catering?

Woman: We're very flexible.

As long as you give us enough notice we can cater for you or if you prefer you can just bring your own food and use the kitchen facilities.

And some people prefer to eat out, which is also fine.

Man: Fine. And I heard that your farm is organic.

Does that mean that you only have crops and no animals?

Woman: It doesn't actually. A lot of people seem to think that.

But we do real livestock as well, and so we have a wide range of food.

Organic means it's all produced without the use of artificial fertilizers or pesticides.

Man: I see that sounds good.

Um, could you tell me what sort of recreational activities are available either at the center or in the area?

Woman: Yes. Here at the centre we offer farm tours.

They're very popular.

One of the farm managers shows people around and explains some of the principles of organic farming.

And for any visitors who are really keen, he let them drive a tractor or feed the animals and so on.

With supervision, of course.

Man: I think a lot of our group would be interested in that it makes a change from factory work.

Woman: Well, if they fancy it, tell them to come prepared.

Plenty of old clothing, especially footwear. It can be very messy and wet.

Man: OK, I'll warn them.

Before you hear the rest of the conversation, you have some time to look at questions 5 to 10. Now listen and answer questions 5 to 10 .

Woman: And another type of activity we do is survival courses.

But that's only for groups of five or more.

And they've got to be acquaintances.

They have to cooperate closely.

These courses are very popular, especially with school groups, but adults seem to enjoy them too.

Man: What do they involve, things like map reading?

Woman: Well, not exactly what it is.

We've got a large area of woodland on the farm, and we run this course there.

It's mainly about collecting food and water, lighting a fire without any equipment, that kind of thing.

Man: Ah, this weekend could be hard work.

What about the area around the center? What is there to do?

Woman: If you look at a map, you'll see that we're very well situated here.

Our center is about midway between the Exmoor National Park, which is very popular for hill walking, and the south coast, which has very good beaches.

Man: Are they both within walking distance?

Woman: Well, they're both a bit far unless you're very fit, but they're only about 30 minutes by road.

And there's also a cycle path which starts quite near here, about 10 minutes' walk away.

You can hire bikes at the starting point.

Man: What is there to do if the weather is bad?

I hope it won't be, but you never know.

Woman: Yes, that's right. Well, on most Saturday evenings we show films here.

And then once a month a group of local musicians performs in our meeting room.

Man: Mm.

Woman: And then Sherborne is only 14 miles away.

It's only a small town, but it's got a very good museum and an old abbey, which is well worth a visit.

Man: Well, it sounds perfect for our purposes.

One last thing, what about prices?

I'm not sure yet, but they'll probably be about 15 of us.

Woman: We charge a standard £14 ahead for accommodation whether there are 10 or 20 of your whatever, and about £7 for cooked meals, depending on the menu you want.

Use of the kitchen facilities is extra, as is the higher of the meeting room.

It depends really what exactly you want and for how many people.

Man: Right. Well, I've made a note of all that and I'll discuss it with the rest of the group and then I'll get back to you with a firm booking.

Can I do that by phone?

Woman: Yes, you can.

But once you've made a booking, we would need a deposit within five days to secure it.

Then you just pay the balance when you're here.

Man: Oh yes of course. Could you give me the address please?

Woman: Yes, it's Wincham Farm, Cotehel Road.

That's C-O-T-E-H-E-L-E, near Sherburne and the post code is SH121LQ.

Man: Thank you.

## 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

Jamie: Hi, Martha. Do you have time to talk?

We have to submit our evaluations of our course next week and I thought it would be useful to discuss what we both think.

Martha: Good idea.

That would help refresh my memory, especially about things we did in previous years.

Jamie: I agree. So let's talk about the modules we took.

What about statistics for environmental research?

I've always been hopeless with numbers, so I thought that I'd learn a lot.

Martha: But you know, it wasn't at a high enough level for me.

I actually had to do a lot of reading on my own.

Jamie: Me too. I had to get an additional reading list from the tutor.

Martha: Now. Sewage and Drainage Systems. I wasn't looking forward to that one.

Jamie: Not exactly a pleasant subject, but you know, the module convinced me that it's an essential topic to understand for both cities and rural environments.

Martha: Right. And in the end, not a boring subject.

Jamie: Not at all. It was quite a revelation.

Martha: The module on agriculture and food security could have been good.

Jamie: But the assigned readings were only those ancient government publications.

Martha: And the lecture notes clearly hadn't been updated for years.

Jamie: I know. What about the module on sustainable energy?

I really got into the project we had to do to invent something functional.

I devised a windmill to power my laptop.

Martha: Yep, the projects were great, so hands on though the personal battery charger I built never really worked.

Jamie: Too bad, but I'm sure you learned a lot, nonetheless.

Martha: I did. And the government policy module?

I wish it had included policy in other countries. It was a bit inward looking, I thought, focused just on this country.

Jamie: I mentioned that to the lecturer, but she said it was best to concentrate on one country in depth at first

Martha: Maybe. And there was that module called water management.

I must admit I got lost in the discussion about the issues of groundwater levels and flood risk management, which weren't that essential.

Jamie: You weren't the only one.

Before you hear the rest of the discussion, you have some time to look at questions 29:33. Now listen and answer questions 27 to 30.

Martha: OK. I thought some aspects of the course organization were particularly helpful.

Can we talk a bit about that?

Jamie: Of course.

Martha: Actually, I was disappointed that I couldn't take any module whenever I wanted.

Jamie: That's true. But the variety of modules on offer was a strong point and meant I managed to cover a lot of subjects.

Martha: Me too. More than I expected.

Jamie: I had wanted to finish the course early by doing an extra module each time. Which would have been useful, but unfortunately that wasn't allowed.

Martha: I had to wait to do some modules which I found hard to schedule and I think more assigned reading for the modules would have made the lectures easier to follow.

Jamie: That would have been good.

But I was pleased that the course organisers were able to provide modules focusing on real life issues which we can apply later when looking for jobs.

Martha: True, and I would have hated it if it had all been theory.

Jamie: What about the written paper we had to do for Doctor Brown?

Are there any things we could suggest to improve the way that's handled?

Martha: Well, I got lots of help from Doctor Brown and his assistant in narrowing down what I wanted to write about.

Jamie: Yes, they stopped me from doing something too ambitious.

But choosing a topic right at the beginning of the module was difficult.

Martha: Maybe he could postpone the decision until halfway through the term.

Jamie: Good idea. I was happy with the word limit for the assignment though.

Martha: Well, as usual, I could have written on and on, but the limit made me refine my thoughts, so it was OK in the end.

Jamie: I wish I could have had a session with Doctor Brown after he'd marked my written paper.



I know it would be time consuming, but it would have been really useful.

Jamie: Actually, I was satisfied with Doctor Browns written feedback.

It was amazingly detailed, so I don't think I needed more.

Martha: But I wish they could arrange sessions where students get together and help each other before submitting their written work.

Jamie: Good idea. If they provided time for that, it would be quite convenient.

Martha: Right. Now that we've almost finished our course, it's time to think about our career prospects.

What type of organization do you hope to work for?

## Section 4

Welcome to this lecture in the Health Sciences, intended to inspire you and get you thinking about your research project.

Today I want to show you how even ordinary human behavior like sneezing, which normally happens when you get a cold, may be worth studying.

Have you ever been walking outside when a bright shaft of sunlight hits you between the eyes?

The reaction of some people is immediate, an unpleasant prickling in the nose, an increase in their breathing rate and an uncontrollable watering of the eyes.

Then, almost as quickly, they sneeze and gain relief. This may happen every time they go into the sun.

This so-called photic or light sneeze is a reflex, which means it can't be controlled and it's very common.

Anything between one in ten and one in three people might be affected.

In fact, a sneeze is triggered by an irritation of some sort in the linings of the nostrils.

The result is a cascade of reactions, beginning with the stimulation of the nerve endings all over the face and generating an explosive expulsion of air at up to 95 miles an hour, like an extremely localized personal hurricane.

The body's coordination of such reactions is complicated and belongs to the subconscious control hardware that regulates other things, for example, tears in the eyes.

People have been interested in the phenomenon of photic sneezing for thousands of years.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle asked why does the sun prompt us to sneeze whereas the heat of a fire does not?

A partial answer came 2000 years later, when the English philosopher Francis Bacon showed that his photic sneeze had nothing to do with heat.

If he closed his eyes when going into the sun, he didn't sneeze, even though the heat was still there.

Henry Everett, a consultant psychiatrist at John Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, was the first to make a systematic attempt to understand the condition.

Noting in 1964 that 30% of the staff employed in the medical department were photic sneezers, Everett did some further investigation.

He found that while 80% of sneezers reported other sneezes among their relatives, only 20% of non sneezers did.

Now, there are factors that are certain indicators of a photic sneeze.

First of all, those with the condition almost always sneeze a set number of times on exposure to light.

In addition to this, the sneeze depends on a contrast in visible brightness, such as when the sun moves out from behind a cloud.

And the sneezing fit won't be repeated immediately.

The body needs time before it can be recharged, so if you go back into a darkened space and then immediately re enter bright light, you will not sneeze again.

Now on to possible applications of research in this area, the photic sneeze had long been overlooked because its effects are generally less than serious, although the government did once study it as a risk factor for pilots

Yet work on such a simple disorder might lead to important discoveries on more acute conditions, such as migraine or epilepsy, which are also caused by cross wires in the nervous system.

That is why I encourage you to select something similar for your first investigative medical project.

It could be the beginning of something even more useful. Now let's talk about the project timetable.