

GOING FOR FINALS AHS B1

1 Saint George and the Dragon

You are going to listen to an old legend.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–9.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Saint George is the patron Saint of England. Not too much is known about him with historical certainty, so any 'facts' about the man are actually history's best guess. He was probably born in an area which is now Turkey, in the 3rd century AD. His parents were likely Christian and George was probably a Roman soldier. Historians believe that he protested against the violent treatment of Christians in Rome and so he was tortured and put in prison but stayed a Christian until he was killed.

The most famous part of Saint George's life is a legend about a dragon. Saint George was travelling in Libya when he met a poor man who told him that a dragon was terrorising the country. People had fed it sheep, but now it wanted to eat the townspeople. They drew names at random out of a hat and the king's daughter's name was chosen. The poor man explained to Saint George that unless a knight was found, who could slay the dragon, the king's daughter would die the next day. He also told Saint George that the king would give his daughter in marriage to any champion who could kill the dragon.

When St. George heard this story, he was determined to try and save the princess and so he rode his horse to the town where the dragon lived. When he arrived at the place, he saw a line of women, led by a beautiful girl dressed in pure Arabian silk. The princess was being taken to the dragon. Saint George rode faster to talk to the ladies. He comforted them with brave words and told the princess to return to the palace. Then he went to find the dragon by the lake.

As soon as the dragon saw him it rushed from its cave, roaring with a sound louder than thunder. Its head was immense and its tail fifty feet long. But St. George was not afraid. He struck the monster with his spear, hoping he would injure it.

The dragon's scales were so hard that the spear broke into many pieces and St. George fell from his horse. Fortunately he rolled under a magical orange tree which protected against poison. The dragon was unable to hurt him. Within a few minutes Saint George had recovered his strength and was able to fight again.

He cut the dragon with his sword, but the dragon threw poison at him and Saint George's armour broke apart. Once more he refreshed himself from the orange tree and then he rushed at the dragon and stabbed it under the wing where there were no hard scales, so that the dragon fell dead at his feet.

The king and his daughter were eternally grateful and festivities went on for a whole month.

2 Working with Helicopter Pilots

You are going to listen to a woman speaking about her job with the Marines.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–7.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

My name is Lynn Shaefer and I'm a civilian family readiness officer for HMLAT 303 which is a helicopter squadron at Camp Pendleton, California. My job is to make sure that the Marines and their families know about all the resources that are available to them in the community and through the Marine Corps. There are a lot of things out there and it's confusing if they don't know where to look for things for jobs or things for babies or parenting, education, marriage counselling, other kinds of counselling, just what sort of activities are around, things that are happening that they can be a part of, how to make friends and connect. Most of the people come here from someplace else and they don't know other people so they don't have family local and it's helpful to know where other people are and things that they can do together.

My day-to-day job – I have Marines come and check in with our unit and check out with our unit. We are a training squadron so we have a lot of people coming through the doors. We've probably had about 100 people coming through on a monthly basis, which is a whole lot. Most units – they get Marines assigned to them and they are there for quite a while and then they deploy and then they come back and then those Marines go someplace else. So they may have a few check-ins at a time versus ours where we just have so many people coming through.

We train helicopter pilots in this community for two different kinds of helicopters, the Hueys and the Cobras and those are two what are called 'skid helicopters' – they don't have wheels on them and we also train aircrew students. So, the Marines are gonna fly in the helicopters that are their aircrew as well. So once they leave us they go to another unit what they call a line squadron or deploying squadron. They continue to train with them as well and learn more and more. Ultimately go on a six month or seven month deployment. Then they come back and they can end up going to a different unit or back to that one.

I love my job. I'm very, very fortunate to have this job. I can't serve in Afghanistan but I can serve here and it just ... it's a lot of different skills that I use. I also help plan the activities that we have, we have activities for the spouses, activities for the whole unit, activities for the single Marines. I also help with the volunteers. A lot of spouses like to volunteer so I have volunteer management as well. So it's never boring and every day is a little bit different but I love what I do.

3 The V-sign

You are going to listen to a woman speaking about a historical weapon.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) to complete the sentences 1–7.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

It's actually a common misconception that the British way of flicking people off with the index and middle fingers is some sort of variation of a peace sign which in America it is. But actually this gesture dates all the way back to the 14th century during the Hundred Years War and it's intimately tied in with the history of the English longbow which is arguably the most important development in weaponry that has ever taken place.

During the Hundred Years War it was traditional in warfare that only the noblemen take part. Peasants were not even allowed to own a sword let alone take part in warfare. Warfare was a noble art and a way to get rich quickly.

Well, during the Hundred Years War the French were famous for their use of the crossbow, whereas the English were known for their use of the bow and, at this time, a new development had taken place – the English longbow – which changed the way that warfare was conducted. This bow was not the short three foot or one metre length that a traditional bow is but rather it was huge, at least the height of a man if not more. It was very difficult to use but cheap to make, easy to buy and relatively easy to learn how to use and this development allowed peasants, for the first time in history, to take place in warfare.

So, for the first time the English could vastly outnumber the French in war by throwing hundreds of peasants against a very small group of French nobility. Well, of course, the French greatly resented this development and thought that warfare was no place for a peasant, that this was the noble arena and whenever they captured an English longbow man they would actually cut off his index and middle finger so that you could no longer pull back the bowstring. So when insulting the French at a distance, English longbow men would then raise their index and middle fingers, in what we now recognise as a peace sign gesture, to show that they still had their fingers and that they could still kill Frenchmen.

4 Building Models for a War Game

You are going to listen to a boy speaking about his hobby.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) to complete the sentences 1–6.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Hi I'm Charlie and I'm 12 years old and my hobby is collecting, painting and building models. When you get your models in a box, they will come in certain frames, with which you will use pliers to cut them out and then glue them together using plastic glue.

When you've assembled your models you will undercoat them using a spray paint of black or white depending if you're gonna be doing a dark or light colour scheme. And then after you've painted them you will do certain base coats, then layering and then weathering effects and stuff.

I do this every ... I do about half an hour each day, except if I have a friend round for like a sleepover or something and on half terms or on holidays of some sort I would usually go into the games workshop store in either Newbury or somewhere like that and I will play games using the models, table top games using the models.

When you will play a game, you will decide on a points cost of each army you field. In those points, you can select a unit and certain units with certain upgrades will cost certain points. For example, a normal person or a soldier will probably cost about six points and the average game is about 1500 points.

Most of the time when you will start fielding, you'll get certain vehicles and stuff which will fill up quite a lots of your points but they will be quite effective in game at destroying stuff.

You win using victory points. You get these victory points depending on what game type you're playing. At the beginning of a game you may choose, if it's alright with your opponent, or you will roll a die. Depending on what number you get or on what you decide it will depend on how you can win victory points.

Okay, well that's quite interesting. So what's your favourite part about collecting, painting, building models?

When I field them on the table and watching their faces as I utterly destroy them.

...

5 The Ferryboat

You are going to listen to a man speaking about life as a landlord.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for questions 1–7.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Hi, my name is Graham Dednum. I am the landlord and owner of *The Ferryboat* in Whitchurch-on-Thames, based in England in a lovely country village just west of the River Thames.

And when we open the doors, of course, we have to make sure that we've got the right number of staff in place to serve the customers that are anticipated for that shift and that can be anybody any from two or three staff operating up to five or six in front of house plus all the staff in the back room, be it the kitchen areas et cetera et cetera because, of course, we have to prepare the food, that's what the chefs will do between 10 and 12 and then obviously we need to make sure people are there to clean up all those dishes after people have eaten.

Typically you would work, the business will operate from 12 'till 3 at the lunchtime shift. We will then, at the end of that shift, we'll check everything again to make sure all the stocks are being replenished in front of bar because we don't want to show empty bar or fridges or anything – it doesn't look good. And we will then obviously re-clean every area to make sure it's ready for our evening service that goes from 6 o'clock usually until around 10 as far as food is concerned. But as far as our drinkers are concerned ... and that can go on sometimes til very early in the morning.

The good things are it's lovely to meet people and to open up conversation with them and find all the things you may have in common. You learn something every day from people who've lived in the area, who tell you a bit more history about the village, about the pub 'cause it's got a good history going back many, many years. It's a 300-year-old pub so it's got a good history about it. And some people in the village will like to tell you their stories about their life in the village and then you get other people who've moved away from the village perhaps and come back for a meal or to visit friends. That's always good to engage in conversation with people. So that's one of the plus sides. The downside, of course, is there are long hours and everybody thinks that running a pub and a restaurant is easy. It certainly is not; it is very demanding. You get good customers, you get the bad customer and you get the real awkward customer and so you have to draw on all your diplomatic skills to handle those situations.

6 First Year Teacher

You are going to listen to a woman speaking about her job.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) to complete the sentences 1–8.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Okay so I'm Zu. I am a teacher of French and German at a secondary school. I did my German degree at King's College and I studied my PGCE at the University of Hertfordshire.

So my first year of teaching has been a rollercoaster. A lot of people say that it's very much a rollercoaster ride and I can definitely say that it has been. Starting from the very beginning it was very hard and very embarrassing at the same time to establish control with my classes.

So one of the very first things that I remember is that ... some of my Year Ten students who are 14 years old walked into my classroom for the first time. I tried to make an effort by wearing heels and I was standing in front of the desk and I was greeting them and talking to them about the course and then one of the boys whispered all of a sudden 'Oh my goodness, she's wearing heels!' So we established the fact that I was short very, very early on and that's played a running joke ever since.

The highs, definitely, I've been receiving lots of presents from my students and lots of thank you cards. I did get a lot of Christmas presents from my form which was quite nice. I didn't expect that at all, but I did. And you know it's nice to see that the work I'm putting in is helping my different classes progress. So yeah, definitely riding on a high at the moment.

Okay, but what is bad about the job?

Definitely the time and the preparation that you need to put in in your own time. So I'll go home and I'll work for another two or three hours every night and I usually work on a Sunday as well. I enjoy it but it can be tedious at times.

And what is the most difficult part of being a teacher?

That's a hard question, Helen! I would have to say it would be behaviour management, for me, maybe not for everyone but definitely for me. Establishing my discipline and making sure that people are listening to what I have to say and sometimes that can be quite hard and it's hard not to get emotional about these things and keep a very clear face and kind of battling through it because it's worth it in the end – it works and, you know, my classes are a lot more settled than they were at the beginning of the year. It just takes a long time.

7 Best Baguette in Paris

You are going to listen to a podcast about a bread making competition.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, match the questions (1–8) with the answers (A–K).*
- *There are two answers that you should not use.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Everybody knows that if you want to find a baguette, the city to go to is Paris. Despite reports that the French are eating less bread than ever before, the bakery remains a cornerstone of daily life in France, and 10 billion baguettes are sold nationwide each year. The baguette is so sacrosanct, in fact, that since 1994, the city of Paris has hosted an annual blind tasting to find the capital's very best examples. Each year, one bakery is selected among 10 finalists to receive a €4,000 or \$5,500 prize and the contract to supply the French president's residence, the Elysée Palace, with 40 baguettes a day.

The 2014 winner was chosen last month by a jury of professionals and volunteers who judged 187 baguettes by taste, smell, crispiness, appearance, and “la mie”, a word that describes the inside, or fluffy white part, of the bread. Fifty baguettes were eliminated because they did not conform to length, weight and salt-level specifications.

The prize went to Anthony Teixeira, 24-years old, from “Aux Delices du Palais” in the 14th arrondissement. Although his father, Antonio, received the same honor in 1998, the younger Mr. Teixeira was not content just to copy the family recipe. For the past two years, he would spend his early morning hours perfecting his special blend of flour, salt, water and leavening, he told a French magazine.

This is also the second year in a row that the prize went to a baker in the 14th arrondissement; the 2013 winner was the French-Tunisian baker Ridha Khadher of “Paradis du Gourmand”, who is among the recent laureates with an immigrant background. But for most of the past decade the 18th arrondissement has enjoyed a veritable monopoly on the prize. Since 2007, six winners and many more finalists have come from this district, which is home to the former artists' enclave of Montmartre and a large African immigrant community.

Theories abound about why the 18th produces so many great baguettes. But Djibril Bodian, who won the prize in 2010, has noted that his street, the Rue Des Abbesses, is home to two baguette laureates and several serious contenders. “That kind of competition,” he said, “requires us always to have a better product.”

8 How Lucky Can You Be?

You are going to listen to a woman recalling events from her childhood.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, match the sentence beginnings (1–9) with the sentence endings (A–L).*
- *There are two answers that you should not use.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

I'm Mary, I'm 85 years old, so I'm reminiscing a long way back – more than 70 years – when the war was coming close to its end, but we didn't of course know that. But one day a continuous, unbroken line of lorries, tanks, marching soldiers came through our small, Scottish village. We didn't know why, but it lasted several days. I can't remember of course now but it would be about three or four days.

And we had a yard, which my father opened up and the poor soldiers were so grateful. They could go to sleep under a proper roof and better still, they could have a bath with hot water. I mean, when they ever had another one, God help them, I don't know. But we introduced them to the yard and we had two enormous boilers with fires underneath. They stood by themselves and that was lit, filled with water and lit, and the old bathtub brought out, my mother's wooden wash tub. And the soldiers could luxuriate and they could bathe blistered feet. My mother brought out bandages and ointment. We didn't have much – everything was rationed in those days, even potatoes! But we did what we could and more than we could. I mean, there's no doubt about it, the odd illegal animal was slaughtered on farms and the meat cut up and passed around. So we did our best for the soldiers.

And I was taking my little sister to the library. As usual, this endless, seemingly endless line of tanks, lorries, soldiers were coming down the hill. And suddenly there was a horrible noise, yells and screams, and I turned quickly and the tank was coming straight for me. It is something you don't forget, the underbelly of a tank. Somehow I shoved my little sister behind me, not that that would have done any good, and the tank stopped and there we were, between the two caterpillar wheels of the tank. How lucky can you be? We could have been squashed like flies and the poor driver clambering out absolutely white-faced. "Are you alright? You're alright." And there we were, stuck, having to be lifted out. Alive, unhurt. Call that luck.

9 Security in an American High School

You are going to listen to a school supervisor.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, match the sentence beginnings (1–8) with the sentence endings (A–K).*
- *There are two answers that you should not use.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

I started here 20 years ago, working on the campus as a campus supervisor. And 20 years ago we kind of had an open campus where all kids could come and go. They could leave when they wanted to and everything. But as the years went on, things started getting bad to where we had like – not in this neighborhood exactly but other neighborhoods – the kidnappings and just kids going off campus doing things they shouldn't be doing. So as the years went on they decided to start putting up gates and trying to restrict kids from going off campus, even going to their cars because they started using their cars for – you know – different reasons for either going out and having a cigarette or selling drugs or something of that nature here and that's been all around not just Carlsbad, Carlsbad's actually a pretty nice school.

So as of, I want to say, about 5 to 10 years ago they really started putting gates up and they let the kids go out but they kind of monitored it a little bit more. We had people in the parking lots and everything. When it came to two years ago we had a new principal come in, named Matt, Dr. Steitz, and he started to incorporate the lockout system. And it came to pass basically he tried it a little last year and he started bringing it to the kids' attention. It was just the freshman who couldn't leave campus last year. So then this year he started to go freshman and sophomore. And the way we're doing it is each kid has an ID card and it has their picture on it. The underclassmen's cards are purple and the upperclassman's cards are white so we can tell who is who. If you have a sticker on your card which is a one through six that means ... If there's a three on there that means you have an off campus period, third period. You can leave third period. Or you don't have a class third period. So it makes it real easy for the security system to do that.

We man all the gates basically and he would like to try to keep the kids on campus, get to class on time and this actually is working, it's working. I mean the first day that we incorporated it we had maybe 247 kids tardy the first day. And the second day it broke about a third – it went down to about 160. And now kids are actually starting to hustle to get to class. It seems we've done really well. Now the thing we're still trying to do is make them all carry their ID cards and it's coming around really well so I see a big change and I think it's gonna help this school a lot.

What are the police doing outside?

The police, he's here as a resource officer only. He goes to classrooms and he speaks to classrooms about the rules of, you know, the police officer's rules: what the kids can do and what they can't do. Kids get to ask questions and everything else. He's not here to arrest, he's just here to educate more than anything but at the same time it's always good to have him here just in case we do have a problem situation then there's one on campus.

Why do you have a bicycle?

I like to stay in shape, for one. We have carts also but I can get round a lot faster on a bike and at the same time I get my exercise in. I can get in places in which a cart can't get to and I can get there a lot faster than another person who's trying to walk or run there, so I started bringing this in maybe 8 to 9 years ago and it's stuck. So I decided I'm just going to keep doing it.

10 My Favourite City

You are going to listen to five people speaking about the city they love most.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, match the speakers (1– 5) with their statements (A–J).*
- *Each letter can be used more than once.*
- *There are two extra statements that you should not use.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first two (0 and 00) have been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Speaker 1:

I love Alexandria, Virginia, for my husband and I lived for a number of years when he was in the Pentagon. Alexandria was the town or city closest to Mount Vernon where George Washington, the father of our country, had his home. And he used to ride his horse or take his carriage for a couple of days travel to come into Alexandria to Gatsby's Tavern and celebrate his birthday or go to his doctor or his dentist who lived in Alexandria. And my husband and daughter and I have lived in Alexandria for a number of years. It's right on the Potomac River and it's just a beautiful scenery.

Speaker 2:

My name is Joe Stewart. I have to say that Paris is my favourite city. I was first in Paris in 1956, again in 57 and now I can't remember how many times I've been in Paris, maybe eight times. I like Paris because I like to walk around the city of Paris and just look around and see everything and go into the residential area. And the good restaurants they have in Paris and have my chocolate. And of course the museums in Paris are probably the best in the world unless the museum in Russia may be a little better.

Speaker 3:

My favorite city? My favorite city is Florence in Italy. I absolutely love it. The city is just so beautiful and the surroundings are wonderful – the hills with the olive groves on it where I used to go camping with my parents when I was very young. I loved it as a teenager. And then of course my most favorite thing is the Uffizi where you can see all those big paintings by Botticelli who's always been my favorite painter if you want to know who my favorite painter is, ever since I was little. So, so no doubt.

Speaker 4:

Well, I would have to say San Francisco. It is a beautiful terrain and it has many wonderful hills and they have the trolley or tramcar. You look out over the bay and many beautiful flowers are there at certain times of the year. And it's cool – it's not like Texas.

Speaker 5:

And my favorite city is New York City because it is not just a city for one people. It has different areas. Depending on where you are, you can think you were in Mexico, you might think you were in China. You have areas where there are mostly Italian people but that's not all. There are so many museums of all different kinds and for all different interests where you can spend days and days and see something new every time. That's why I like New York City.

11 Dolphin Trainer

You are going to listen to a young girl who works at Sea World.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, match the sentence beginnings (1–9) with the sentence endings (A–L).*
- *There are two answers that you should not use.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

My name is Crystal, I'm 23 years old, I've always had a dream to be a dolphin trainer ever since I was a little girl. What I did is I got a degree in psychology and then I went and got an internship out here in San Diego. They have opportunities available for interns working with the Navy and I worked there for about 4–5 months and I got a job working here at Sea World as a 'seasonal' because during the summer you get really busy with a lot of the public and we have to hire people just for summertime. And then I got hired on full time just this past August.

So everything's worked out very nicely for me. So I've been here since May so I'm pretty new to the area but I get to swim with the dolphins and train them and I love it. We have 6 female dolphins, 4 boy dolphins and two pilot whales. We have the only two performing pilot whales in the entire world so we're very lucky.

Our daily routine is we come in and we do fish house in the morning. Every animal gets a certain amount of fish. They also get daily vitamins that they get cause our fish is frozen so the fish tends to lose a little bit of nutrients so we give them vitamins. They get one vitamin for every 5 pounds of fish that they get. The dolphins eat about 20 to 25 pounds of food every day. The pilot whales eat about 80 to 90 pounds of food a day so they're quite a bit bigger.

We do training sessions throughout the days and we also do shows. During the summer we have up to nine shows a day so they're very busy and during our off time we only have two shows a day. And in between the times we're doing sessions and constantly working with the animals.

What about the public here? Are they always nice?

The public – we have a lot of regulars because people have season passes so if you buy a day you get a year free so that happens a lot. We have a lot of public during the summer. I guess that it gets really, really busy here.

Any one of the events that you had or one of the incidents that you won't forget? Has anything particular happened already?

Not yet, I am still pretty new. Nothing major has happened. One of our dolphins right now is pregnant. She will have her baby in May. They are pregnant for 12 months so quite a bit longer than us. So that's one thing I'm really looking forward to.

12 An Indian Wedding in Great Britain

You are going to listen to an English woman speaking about her experience at an Indian wedding.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, match the questions (1– 8) with the answers (A–K).*
- *There are two answers that you should not use.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

I once went to an Indian wedding and it was a really amazing experience. The preparation started weeks in advance, with all the food being made and the decorations being created and hung up everywhere. The house was prepared for hundreds of guests who were going to pass through over the next couple of weeks. The bride obviously sorted out what she was going to wear, bought her jewellery, had her makeup done on the day. The groom as well had a particular outfit to wear. The bride wore a red sari, which is quite traditional, with lots and lots of gold jewellery, so much jewellery you wouldn't even believe it until you saw it. The groom was also decorated with lots of gold. The house was decorated as well, the house where the bride lives. Normally the parents of the bride will host the engagement party and also put up their house for other relatives to stay in because a lot of people will come from India to Britain for the wedding so they'll need somewhere to stay.

And the food also takes a lot of preparation. It's cooked not too far in advance obviously because it will go bad, but it takes a long time to cook it all. And all the aunties and all the relatives will help with the cooking so all the kitchens of all the families involved will be full of food for a few days before the actual wedding.

The weddings are never small. You never have a small wedding in an Indian family because Indian families are normally really quite big and all the distant relatives and all the family friends and everybody who you call auntie and uncle even if they're not really related to you, there's normally loads of people. So these people will all be invited for weeks of partying and festivals and lots and lots of dancing, lots of Indian music. Again, lots and lots of eating and everyone just has a really great time and the actual wedding ceremony is only a tiny part of the celebrations. I mean this might just be the one day but the celebrations would go on for at least a week.

13 Scottish Traditions

You are going to listen to someone speaking about culture in Scotland.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, answer the questions (1–10) using a maximum of 4 words.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Hi, my name is Helen and I'm going to talk a little bit about traditions in Scotland. I'll start by talking about Highland dress. This is the traditional dress that men and women wear. For men this involves a kilt, basically a skirt made out of thick material and this normally is made of tartan with the family colours on the tartan.

On top of the kilt the men wear a sporran, which is a sort of purse that they wear around their waist. They also wear ghillie brogues, which are thick-soled shoes which don't have any tongues. This is because historically the shoes would dry out faster so if the men were walking through swamps or marshland or something similar then the mud and the water wouldn't keep the shoes damp for too long. These ghillie brogues have laces that are tied up to the ankles to stop the shoes coming off or being sucked off by mud.

For formal occasions men will wear a kilt jacket, usually made of wool in a black or grey colour. Sometimes they'll wear a waistcoat with this, they will also wear white shirt with a collar and cufflinks. And then they'll wear a tie or bow-tie in a single colour with this white shirt.

I also want to talk a bit about traditional Scottish cuisine. Scotland does have many of its own traditional recipes, haggis being one – the most famous. Haggis served with neeps, which are turnips and tatties, which are potatoes. Haggis is in fact sheep's heart, liver and lungs all mixed up together with onion, oatmeal, suet, salt and stock and it's served in the sheep's own stomach.

As the national dish of Scotland, haggis is served on Burns Night. Burns Night celebrates the life of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. It takes place every year on his birthday – 25th January – and lots of Scottish people have a Burns Supper and there is a formal order of events for this evening. First of all the host welcomes everyone with the 'Welcoming Speech.' Guests are officially welcomed and grace is said. Then there is the 'Piping of the Haggis', so as the haggis is ceremoniously brought out from the kitchen, someone usually plays the bagpipes, as they are often seen as the national instrument of Scotland. And then there is the 'Address to a Haggis', the most famous part of a Burns Supper. The 'Address to a Haggis' is a poem that is recited by the host – it is an 'Ode to the Haggis' by Robert Burns and due to the language it is very hard for a non-Scot to pronounce or understand at all even. At the end of the poem though the host cuts the haggis in two and then there is a 'Whiskey Toast' to the haggis and the meal begins.

After the meal there is a 'Toast to Robert Burns' to remember his work and then there are two more toasts. There's a 'Toast to the Lassies' so to the women and traditionally men drank to the women for preparing the meal. Nowadays it is normally the male speaker's views on women but they're amusing, not to be taken to heart. It's followed by the 'Reply to Toast to the Lassies' or sometimes known as the 'Toast to the Laddies', where a female speaker responds and gives her own amusing views on men, so sort of gets her revenge if you like.

And then the evening closes, so sometimes works by Burns are recited and then everybody sings 'Auld Lang Syne' and everyone packs up and goes home.

14 Cheerleading

You are going to listen to a student speaking about a team activity.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of 4 words.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Hi my name is Lauren Brown and I'm a cheerleader at Carlsbad High School. This is my senior year and being a cheerleader at Carlsbad we have to have a lot of spirit and we're always smiling and we got to keep the attitude up and we kind of just like rally people up for the games and what not and like our school spirit is really, really good this year and so we're all excited about that.

We have two practices a week and they're for two hours and we run. Sometimes we run around the school which is not fun but we have to keep in good shape to be able to do our stunts and that's when we lift up the girls in the air. We do like cool flips and what not with them and that's our favorite part of cheerleading. We also do dances and we have to work on dances for half-times and we're going to start working on our dance for homecoming next week.

We also have to work on cheers, that's why we are called cheerleaders and everything has to be a sharp movement and you have to be precise so we look good.

So at home games we usually get there an hour before and then we'll warm up whatever we have to warm up with stunts and jumps and work on our dance and work on a little bit of cheers that are maybe not up to par with some of our other ones. And then we go out and we line up on the football field with the band and they play our fight song and then we do a little dance to that and then we go back over and we get into our box lineup ... So on a track, if you're imagining a track, we put like two rows of like we have boxes that we stand on and so it's all evened out spaces and it looks very clean and very nice and that's where we cheer.

Our boxes have our names on them and we also have megaphones and we got to pick a Disney character to paint on our megaphones and put our name and put the year that we graduate and that's fun. Everyone's is a little personal and that's very nice.

I just personally I did not think I'd ever become a cheerleader and my junior year my friend was like 'you should try out for cheer'. And I was like 'alright'. So, the week before tryouts I decided ok I'm going to try out for cheer and so I went to gymnastic classes the whole week of Spring Break and I was able to do a backhand spring which is kind of like a backflip but your hands touch the ground so you are not doing a whole flip. So I got that and so I was like 'okay well I have that part. I've just got to be able to dance and do the cheers.' And I had a history of dance so that was okay for me. Then the cheer part was a little, it's a little different if you don't know how to do that. So we have a week of tryouts and they're every day for like four hours. It was a long week and it was a lot of work but it paid off and I didn't think I would make it and then I did and I really liked it.

You think of the stereotypical cheerleader as being blonde and dumb and what not and those stereotypes but they are just so nice and I think that we're not that stereotype and we want to show people that we are not that stereotype.

15 Bats in Austin

You are going to listen to a woman speaking about animals in her city.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, complete the sentences (1–8) using a maximum of 4 words.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

My name is Ursula Brinkman. I live in Austin, Texas and Austin, Texas, is a city. There is one feature that you would not expect in a city and that is that you have the largest bat colony, urban bat colony, in the United States. I don't know about other countries.

How did that come to pass? They built a new bridge – the Congress Street Bridge – and this bridge has several openings. And after a while they discovered that bats were nesting in the openings and they tried to remove them until somebody said 'well why don't we leave them? They eat mosquitoes and they might be good.' So they bred and they still breed. And now it's a big colony. They winter in Mexico and they come at around May and they have their pups under the Congress Street Bridge and so after this summer in August/September they have the young ones and then the colony's even bigger. And as soon as the sun sets they start coming out and usually they send out one, I don't know why, that comes out first and after you see that, the others start coming also and they circle and then they take off and catch their bats and not only that they also fertilise some of the plants.

And what we like to do is, if we have guests, we have a canoe and we take it on the Lady Bird Lake which is a lake that is formed by the Colorado, little Colorado River and we take the boat onto Lady Bird Lake and paddle to the Congress Street Bridge and then we watch the bats from there.

16 Birdwatching

You are going to listen to a man speaking about his hobby.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of 4 words.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

My favourite hobby is birdwatching and the reason I like it so much is because I do it with my wife who is my partner. And she and I have rules about birdwatching. One is that we have to see the bird together, the bird has to be alive, it can't be owned by anybody, it can't be captive and it has to be a breeding bird of that area.

And how we got started birdwatching? Our hunter friend brought us to a preserve one time where there were many geese and ducks. In the centre of this there was an area with no geese and ducks that's because these eagles were teaching their young one how to eat the geese.

We were pretty impressed by that but it wasn't enough to get us started birdwatching. We went home and through that winter we had a tree out front. It had berries all in it, it was called a dogwood tree. We were looking out in the snow one day and all of a sudden about a 100 birds landed on that tree. They ate every berry in within one minute, they flew away and the tree was bare. We ran out that day and got a bird book. We were so excited about this we started our birdwatching hobby.

Within a year or two we became so avid on this that we became the president of the Audubon society in Florida. And I just loved it because I could really explore my needs of leadership because I would lead bird walks about every week. Everybody was so excited about it and I just got to express myself quite a bit.

Since then most of our vacations are birdwatching vacations. We've gone to South America, Asia, all throughout North America, we've been to Africa, the Middle East and much of Europe bird watching. And this really helps us and it also finds new friends for us as we go along. It's something we can share with everybody and I hope one day you'll enjoy birdwatching, too.

17 A Weather Forecast for the United Kingdom

You are going to listen to a radio broadcast about the weather.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, complete the sentences (1–8) using a maximum of 4 words.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Weather forecast. Good evening. Well it looks like it's going to be a bit of mix weather-wise this week with most areas receiving some showers and moderate to high winds towards the weekend.

South east England will be hit by a bout of high pressure at the beginning of the week which will last through to Wednesday. This means plenty of bright, sunny spells from Monday afternoon through to Wednesday evening, with only a slight cool breeze. Temperatures will peak at 23 degrees on Tuesday and will reach about 20 degrees on Monday and Wednesday. Overnight temperatures will drop to around 12 degrees during this time.

On Wednesday evening the pressure will decrease rapidly, causing some heavy but brief showers and much colder temperatures, hovering around 7 degrees or so and this will last until the weekend.

A cold front will move in from the Atlantic on Friday, bringing even more rain with it and making for a wet Saturday. Thunderstorms are a possibility in the area north of Oxford and residents in these areas should prepare for some strong winds which could get up to 50 miles per hour during Friday night. Additionally, some areas of London should expect to see a lot of low lying fog which will severely affect visibility on Saturday. However, this should pass quickly and the skies should be blue and clear come Sunday morning, along with milder temperatures of around 16 degrees.

Sussex and Kent will receive a fair amount of drizzle all week which will only disappear on Sunday afternoon but these areas will escape most of the heavy rain falling elsewhere, whereas Wales, while likely to receive more sunshine than is usual for the time of year, will have its fair share of thundery showers at the start of the weekend and it may freeze overnight on Friday with temperatures approaching zero. Some snow may even fall in the higher, more mountainous regions. A north easterly wind will make it feel even colder on Saturday and could cause some minor damage as the wind speed may reach 60 miles per hour on Saturday night. Luckily the wind and rain will ease off after Saturday for these regions.

It will be reasonably dry and warm for Scotland and the north east early this week but mostly cloudy and chances of light rain towards the end of the week as the cold front from the south east makes its way up towards the western isles of Scotland.

So the week will end with a large area of high pressure covering most of the UK meaning clear skies almost everywhere but also some frost in Wales and the Scottish Highlands.

18 The Great Barrier Reef

You are going to listen to Sophie speaking about her holidays in Australia.

- *First you will have 45 seconds to study the task below, then you will hear the recording twice.*
- *While listening, complete the sentences (1–12) using a maximum of 4 words.*
- *Write your answers in the spaces provided.*
- *The first one (0) has been done for you.*

After the second listening, you will have 45 seconds to check your answers.

Well, a few years ago I was in Australia with my family on holiday and we took a trip out to the Great Barrier Reef. My husband and my son wanted to do some snorkelling and we went, we took a trip on a boat, an organized trip and it was beautiful. The weather was gorgeous, the sun was shining, the sea was blue and we stopped at a little sandy island. We were told this was a good place to do snorkelling or for those who didn't want to snorkel there was the chance to go swimming. Well I'm not very good at snorkelling and neither was my daughter – at that time she was only 10 – so we decided just to go swimming and we were given life vests to wear for safety.

And we jumped into the sea and it was lovely, the sea was warm and it was turquoise blue and the people who were snorkelling were having great fun looking at the reef. And we were jumping around in the waves and having a great time and laughing and floating and swimming and I didn't realize that we were getting further and further away from the little sandy island until suddenly I realized that the water wasn't crystal clear and turquoise blue any more. It was black underneath us and that was because it was so deep and there was sea weed underneath us now.

I looked up and I saw that the little sandy island was a long, long way away. The current, the sea had carried us so far away from our boat and from the island and I began to panic a little bit because I'm not really a very strong swimmer myself but I tried to keep calm because I didn't want my daughter to get frightened so I said to her, "Elizabeth, we're going to swim back to the island now" and she said, "Oh, where is it mummy?" and I said, "Oh, look it's over there." She didn't say anything and we started swimming and we swam and we swam and I was wondering if I should try to attract the attention of the lifeguard – there was a lifeguard on our boat – and he told us to signal if we were in trouble. But I was embarrassed. I didn't want everybody to know that I had done such a silly thing. We swam and then I managed to catch my husband's attention. He had come out of the water and he was standing on the island looking round to see where we were. And I waved to him and he came swimming out as fast as he could and he helped my daughter back to the beach and I swam on behind him. I got a shock and that day and that really scared me badly and I will be very careful in future.