

SKILLS TEST UNITS 1–3

A S: Speaker

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- S1:** I've always been very independent. I mean, I did try to go on vacation with my sister and some friends in the past, which was good, but it was a little stressful and the fact is that traveling by myself is just something I am better at. I am responsible for myself and I don't have to worry about others and whether they're having a good time. It's just easier that way.
- S2:** I just love vacations. I mean, who doesn't? I usually go with my children and their kids. I'm fairly sociable, so being around a lot of people is good for me. It's a great chance to spend time playing with the grandchildren as well. They're getting so big now and can do a lot of things that I enjoy like playing tennis and golf. They're actually getting better than me, which is a little scary!
- S3:** I'm a very curious person so I'm interested in trying out new things and going to new places. Sometimes I go with Karen; she's my best friend. Or Liam, he's an old friend. At the same time, my sister is a good travel companion, too, and we don't argue too much. As long as we get along, I can travel with anybody! For me, it's about the person rather than if they are a family member or a good friend.
- S4:** I have a big family. I have four sisters. We always spend special occasions together, but we hardly ever go on vacation together. For me, there's less stress if I go with my friend Katarina. I've known her since we started elementary school and we have always gotten along really well. For example, I lost my passport once and it wasn't a big deal for her and she was really relaxed about it. That would have been very stressful with my family around me!
- S5:** I'm lucky enough to travel a lot with work, but unfortunately I don't see anything of the places where I stay. Well, not the interesting parts. I often go from one meeting room to the airport and these tend to look the same wherever you are! So no, when it comes to relaxing I prefer to spend my time at home instead of traveling anywhere.

B F: Frank R: Rebecca

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- F:** Hi Rebecca.
- R:** Oh, hi Frank. What are you doing here?
- F:** Oh, I was in town today so Mom invited me for dinner.
- R:** Oh cool. What were you doing?
- F:** Just looking for a new job. You know my job finishes next week, right?
- R:** I thought they asked you to stay on?
- F:** Yeah, they did to begin with but they need someone who can work full time. I can't do that with college as well.
- R:** I guess not. But what about your rent? How are you going to pay for that?
- F:** I need to talk to Mom. I could live at home for awhile I suppose or I could look for another job. What do you suggest?
- R:** It's hard to choose isn't it? I mean, you love to be independent but I know Mom wouldn't mind and it would be fun spending more time together.
- F:** That's true. I enjoy living with you but at the same time I'm not a teenager; I'm 28! It would feel like I'm a kid again.
- R:** It wouldn't be forever and it isn't unusual for people our age. It's so expensive to live with rent, food and everything else.

- F:** I could definitely live more healthily. I eat such garbage when I cook for myself.
- R:** Haha. You do like your takeout!
- F:** And I worry about arguing with Mom. We are better when we don't live together.
- R:** Well, you're hardly ever home. You're so sociable – you'll never be in at the same time every day anyway. How about looking for a part-time job? Something related to your college work?
- F:** Yeah, that's what I'm trying to do. I found something interesting but it's far from here and the money isn't great.
- R:** Well, I think you should move back for a couple of months while you are looking. That way you won't feel the money pressure.
- F:** Yeah, maybe you're right. And it is convenient for the library when I need to study.
- R:** Great.
- F:** I want my old room back though.
- R:** I'd love to give it to you but you left remember. That's my room now. All my things are in it. You will have to have the guest room!

SKILLS TEST UNITS 4–6

A P: Presenter

3

- P:** Many people these days are so busy that they just don't get enough free time to do the things they love. As a result, how they spend their time has become very important. Weekends and evenings are often spent playing sports, going to the museum or movie theater and having get-togethers with family and friends. For some people, however, their free time is an opportunity to do some unusual activities, and we're going to talk about three of them today.
- Take John O'Hagan, for example, who really likes being on television. His dream to appear on a reality TV show hasn't happened yet, so while he is waiting he seems to be happy appearing behind news reporters on TV. Next time you are watching the news and there is an outdoor report, take a look behind the main reporter and you might just see him.
- Then there's Laurent Jouet, a well-known French pensioner and graffiti artist. He has been drawing on cars and motorcycles for almost 20 years and covers them completely with words. He writes on the mirrors, wheels, doors – everywhere! Laurent said that in the past people have seen him and called the police thinking that the cars he is drawing on belonged to someone else. His grandson has said that he doesn't earn a high enough salary yet but when he does, he will buy his grandfather a bus so that he can enjoy his hobby to the fullest.
- The third activity isn't an individual but a growing hobby for many people around the world. It's grooming dogs – but we aren't just talking about getting a haircut. It's much more of a challenge than that. There are a growing number of people who like to make their dogs look like different animals, and some of them are amazing. They can look like tigers, pandas, horses and even giraffes. The popularity of this new hobby means this is big business and the amount pet owners spend on their animals has increased by 500% in the last 20 years. I'm not sure what the dogs think about hanging out as a wild animal, but the owner's enjoyment is clear to see.

Test Audio scripts

Next week we'll be looking at what's more important: eating healthily or playing sports. So until then, have a great weekend and why not try out a new hobby!



B N: Natalia A: Andrea

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- N:** Hi Andrea, how are you?
- A:** Hi Natalia. I'm fine, did you just go for a run?
- N:** Yeah, it's far too hot out there! What are you reading?
- A:** Oh it's this blog about growing your own fruits and vegetables. I think I'm going to try out some of the advice.
- N:** But your yard is too small, isn't it?
- A:** I don't think so. You really don't need that much space. And I actually think the yard's going to look nicer. Right now there's just grass, and all those colors and smells will be really nice.
- N:** True. But going to the grocery store is a lot easier if you ask me!
- A:** But it's so expensive! And there's all that plastic packaging too... Growing your own has plenty of advantages, and saving some money is just one of them. A packet of seeds doesn't cost anything. Well, hardly anything. This guy who wrote the blog now saves 50% of what he spent going to the grocery store because he grows his own food.
- N:** Fair enough, but where will you find the time? You already have a full-time job and have the twins to take care of too.
- A:** Well, I'm going to be working four days a week next year, so that will help. And I could just use the time I usually spend going to the gym in the yard. In fact, it says here that 30 minutes of gardening a day helps you sleep and promotes good energy. Must be all that vitamin D! I'm going to try to get the twins interested as well. It'll be good for them – they'll see how food comes from the land to their plate and it will hopefully mean they spend less time in front of their tablets.
- N:** That's a great idea. It'll probably make them understand the importance of a balanced diet as well.
- A:** Maybe. I'm not sure. But the quality of food I put on the table should be an improvement. There won't be any of the garbage they put into food at grocery stores to give it a longer life. And it will be tastier. I had some tomatoes and lettuce from Mom's garden and they were so delicious. You could really taste the difference.
- N:** You're right there – my grandfather grows his own food and I love how much fresher it is than what I normally get in the store. It's worth it I guess.
- A:** So, you know what I'm talking about!
- N:** Yeah, it sounds like a good project. Rather you than me though – good luck with it!

MID-COURSE TEST



A P: Presenter

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- P:** Over the past few years there have been some very radical changes in the way we live and work. There has been a lot of research into the best work environments and what impact these have on the staff that work there. Today I'd like to explain some of the best and possibly worst innovations in work environments that I have seen recently.

Personally, I think that it is important for people to be comfortable especially if they must spend up to 8 hours a day in the office. One solution to this is to develop new and creative ways of being at your desk. There are desks that rise and fall so you can sit or stand, which are not necessarily new, but they have become more readily available. Other options are chairs that have so many different ways of setting them up you need a week and an instruction manual and possibly a trainer to help you learn to sit in them. In short, they are very complicated. A third innovation is, believe it or not, a stool or ball. Both of these things position the body in a way that instead of weakening the back actually help strengthen it, leading to a more comfortable sitting experience – apparently!

Relaxing rooms with games and even sometimes beds are a strange new addition to the office but have proven to help productivity especially in creative industries. My concern with these in general is that the office now seems to be becoming everything to everyone so soon perhaps there will never be a need to go home. We can all just live in the office!

There has been an increase in green spaces, including laying fake grass on the reception floor instead of carpet, that again are not necessarily for work but add to the calming and relaxing vibe of the office. There are cafeteria areas that offer a range of popular foods from different outlets like snack bars to cafés to restaurant style food; I suppose because people like eating good food and happy staff are more productive. So, although these areas are not necessarily made for working they do increase productivity because they make staff feel more relaxed and cared for. It also means that much less time is spent outside the office either trying to get some fresh air or trying to find some lunch.



B P: Presenter F: Frank S: Sinead C: Colin

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- P:** Hello and welcome to our discussion about health fads. I have here three lifestyle coaches who are all involved in advising and helping people reach their health goals. Let's start with Frank – Frank tell us what you think, please.
- F:** In my mind you have to always try and stay ahead of the curve and always look for what is new. This isn't just associated with food but, I think, everything. You have to try new things. I am not entirely sure about the idea of 'traditional is best' when it comes to food habits, but I do think that nowadays we tend to think that we can get away with not sleeping enough. To me a more traditional approach of sleeping when tired is best. By that I mean longer at night and possibly a little nap in the afternoon. We should aim to do both.
- P:** That's interesting. Do you agree, Sinead?
- S:** I'm not sure I'd take such an extreme stance and I tend to take a more traditional approach as I advise my clients. That is just checking what they are doing and only making minor changes to their current routine. It seems to work and it seems to put less stress on people in general. In my mind a major issue I have with fads is that they often leave things out of a healthy diet – by this I mean that they will suddenly stop having a particular food with something in it that they need and are not replacing. Hmm, that can never be sensible can it?
- P:** Well that's certainly a different view. Do you agree with either of these two, Colin?

- C:** I suppose yes and no really. I can see the benefits of moving with trends and fads because they do offer a better alternative to what people are generally doing at the moment. However, I also agree with Sinead that there are dangers on occasion – well put, Sinead. One thing I do know is that people, on the whole, are really starting to become more aware of their own health. They seem to know a lot more anyway. I am so happy when I can talk to someone about how they are doing and get an answer that makes sense. Often people even suggest their own diets and health plans which is great because that means my job is already half way done!
- P:** Well thanks guys – your opinions have been very interesting! Next up, we speak to...

SKILLS TEST UNITS 7–9



A S: Speaker

- S1:** Well, all my friends like watching stuff that scares them. We scared ourselves a lot as teenagers. I used to enjoy them but it was stressful. Now I'm interested in funny love stories, boy meets girl type of thing. I go with my sister and my mom. My sister laughs at me for liking them but I don't mind. I know that if I go to the movie theater to watch one I'll be happy when I come out and not afraid to go to sleep!
- S2:** At my college I'm a member of the movie club. It's great because I get to see a lot of great movies from all over the world that aren't on at the movie theater. Right now we're watching a lot of Bollywood movies from India. I find them engaging and fun. Some of the songs are so good I'm going to try to find the lyrics. I don't think my Hindi will be good enough though.
- S3:** When I was a kid I used to go to the movie theater with my grandpa. It was a treat for me. My brothers weren't interested so it was something we did together. I loved all the cowboys and Indians and horses and things. He died a few years ago but there's something about that movie genre that makes me remember my grandpa. That's why they're my favorite I think.
- S4:** I love something gripping. You know that situation when you don't want to look at the screen but you have to. I can't help it. And some of the costumes are amazing. It must take them a long time to get ready in makeup. My husband thinks I'm really silly because I get so jumpy and scare myself for days afterward but if they were easy to watch I'd be disappointed.
- S5:** There are so many bad things happening in the world these days that I want to escape from it all when I watch a movie. I made a mistake of watching an autobiography once. It wasn't cheerful enough. It was very moving and there were some enjoyable parts but this man's life was so tragic. Anyway, I always watch something that's going to make me laugh these days.



B M: Mother S: Simon

- S:** Mom, do you think you could live without money?
- M:** That's a strange question. Why are you asking me that?
- S:** Oh, I'm just doing my homework. We have to write an opinion essay so I'm trying to think about it.
- M:** Well it's a difficult situation, isn't it? I mean if I lived without money could I borrow it from someone else?

- S:** I guess, but we learned today about this guy named Miles Burke. He made the decision to live without money as an experiment and managed to do it for over two years. And I don't think he had to borrow money because most things he managed to get for himself without asking other people.
- M:** OK, but how did he live? Didn't he have to pay for his home like everyone else?
- S:** He thought about that before he started. He took out \$360 to pay for a camper.
- M:** That's a smart move. What about other things people have to pay for like electricity?
- S:** That's what I was thinking, but he had solar panels and they gave him all the energy he needed.
- M:** OK, and did he grow his own food?
- S:** Yeah, I think so or people gave it to him.
- M:** Oh maybe it's something we should try as a family. It sounds like a relaxing lifestyle.
- S:** Mom, if we lived like that I'm sure you wouldn't want to do the other things he did. I mean he didn't have a shower so he washed in a river. You would be so anxious about what was in the river and if you were clean.
- M:** Haha. You're right. That's where I would have to stop the experiment. But I would be OK getting to work. I go on foot. You're the one who takes the bus.
- S:** Well you work down the road. My college is 5 miles away. Well I don't think I could do it to be honest. I like things in life that cost money. Like my cell phone, nice vacations.
- M:** Actually I think you probably do live without money. Who pays for those things? Me and your dad.
- S:** Oh yeah that's true.
- M:** Maybe I should start charging you rent. What a good idea! Or would you prefer for me to lend you money for a camper?
- S:** Haha, very funny.

SKILLS TEST UNITS 10–12



A P: Presenter

- P:** Hello. This week we are looking at women in space. It's 55 years since the first woman, Valentina Tereshkova, spent just under three days in space. It wasn't until 20 years later that the first American woman, Sally Ride, made headlines for doing the same in 1983.
- So why didn't NASA fly women into space sooner? Between 1960 and 1961, 13 women were chosen to see if they were suitable to be astronauts on future missions – but they never went. According to the movie *Mission 13*, the reason was simply because they were women.
- At a news conference in the 1960s, a reporter asked why America hadn't sent a woman into space like the Russians. Gordon Cooper, the sixth American to go into space, replied by talking about an earlier test flight. The 1961 Mercury-Atlas 5 used a monkey to test conditions in the spacecraft before the real human mission. Cooper said that they could have used a woman instead of the monkey. Everyone laughed. They weren't taken seriously and inequality has been a problem for women wanting to train as astronauts for years.

Test Audio scripts

A NASA scientist, Dr. Randy Lovelace, did believe women were equal to men. This led to a three-part testing program for 25 lucky women. Thirteen of them passed, which is why the movie was called *Mission 13*. But, unfortunately, all of this preparation went nowhere because when Dr. Lovelace was asked the name of his sponsor, he didn't have one. He didn't actually have permission from NASA to operate the program for 'First Lady Astronaut Trainees'.

Since that time, NASA has realized it's necessary to correct past mistakes. Because of this, 45 women have flown into space and in the last two classes for astronauts 9 out of 20 of the candidates have been women. In 2012, Ellen Ochoa became director of the Johnson Space Center, which is responsible for astronaut training. And in 2017, Peggy Whitson broke a world record. She has spent more time than any other American astronaut in space, 665 days in total. And while the Russians did send the first woman into space, there have only been three others who have done the same since that date, out of 120 astronauts. In this respect NASA is winning the gender race.



B D: Dan J: Jenny

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- D:** Hi Jenny.
- J:** Oh, hi Dan.
- D:** What do we need to talk about with the new business?
- J:** Oh well, the main thing is it isn't growing as fast as I'd hoped. I know we have a good product but we can't rely completely on flyers at the local subway station.
- D:** Mmm, yep flyers are good but I agree we probably need to do more than this at the beginning.
- J:** What do you suggest?
- D:** Well, should we try poster advertising? We could put some up in the local area. Jim got some new customers for his computing company that way.
- J:** Actually, I don't think that's the best way. It looks a little old-fashioned and also won't people just pull them down? I think something online would be a good idea. I mean even my grandmother can use a computer and buys presents and things online. And we would get a bigger audience.
- D:** OK, deal. But do you know anything about online advertising? I know I don't know much about it.
- J:** Arthur said he could help. He's always collecting data about advertising for his job. He knows all about Google AdWords and how you get your website to the top of the search page.
- D:** Yes, good idea. But he's not back from his vacation until the end of the month. I don't want to call when he's away.
- J:** OK, well how about we make a Facebook group and share it with our friends to start with? We need to ask them to share it with their friends as well.
- D:** Is it really necessary to push the business that much? I feel like people go on social media to relax and not to be made to join different groups.
- J:** Yes, but if you think about it, it's just a click on a link. You don't have to buy anything. I'm sure our friends would be happy to help.
- D:** If you say so. I also think we should get a logo. Right now our website doesn't really grab people's attention. It's way too boring and because of this I'm not sure people will buy stuff.

- J:** Do you think so? I wasn't sure if we needed one. We're selling a service, not a physical product. I kind of see logos more for products you buy. But if you want, we could look into costs for a logo.
- D:** Yeah I'd like that. If it's too expensive we can have a plan to do it in a few months when business is better.
- J:** OK, I'm happy with this.

END-OF-COURSE TEST



A P: Presenter

11

- P:** Wassily Kandinsky, usually known only by his last name, was born in Moscow in 1866 to a musician and a trader. His parents divorced when he was around five and soon after he moved to live with his aunt where he learned to play several musical instruments. He also began to study drawing in his free time.

When he finished school he followed his family's wishes to go into law and began attending the University of Moscow in 1886. After graduating, he visited a town in the countryside and saw the traditional style folk art that inspired him to get involved in the art world while still remaining a lawyer.

Returning to Moscow, he married Anna Chimyakina. However, two events changed his outlook and made him change his career from lawyer to artist. First, seeing an exhibit of French Impressionists in Moscow, and second, hearing Wagner's Lohengrin at the theater. To fulfill what had now become his dream, Kandinsky left Moscow for Munich. While in Munich, Kandinsky was accepted into private painting school before moving on to the Munich Academy of Arts. At art school he was influenced by many famous artists and began to develop his unique style representing real life with abstract shapes and colors.

After his time in Munich, Kandinsky traveled extensively finally settling in Bavaria before the outbreak of World War I. By this time he had already formed the New Artists Association in Munich which was founded under the name of the Blue Rider group with fellow artist Franz Marc. His subsequent works and theories led him to become known as the father of abstract art. He continued painting for many years supported by famous art collectors and despised by many others.

Kandinsky wrote that he believed each time period puts its own stamp on artistic expression; his interpretations of color certainly altered the artistic landscape at the start of the 20th century, precipitating the modern age that has allowed many other artists to follow in his path where ideas and senses lead the way to new creations.

Little of the work Kandinsky produced in Russia has survived, although many of the paintings he created in Germany are still on display either in private collections or national galleries. In recent years, at auctions in New York his artwork has sold for well over \$20 million, although when he died in 1944 he was living in France and his work was not nearly as expensive as it is today, it was certainly of equal value.

Test Audio scripts



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B P: Presenter J: Jess B: Brad

P: Hello. Today I'm with Jess and Brad to discuss their views on how we view money.

J: Hi guys.

P: First Jess, what are your opinions?

J: I think that our relationship toward money has changed in ways that we are still trying to understand. I studied the long history of money and how we have viewed it in the past in college while studying for a degree in finance. I strongly believe that knowing what has gone before can help us to understand what is happening now. It seems as though the idea that money equals power has remained, and there is so much evidence that I have to support this view. What I totally disagree with is that having money makes people more generous; in fact it often has the opposite effect. A third important aspect is that the more we save the more secure our lives are. The idea of 'saving for a rainy day' really does seem to be true and is an attitude that has changed a lot with more and more people getting quick loans when they have a problem they need to solve. Finally, the fifth view, that money brings freedom, is something I am unsure of. In some cases yes, being rich allows people to retire early and just do what they please; however, there are many who are stuck trying to make more and more in an endless cycle.

B: Hi, I'm Brad. Well, I agree with a lot of what Jess has just said although her first point about history just doesn't seem important to our lives now. In my mind, spotting trends and predicting the future will help us better understand what is important now. Also, I am not convinced that we view money as power although there are some obvious examples of wealthy people becoming presidents and so on. Certainly, the view that suggests we are more giving when we have money than when we don't seems to be true to me because how can you be generous when you have nothing to give. Just look at the billionaires who give so much back to the communities around them. I really do support the modern view that we don't need to have money saved up just in case something bad happens. In modern society we have many ways of dealing with problems and the requirement for savings just doesn't make sense to me. Finally, I do see Jess's ideas of the pros and cons of the view that money equals freedom although I'd say that it definitely does offer more choice to those who have it.

P: Well, thanks guys. To give your opinions, give us a call ...