

**GRADE 6**

**ENGLISH LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

**Wednesday, 19th February, 2020**

**PROCEDURE FOR TASK 1**

Look at Task One

*(Allow 15 seconds pause while students familiarise themselves with the page.)*

Listen carefully. You will listen to the passage twice.

**This is some information about Measuring Speed.**

Long ago, there were no standard ways of measuring speed because there was no accurate way to measure time. People used devices such as sand clocks (in which sand poured through a small hole) to measure time, and methods such as counting their own steps to measure distance. The only way of comparing the speed of two or more things, such as horses, was a head-to-head race.

Gradually, measuring devices became more accurate. The first stopwatch was developed in the 1850s, and by 1910s it was accurate to 1/100th of one second. During the 1970s, digital stopwatches increased this to 1/1000th of one second.

For distance and speed over long distances, such as across seas, people relied on maps and charts. They measured the distance on the map and multiplied it by the scale of the map. But this was not very accurate – a very thin line on the map could be hundreds of metres wide in the real world. From 1990s the ‘satnav’ system GPS (which stands for Global Positioning System) meant speed over long distances could be measured much more precisely. GPS satellite clocks are accurate to 14 billionths of one second, and the best GPS receivers can pinpoint position to within 25 centimetres.

Listen carefully to the exercises related to the information.

Number 1: Tick the column T if it's True, the column F if it's False or the column NIG if No Information is given.

- a. Counting steps was one way of measuring distances in olden times.
- b. Sand in sand clocks was always white in colour.
- c. Long time ago, there were many ways of comparing speed.

- d. The first stopwatch was devised in 1910.
- e. People carried maps with them on ships.
- f. GPS stands for Global Positioning System.

Number 2: Put a number in the column. 1 means the least accurate, 4 means the most accurate of stopwatches. The first one is done for you as an example. I put number 1 next to sand clock because that is the least accurate. Now put the numbers in the column.

First stopwatch

Satellite Clocks

Sand clock

Digital Stopwatch

Number 3: Underline the correct answer from the brackets.

- a. In a sand clock, sand is poured through a small (vase, hole, tube).
- b. Digital stopwatches can be accurate to (one tenth, one hundredth, one thousandth) of a second.
- c. GPS started in the (1980s, 1990s, 2000s).
- d. GPS satellite clocks are (very, not very, a little bit) accurate.

You will now listen to the text again. Listen carefully.

**This is some information about Measuring Speed.**

Long ago, there were no standard ways of measuring speed because there was no accurate way to measure time. People used devices such as sand clocks (in which sand poured through a small hole) to measure time, and methods such as counting their own steps to measure distance. The only way of comparing the speed of two or more things, such as horses, was a head-to-head race.

Gradually, measuring devices became more accurate. The first stopwatch was developed in the 1850s, and by 1910s it was accurate to 1/100th of one second. During the 1970s, digital stopwatches increased this to 1/1000th of one second.

For distance and speed over long distances, such as across seas, people relied on maps and charts. They measured the distance on the map and multiplied it by the scale of the map. But this was not very accurate – a very thin line on the map could be hundreds of metres wide in the real world. From 1990s the ‘satnav’ system GPS (which stands for Global Positioning System) meant speed over long distances could be measured much more precisely. GPS satellite clocks are accurate to 14 billionths of one second, and the best GPS receivers

can pinpoint position to within 25 centimetres.

Listen carefully to the exercises related to the dialogue. You may finish your exercises as you listen.

Number 1: Tick the column T if it's True, the column F if it's False or the column NIG if No Information is given.

- a. Counting steps was one way of measuring distances in olden times.
- b. Sand in sand clocks was always white in colour.
- c. Long time ago, there were many ways of comparing speed.
- d. The first stopwatch was devised in 1910.
- e. People carried maps with them on ships.
- f. GPS stands for Global Positioning System.

Number 2: Put the accuracy of the clocks in order. 1 means the least accurate, 4 means the most accurate of stopwatches. The first one is done for you as an example. I put number 1 next to sand clock because that is the least accurate. Now put the numbers in the column.

First stopwatch

Satellite clock

Sand clock

Digital stopwatch

Number 3: Underline the correct answer from the brackets.

- a. In a sand clock, sand is poured through a small (vase, hole, tube).
- b. Digital stopwatches can be accurate to (one tenth, one hundredth, one thousandth) of a second.
- c. GPS started in the (1980s, 1990s, 2000s).
- d. GPS satellite clocks are (very, not very, a little bit) accurate.

You now have some time to check your answers. (30 seconds)

This is the end of Task One.

(Allow a 30 second pause between Task 1 and Task 2.)

## PROCEDURE FOR TASK 2

Look at the exercises for Task 2.

*(Allow 50 seconds while the students familiarise themselves with the pages.)*

Now listen to this story. If you wish you may start answering the questions as you listen.

### **Polyphemus, the Cyclops.**

The Cyclops was certainly a terrifying creature. It was about the height of a two-storey house with thick, curly hair, a matted (and usually filthy) beard and only one eye set square in the middle of its forehead. It was grotesquely ugly, extremely bad-tempered, inordinately violent and generally worth going a long way to avoid. All this, any good book of Greek myths will tell you. But what is less often mentioned is the fact that the Cyclops was also incredibly stupid. It was probably one of the most stupid monsters that ever lived.

There were a great many Cyclops. At one time they had been employed as blacksmiths for Zeus but after a while they had forgotten not only how to do the work but what the work was that they were supposed to do, and had become shepherds instead. They were shepherds for almost two hundred years before it occurred to them to go and buy some sheep. Then they took their sheep and settled on an island in the middle of the Aegean Sea where they lived in caves, seldom if ever talking to one another. There were two reasons for this. The first was that the Cyclopes were poor conversationalists, often forgetting the beginning of a sentence when they were only half-way through. But also, if there was one thing a Cyclops couldn't stand, it was another Cyclops.

The most famous Cyclops was called Polyphemus. He was the son of Poseidon, the god of the sea, but preferred to stay very much on land, looking after a flock of sheep. Polyphemus had no friends but was on intimate terms with most of the sheep. He knew them all by name, milked them as gently as his huge fingers could manage and shed real tears whenever he had to slaughter one in order to make his particularly delicious lamb stew.

One day returning to his cave after a hard day's work in the hills, he was astonished to find that he had visitors. They were still there in fact, sitting in front of his fire and feasting on one of his sheep. There were about a dozen of them and looking more closely he was delighted to see that they were human beings.

Polyphemus loved human beings in his own way ... which was cooked or raw. What he particularly liked about them was the way their bones crunched between his teeth but never got caught in his throat.

The giant's face lit up in a great smile. It was also a horrible smile for, having just one eye in the middle of his forehead, everything he did with his face was rather horrible.

Now, listen carefully to the exercises related to the story:

Number 1: Match column A to column B to form correct sentences. The first one is done for you as an example.

a. Cyclopes had ...

This matches with ... one eye in the middle of its forehead. So I put a in column B next to it. Now I read column A and then column B.

b. Cyclopes were also

c. They had been employed

d. With their sheep

e. The most famous Cyclops

Column B

as blacksmiths for Zeus / they lived in caves / one eye in the middle of the forehead / was called Polyphemus / incredibly stupid.

Number 2: Tick the column T if it's True, the column F if it's False or the column NIG if No Information is given.

a. A Cyclops was very tall.

b. A Cyclops was very clever.

c. A Cyclops couldn't stand another Cyclops.

d. Polyphemus was the son of Zeus.

e. Cyclopes liked to eat a lot of vegetables.

f. Polyphemus had 200 sheep.

g. Polyphemus liked to eat human beings.

h. There were about 12 visitors in Polyphemus' cave one day.

Number 3: Underline the correct answer from the brackets.

a. A Cyclops had (smooth, long, curly) hair.

b. Cyclopes were shepherds (before, after, at the same time as) they were blacksmiths.

c. Polyphemus had (no, some, a lot of) friends.

d. The visitors at Polyphemus' cave were (singing, eating, sleeping).

Number 4: Fill in with ONE word from the story.

a. The Cyclopes were shepherds for 200 years before they bought some \_\_\_\_\_.

b. Often, Cyclopes \_\_\_\_\_ the beginning of a sentence when they were half-way through.

c. The visitors at Polyphemus' cave were \_\_\_\_\_ in front of a fire.

d. Polyphemus liked human beings cooked or \_\_\_\_\_.

Now listen to the story again:

### **Polyphemus, the Cyclops.**

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The giant's face lit up in a great smile. It was also a horrible smile for, having just one eye in the middle of his forehead, everything he did with his face was rather horrible.

Now, listen again to the exercises related to story. You may finish any exercises as you listen.

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Number 4: Fill in with ONE word from the story.

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- c. The visitors at Polyphemus' cave were \_\_\_\_\_ in front of a fire.
- d. Polyphemus liked human beings cooked or \_\_\_\_\_.

Now you have some time to check your answers. (*Allow 1 minute*)

This is the end of Task 2 and the end of the Listening Comprehension paper.