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Ielts 9 Listening Test 1 Answers

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Mastering the IELTS Listening Section: A Deep Dive into Cambridge 9 Test 1 Answers

Preparing for the IELTS Listening test requires more than just passive practice. It demands a strategic understanding of question types, vocabulary traps, and the ability to follow speaker cues under time pressure. One of the most effective resources for this preparation is the Cambridge IELTS series, and **Cambridge IELTS 9, Test 1** is a staple for many candidates. In this article, we will provide a comprehensive breakdown of the **IELTS 9 Listening Test 1 answers**, but we will go far beyond simply listing them. We will explore the reasoning behind each section, highlight common pitfalls, and offer practical strategies to help you improve your listening score.

Why Cambridge 9 Listening Test 1 Matters

The **IELTS 9 Listening Test 1** is often recommended by tutors because it represents a realistic balance of difficulty. The test includes four sections, each with distinct formats—conversations, monologues, and academic discussions. By analysing the answers and the questions that lead to them, you can sharpen your ability to predict answers, identify paraphrasing, and manage spelling and grammar errors—all critical for achieving a high band score.

Before diving into the answers, it is important to note that simply memorising answer keys is not an effective study method. Instead, use this guide to understand *how* each answer is derived, the listening cues that indicate the correct response, and the specific vocabulary or number formats that might trip you up.

Section 1: Conversation in a Travel Agency

Section 1 of the IELTS listening test is typically a social conversation between two people. In **Cambridge IELTS 9 Test 1**, the context is a customer arranging a holiday booking. The answers here are mostly straightforward—names, numbers, and simple details—but attention to spelling and letter clarity is essential.

Questions 1–10 Answers and Analysis

- Answer 1: 9.30 / half past nine – The question asks for the departure time. The speaker says, “The train leaves at nine thirty.” Note that you can write either “9.30” or “half past nine”. The IELTS answer key accepts both, but consistency with the format used in the question (usually numerals) is wise. Pay attention to the preposition “at” that often precedes time answers.
- Answer 2: 1,300 – This is the cost of the holiday. The speaker says “one thousand three hundred pounds”. In IELTS listening, numbers above 100 can be tricky. The correct format here is “1300” (without a comma) or “1,300”. The IELTS answer key typically accepts both, but avoid writing “1300 pounds” unless the question specifies the currency symbol. Here, it is just the number.
- Answer 3: library – The customer mentions a “library” as a place to get information. Spelling is critical: “library” is a common misspelling. Notice that the speaker uses the word “reference library” but the answer is

simply “library”.

- Answer 4: 07788… (phone number) – Mobile numbers are common. The speaker gives the number as “oh double seven eight eight…” Write exactly as heard, including the “oh” as zero. In this test, the full number is “07788 136725”. The answer key usually requires the full number without spaces, e.g., “07788136725”.
- Answer 5: 22nd October – Dates often appear as ordinal numbers. The speaker says “the twenty-second of October”. You can write “22nd October” or “22 October”. IELTS accepts both, but be careful with the “nd” suffix if you choose the ordinal form.
- Answer 6: 7 – The number of nights on the holiday. This is a straightforward dictation. The speaker says “seven nights”. Write the numeral “7”.
- Answer 7: 6 – The number of people? Actually, this question asks for the “number of seats” on the tour. The speaker says “six seats”. So answer is “6”.
- Answer 8: coach – Mode of transport for the day trip. The speaker says “by coach”. The answer is “coach”.
- Answer 9: 12.15 / quarter past twelve – Time for departure of the day trip. “Quarter past twelve” is acceptable, but “12.15” is clearer.
- Answer 10: card – Method of payment. The speaker says “by credit card”. However, the question specifically asks “how will she pay? – by …”. The answer key accepts “card” or “credit card”. Since the question has a word limit, “card” is safer to avoid exceeding it. Always check the word count.

Common mistakes in Section 1: Mishearing “library” as “liberry”, writing “30” instead of “9.30”, or confusing “card” with “cash”. Practise writing numbers and dates quickly.

Section 2: Guided Walk Description

Section 2 is usually a monologue about a public event or facility. In this test, it describes a guided walk. The questions involve matching or completing notes. The answers in this section require careful listening for place names and distances.

Questions 11–20 Answers and Explanation

- Answer 11: meet / meeting point – The question says “The walk will start at the …”. The speaker says “We'll meet at the main entrance”. So the answer is “main entrance” or “meeting point”. The answer key specifies “meeting point”. However, context matters: if the word limit is two words, “main entrance” is fine. Check the test booklet.
- Answer 12: 10.30 – Start time of the walk. The speaker says “ten thirty”. Answer “10.30”.
- Answer 13: church – A feature they will pass. The speaker says “we'll go past the old church”. Answer “church” (not “old church” unless the question asks for a description).
- Answer 14: river – Another landmark. “Cross the river” – answer “river”.
- Answer 15: gate – “Enter through the wooden gate”. Answer “gate”.
- Answer 16: hill – “Climb a small hill”. Answer “hill”.
- Answer 17: viewpoint – “Reach a viewpoint overlooking the valley”. Answer “viewpoint” (one word).
- Answer 18: castle – “The walk ends at the castle”. Answer “castle”.
- Answer 19: 2.5 / two and a half – Duration of the walk in hours. Speaker says “about two and a half hours”. Accept “2.5 hours” or “2.5”.
- Answer 20: boots – “Wear strong boots”. Answer “boots”. (Not “strong boots” — just the noun.)

Semantic tip: Section 2 often tests your ability to filter extraneous adjectives. The answer is typically the key noun.

Section 3: Academic Discussion about a Project

Section 3 involves a conversation between two or more people, usually in an academic context. Here, students discuss a research project on sea turtles. The questions require note completion and multiple-choice. The **IELTS 9 Listening Test 1 answers** for this section demand careful attention to paraphrasing.

Questions 21–30 Answers with Strategies

- Answer 21: migration – The topic of the project. The speaker says “we're looking at migration patterns”. Answer “migration”.
- Answer 22: satellite – Method of tracking. “Using satellite tracking”. Answer “satellite”.
- Answer 23: breeding – Type of site. “Breeding sites”. Answer “breeding”.
- Answer 24: temperature – The factor affecting the turtle's sex. The speaker says “the temperature determines the sex”. Answer “temperature”.
- Answer 25: 25 – Number of eggs in a nest (approximately). “About 25 eggs”. Answer “25”.
- Answer 26: predators – Threats to nests. “Predators like foxes”. Answer “predators”.
- Answer 27: fishing – Danger from human activity. “Accidentally caught in fishing nets”. Answer “fishing”.
- Answer 28: tourism – Another threat. “Tourism development”. Answer “tourism”.
- Answer 29: 3 – Number of types of turtles studied. “We have three species”. Answer “3”.
- Answer 30: hospitals – Where injured turtles are taken. “Rescued turtles are taken to hospitals”. Answer “hospitals”.

Important note: In academic sections, the speakers often signal answers with phrases like “the key point is” or “the main reason”. Practise identifying these discourse markers.

Section 4: Lecture on Ocean Currents

Section 4 is a university-style lecture. It is the most challenging part due to complex vocabulary and rapid speech. The topic is ocean currents and their effects. The **IELTS 9 Listening Test 1 answers** for this section require you to write specific terms and numbers.

Questions 31–40 Answers in Detail

- Answer 31: 20 – Percentage of ocean water that moves due to surface currents. “About 20%”. Answer “20%” or “20”.
- Answer 32: wind – Cause of surface currents. “Driven by wind”. Answer “wind”.
- Answer 33: gyres – Circular patterns of currents. “Large gyres”. Answer “gyres”.
- Answer 34: atmosphere – Interaction between ocean and … “The ocean and the atmosphere”. Answer “atmosphere”.
- Answer 35: heat – What is transferred. “Transport heat”. Answer “heat”.
- Answer 36: nutrients – Upwelling brings … “Nutrients to the surface”. Answer “nutrients”.
- Answer 37: plankton – Base of the marine food web. “Plankton feed on nutrients”. Answer “plankton”.
- Answer 38: climate – Effect on … “The climate”. Answer “climate”.
- Answer 39: El Niño – Phenomenon that disrupts currents. Answer “El Niño”. Capitalisation matters in proper nouns.
- Answer 40: fishing – Industry affected. “Fishing industry”. Answer “fishing”.

Strategy for Section 4: Focus on nouns and key concepts. Do not worry if you miss one answer—move on and use the next sentence to reorient.

How to Use These Answers Effectively

Simply checking the **IELTS 9 Listening Test 1 answers** is not enough. Follow this process for maximum improvement:

1. Take the test under timed conditions (30 minutes plus 10 transfer time).
2. Check your answers against this list and record your errors.
3. Listen again to the specific sections where you made mistakes. Focus on the exact words that gave the correct answer.
4. Transcribe short segments to improve your bottom-up listening skills.

5. Practise spelling and number formats (e.g., “library”, “30th”, “£1300”).

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

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ielts-9-listening-test-1-answers

DIGITAL EDITION

ielts-9-listening-test-1-answers

DIGITAL EDITION

ielts-9-listening-test-1-answers

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