

ESL/COMPASS Listening Sample Questions

Note: During the test, you will have headphones and hear words here indicated with "Recording" and shaded. Remember that you can listen only ONE TIME. It may help to read all the answers BEFORE listening.

Level 1 *Item Type: Recognizing simple social formulae*

NOTE: The shaded sections of the Listening items are the audio passages that students hear. These passages will not appear on the student's computer screen.

Item Type: Recognizing simple social formulae

Listen.

[Recording]

Please come in.

Choose the correct picture



Level 2 *Item Type: Recognizing instructions or directions*

Listen to the people talking.

[Recording]

Female voice: Excuse me, which bus goes to Central Park?

Male voice: Well, the 22 goes there, but it's better to take the 7 express.
It will be here in 10 minutes.

Which bus does the man say to take?

- A.** The 7 express
- B.** The 10
- C.** The 22 express
- D.** The 22

Level 3 *Item Types: (1) Recognizing main ideas; (2) Recognizing instructions or directions*

Listen to the taped information from a college.

[Recording]

Thank you for calling T-R-A-I-L, or TRAIL, the taped registration and information line. The TRAIL system operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you want information about classes offered by the college, press 1. If you want to register for specific classes, press 2 and follow the instructions. You will have 15 minutes to register. You must confirm your registration by pressing the zero key before you hang up or the computer won't accept your registration. If you have any questions, call the registration office at 555-4933. Press 1 for information or 2 to register now.

1. What is the TRAIL system used for?

- A.** To go to classes
- B.** To get information and register for classes
- C.** To speak to someone at the Registration Office
- D.** To get your grades

2. What will happen if you do NOT confirm your registration?

- A. You will have to pay more.
- B. The computer will change your registration.
- C. You will need to take more classes.
- D. The computer will not accept your registration.

Level 4

Item Types: (1) Recognizing main ideas; (2) Recognizing details; (3) Recognizing details

Listen to the lecture from an art class.

[Recording]

Yesterday we got off the subject a bit—talking about how artists can be difficult people; they're seen as temperamental, too emotional, et cetera. Well, let's talk about *where* this *image* came from. It's a stereotype, of course: not *all* artists are temperamental. But the stereotype is very common today.

We have studied Michelangelo, but I haven't talked about how his personality is the *model* for the modern image of the artist. [pause] His paintings on the Sistine Chapel are some of the most famous works of art in the world. But, he didn't even *want* the job when it was offered to him—he considered himself a *sculptor* first, and didn't want to take time away from that. His sculpting was *most* important to him, and he almost refused the job. He was also famous for a quick and fiery temper, and didn't want to take suggestions about his work. He was extremely independent, fighting with powerful religious and political leaders who hired him to create works of art. So, to sum up, the modern *image* of the *artist* that we talked about yesterday is largely due to Michelangelo.

Oh, I should add that this image we've been talking about is primarily a *Western* view of the artist. This stereotype of an artist is not so common in other parts of the world.

1.

What is the main idea of the lecture?

- A. Michelangelo was the greatest artist of his time.
- B. Michelangelo was a better sculptor than a painter.
- C. Michelangelo's personality, more than his art, made him famous.
- D. Michelangelo's personality is the model for a common image of Western artists.

2. According to the lecture, why was Michelangelo reluctant to paint the Sistine Chapel at first?

- A. He lost his temper with political leaders.
- B. He wanted to work on his sculpting instead.
- C. He did not want to paint the pictures he was asked to paint.
- D. He was not satisfied with the payment offered.

3. Based on the lecture, which of the following is the most correct statement?

- A. The image of the artist, modeled after Michelangelo, is a Western stereotype.
- B. Michelangelo wanted to be the model for the image of the modern artist.
- C. Michelangelo created more art than most artists of his time.
- D. Michelangelo believed he was a better painter than sculptor.