

## Listening and Reading

*Time: 1 hour 30 minutes*

### LISTENING

#### Task 1

For items **1-10** listen to the talk about how playing an instrument benefits your brain and decide whether the statements (**1-10**) are **TRUE (A)**, or **FALSE (B)** according to the text you hear. You will hear the text **TWICE**.

1. When playing an instrument musicians look as if there's a party going on.  
**A. True** **B. False**
2. New technologies have allowed a real time study of the brain.  
**A. True** **B. False**
3. When scanning how people read the researchers saw fireworks.  
**A. True** **B. False**
4. Playing music makes all parts of the brain work simultaneously.  
**A. True** **B. False**
5. Listening to music requires fine motor skills.  
**A. True** **B. False**
6. Motor skills are controlled in the left hemisphere of the brain.  
**A. True** **B. False**
7. Playing music improves musicians' problem-solving skills.  
**A. True** **B. False**
8. Music composers are good at planning and strategizing.  
**A. True** **B. False**
9. To retrieve their memories faster musicians use multiple tags in their brain.  
**A. True** **B. False**

**10.** Playing music as well as performing other arts makes people smarter.

**A. True**

**B. False**

**Task 2**

For items **11-15** listen to the interview with an American singer-songwriter Billie Eilish. Choose the correct answer (**A, B** or **C**) to answer questions **11-15**. You will hear the text **only ONCE**.

**11.** How many Instagram followers does Billie have?

**A.** 9.6 million.

**B.** 6.3 million.

**C.** 1.13 million.

**12.** Billie **DOES NOT** think that being sad

**A.** ruins a lot of things.

**B.** is amazing.

**C.** is a waste of time.

**13.** To handle pressure Billie

**A.** creates new songs.

**B.** posts her feelings on her social media wall.

**C.** writes her feelings on her wall at home.

**14.** Billie **DOES NOT** regret about

**A.** being mistreated.

**B.** knowing her worth.

**C.** being an adult.

15. When writing songs Billie wants to

- A. write something no one has ever heard.
- B. use a well-known approach.
- C. please her fans.

## INTEGRATED LISTENING AND READING

### Task 3

Read the abstract of a film review below, then listen to part of an interview with the actress playing the main part. You will notice that some ideas coincide and some differ in them. Answer questions **16-25** by choosing **A** if the idea is expressed in **both** materials, **B** if it can be found **only in the reading text**, **C** if it can be found **only in the audio-recording**, and **D** if **neither** of the materials expresses the idea.

Now you have **10 minutes to read the text.**

“Spencer”, the new film about Princess Diana, is very definitely not “The Crown”. “Spencer”, the imagined story of which takes place over three ghastly days at Sandringham in 1991, veers far more gothic. In “Spencer”, which is set over the royal family’s three-day Christmas get-together, we see the princess desperately wielding wire-cutters in a ballgown; breaking into her crumbling childhood home; and, weirdly, clutching so ferociously at her string of pearls during a terrible Christmas Eve dinner that the beads clatter into her bowl, which she then spoons up with her soup and has a good chew on. The film, in case it isn’t already clear, leaves the borders of realism far, far behind. I am not sure it is recommended viewing for the real Diana’s sons; although, the one place of stability for the protagonist is her tender relationship with her children.

Kristen Stewart spent some months perfecting her Diana, she says, coming up with an evocation of the princess’s whispery, rushed diction and wry little laugh that was pitch-perfect enough to allow her to feel a sense of freedom in the role. Her dialect coach was William Conacher, who turns out to be all the Dianas’ coaches: Emma Corrin (The Crown) and Naomi Watts (Diana) also worked with him. The accent, she says, was important, but more so, the whole manner: “She had such a particular way of talking, and she makes me feel something so specific to her,” she says. “It was like a full-body exercise – the most muscular, unintuitive, yet extremely instinctive thing. It was weird: I needed to master it in order to kind of mess it up.” Stewart continues: “I don’t know

if I believe in anything. I don't believe in ghosts, but I don't not believe in ghosts. I believe in a lingering energy. I took her in, whether or not it was my idea of her or there was some actual literal remnant of her.”

It must have been strange to immerse oneself in the world of this most famous, loved and vulnerable of women. “I guess the difference between playing somebody who existed in real life versus in someone's imagination exclusively, is talking about it afterwards and wondering how people are going to receive it,” Stewart says. “Because when you are creating a character from scratch you still create a mythology, a list of facts that are true to the person you construct so that that person feels whole to you. “I'm not actually Princess Diana, I can't know everything about her. She's in our movie. She is a character: she exists in this story as something that I feel to be whole,” she adds.

In “Spencer”, the viewer is edged into seeing events from Diana's off-kilter perspective: she is completely lost, physically and spiritually, and gets more so as soon as she enters the gloomy portals of Sandringham.

The film is inviting us to see the food here not as an accurate rendering of Christmas dining at Sandringham, but, as something that, viewed through the lens of Diana's eating disorder, becomes tempting, threatening and overwhelming. This all plays out particularly twistedly during that Christmas Eve dinner scene.

**Now listen to part of an interview with the author of the book and then do the tasks (questions 16-25), comparing the text above and the interview. You will hear the interview TWICE.**

16. The movie shows how Diana ate her pearl necklace.
17. The actress thinks that Diana believed in ghosts.
18. The movie shows that Diana had eating problems.
19. The movie shows three days of Diana's life.
20. The actress found it very demanding to study the materials about Diana's life.
21. The film director did a great job.
22. The actress worked with a coach on her pronunciation for the movie.
23. The actress thinks Diana's life resembled a gothic horror.
24. In her personality Diana combined the incompatible.
25. The actress thinks the princes should watch the movie.

## READING

### Task 4

Read the text and answer questions **26-40** below.

#### **'A letter tells someone they still matter': the sudden, surprising return of the pen pal**

*In the pandemic, many have rediscovered the sheer pleasure of writing to strangers, with new schemes spreading hope and connection around the world.*

(A) Liz Maguire is a 27-year-old American expat living in Dublin. Though undoubtedly a celebrity in her chosen field, she is not a professional, but that is simply because she is not paid to do what she loves, which is to write letters to strangers. At last count, Maguire had 88 pen pals on the go, scattered throughout Europe, Canada, the US and Singapore. She keeps track of their letters using a binder system sorted by month. She also collects historical letters, which she keeps in folders. This January she started sending birthday cards to strangers, too. By mid-February, she had already sent 60.

(B) Pen-palling is “an endurance sport”, says Liz, who on one morning has already sent seven handwritten letters. “Evenings and weekends are my busiest time. Then, if I apply myself, my hand can get about five or six four-pagers out. So that’s twenty-five pages a day. It feels like a good workout. That’s a lot – especially as our generation aren’t usually able to write like this.” To write in that quantity, you need the right pen, Maguire explains. She prefers rollerballs (cheap, less smudging), which bear the names of various corporate venues related to her marketing day job. “My company’s official branded merchandise comes in handy”, says Liz.

(C) Like most of pen-pallers, she won’t reveal much about her correspondents (this seems to be a code of honour), but “connection” is at the heart of what she does. Liz Maguire and her pen pals share stories, thoughts, books, Post-it notes, stickers and poetry. It’s upbeat stuff; the virus knits them together, yet is rarely mentioned. “It’s not easy finding people,” says Liz. “I tried to solicit some on social media ages ago but there is a hesitancy, naturally, to give out your details on the internet.” Many of her pen pals came through a new online scheme called *Penpalooza*, set up by the writer Rachel Syme last March. By January, the number of users had grown to 10,000.

**(D)** The pandemic has been good for pen pals. Before 2020, written correspondence was as good as dead; what the telephone had weakened, the internet finished off. Yet a year later, this very thing that promised to broaden our world and nourish connection has left us feeling more isolated and eventually frustrated. WhatsApp is good for gossip, FaceTime for countering family alienation and Skype for when all else fails. Email is invaluable but there is something about the immediacy that crushes any thoughtfulness or intimacy. Phone calls are wonderful, but once you hang up, that's it, you cannot hold them in your hands or go over them again.

**(E)** Letters are real. The crisp sounds of the unfolding, the slight indentations where you pressed a bit harder with the pen, and the smell of paper all contribute to not just a message, but an experience. A handwritten letter is something you can touch – something that engages our senses in a way that technology currently cannot. The recipient can tuck the letter into a book or slide it into a drawer. They can display it on a shelf or keep it on the nightstand. It is a material reminder of its author, their thoughts forever etched onto a physical object. Your reader will not soon forget you. Besides, letters are generally good for us – humans thrive on activity and connectivity, and feel thwarted in the absence of those things. Letters offer a break from the sameness of lockdown, which made us simultaneously time rich and connection poor.

**(F)** For Jill Stevens's generation, writing to pen pals was part of growing up. She remembers being ghosted by her first and only correspondent, possibly because she sent him a card covered with lipstick kisses. She was eight at the time. Jill says "I still remember the thrill of receiving a letter about what he'd seen on *He-Man* or *Live & Kicking* series. After that, I mostly wrote to my family. Now, separated for several reasons, my mother and I often write each other long letters. An artist, she paints watercolour ducks on hers, and I feel so touched and cry reading them, usually smudging the ducks".

**(G)** Now Jill writes to lots of people. "They've been helpful during the lockdown when I got seriously ill, was diagnosed with cancer and left all to myself. Neighbours, friends, friends of friends and complete strangers who've learnt of my condition. Weeks after recovery, my own letters started as thank you letters. I would reply shortly to texts late at night, but on paper, words coiled out of me. Thank you for the flowers. For the frozen and freshly cooked meals. For the medicines. For the get better cards. For being part of my life. And we have become pen pals".

**(H)** Then Jill started sending cards to people she didn't know well, but who are suffering from the same disease. She believes this type of support was key to her

survival after having cancer. “I simply cannot imagine going through treatment alone, so if I can let someone know that they still matter, even if it’s a faceless somebody, that is the catalyst. Letters feel appropriate, less intrusive than a text message or a phone call.” Jill is about to meet up with one of her pen pals when the latter gets better. “I recently sent a photo of an empty bench and said, ‘One day we’ll be drinking tea here, laughing about all this, you’ll see.’”

### Questions 26-30

**In which part of the text is the following mentioned?**

26. feelings of appreciation that initiated ongoing correspondence
27. tangibility and physical reality of a means of communication
28. the writer’s ideas permanently fixed on paper
29. an unwritten rule followed by a group of people
30. the amount of writing done on average per day
31. a certain way of organizing and monitoring correspondence
32. a positive plan of action about the time to come
33. physical stamina required by a seemingly simple daily activity
34. a romantic childhood experience of written communication
35. the main provider of tools for the person’s pastime
36. the destructive effect of instant communication
37. providing support to those experiencing a similar medical condition
38. reluctance about sharing one’s personal information virtually
39. feeling sentimental about receiving letters
40. the counter effect of the global computerized system

**TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET**

## Use of English

Time: 45 minutes

### Task 1

**For items 1-10**, solve the crossword using the definitions of the required word given in brackets. **The first example (0) is done for you.**

**Example: 0. believe**

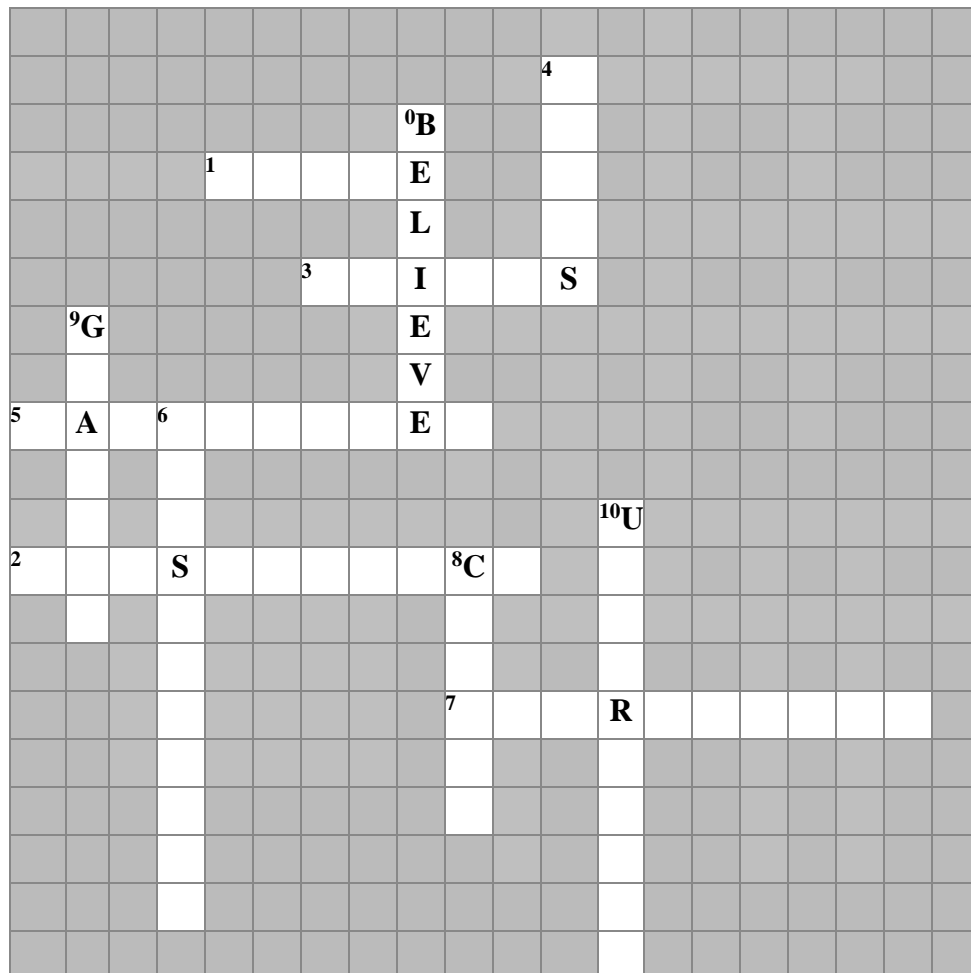
#### Making a difference

You should never (0) ... (*think that something is true, or that what someone says is true*) that you are too young to make a difference to the planet. Take as an example, a 14-year-old school student from Pittsburgh in the USA, Suvir Mirchandani. Suvir was perhaps a little more environmentally (1) ... (*concerned and well-informed about a situation*) than his peers. He certainly showed initiative, (2) ... (*the fact of continuing to try to do something despite difficulties*) and innovation in his approach to reducing waste. His school, like most, produced huge numbers of worksheets, (3) ... (*small sheets of paper advertising a product or an event and given to a large number of people*) and letters home to parents. Of course, many people complained about the amount of paper that was being used, but Suvir went one step further. He wondered whether switching (4) ... (*the particular size and style of a set of letters that are used in printing, etc.*) would make a difference to the amount of ink used by the school, and he set out to discover which was the most eco-friendly one.

He looked at the five most commonly used characters in English, enlarged them, printed them onto card and cut them out. He did this in four of the common computer lettering (Garamond, Times New Roman, Century Gothic and Comic Sans). Weighing the size of each letter, he (5) ... (*used numbers to find out a total number, amount, distance, etc.*) that his school could reduce its ink (6) ... (*the act of using energy, food or materials; the amount used*) by 24% - simply by switching to the thinner letters of Garamond. He claimed that this would represent a saving of an (7) ... (*impossible or very difficult to believe*) \$21,000 per annum.



After further thought, Suvir made more ambitious (8) ... (*announcements that something is true, although it has not been proved*), estimating that a similar switch could save the US Federal Government \$136 million. His ideas (9) ... (*took hold of, attracted attention*) the headlines, although further analysis (10) ... (*made him less confident, or made his authority gradually weaker or less effective*) his bold statements. Many pointed out that switching to paperless communication would save both ink and paper. However, his ideas certainly succeeded in focusing attention on one small change that could make a big difference: an impressive feat for a teenager.



**Task 2**

**For items 11-20**, match the names of sites in Washington, D.C. (column 1) with their full descriptions (column 2). One description is not needed. **The first example is done for you.**

**0.** Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

**0. F**

1	2
<p><b>0.</b> Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden</p>	<p><b>A.</b> It is a major institute for botanical research. It houses a significant botanical library and an herbarium with over 650,000 preserved specimens. Research is wide-ranging but largely horticultural and focuses on ornamental trees, shrubs, turf grasses, and flowering herbs.</p>
<p><b>11.</b> Wilderness City</p>	<p><b>B.</b> Upon entrance, visitors are issued an identity card with the name of a real person who was persecuted there. They are guided on a path through the three-level exhibit, which contains photographs, artifacts, and audio and video footage, as well as large-scale installations. Throughout the exhibit, visitors are given a chance to learn about the fate of the individual on their assigned identity card.</p>
<p><b>12.</b> The National Arboretum</p>	<p><b>C.</b> It's a stately monument honouring the 16th president of the United States, and "the virtues of tolerance, honesty, and constancy in the human spirit." In 1963, on the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from its steps in front of more than 200,000 people.</p>
<p><b>13.</b> America's front yard</p>	<p><b>D.</b> It is a man-made reservoir located between the Potomac River and the Washington Channel in Washington, D.C. It is a focal point of the National Cherry Blossom Festival held each spring.</p>
<p><b>14.</b> The Lincoln Memorial</p>	<p><b>E.</b> At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the new capital was called like that. When the government moved there in 1800,</p>

<p><b>17. Rock Creek</b></p> <p><b>18. Georgetown</b></p> <p><b>19. The Tidal Basin</b></p> <p><b>20. The Reflecting Pool</b></p>	<p>President John Adams and his party literally couldn't find the place, getting lost in the woods.</p> <p><b>F.</b> Interest in a museum of contemporary art was renewed in 1966 after the New York businessman and art collector donated some 6,000 artworks to the U.S. government. A new museum, designed by architect Gordon Bunshaft to house this gift, opened in 1974, the first contemporary art museum in Washington, D.C.</p> <p><b>G.</b> It encompasses nearly 1,800 acres in Northwest D.C. Congress purchased this land in 1890 to safeguard it from development. Remnants of quartzite and soapstone quarries once used by Native Americans can be found there. Among the zoo's main attractions are the panda bears, on long-term loan from China.</p> <p><b>H.</b> It is an obelisk shaped building within the National Mall, built to commemorate the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in the American Revolutionary War and the president of the United States, who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen". Overtaking the Cologne Cathedral, it was the tallest structure in the world between 1884 and 1889, after which it was overtaken by the Eiffel Tower in Paris.</p> <p><b>I.</b> It's a section of the city of Washington, D.C. It was settled late in the 17th century. It is largely residential, and its streets are old-fashioned, well-shaded, and narrow. In the "Heights" section are its University (1789) and many fine homes with beautiful gardens. Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1950 to preserve the character of the section, which was later designated a national historic district.</p> <p><b>J.</b> Washington was established as the capital of the United States as the result of a compromise following seven years of negotiation by members of the U.S. Congress as they tried to</p>
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define the concept of a “federal enclave.” The new federal territory was named like that to honour explorer Christopher Columbus, and the new federal city was named for George Washington.

**K.** It is a long and large rectangular reservoir located on the National Mall, directly east of the Lincoln Memorial, with the Washington Monument to its east. Part of the iconic image of Washington, it hosts many of the 24 million visitors a year who visit the National Mall. It is lined by walking paths and shade trees on both sides. Located at the base of the Lincoln Memorial's steps, its area has been the site of many historic events.

**L.** It'd a nickname for the National Mall, broad promenade extending westward from the Capitol to the Potomac River beyond the Lincoln Memorial. It is as wide (in the north–south dimension) as the grounds of the Capitol. Its monuments, memorials and museums have become American iconic images.

**TRANSFER ALL YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR ANSWER SHEET**

## Writing

**Time: 1 hour 15 minutes**

### Task

Your school has received a grant from an educational fund which is to be spent on an educational project outside the subjects regularly taught in the school. As a member of the Student Committee, you have been asked to write **a proposal** to the school authorities describing the educational project you think should be carried out and explaining why it would be beneficial for the school and the students.

The proposal must contain:

- introduction
- description of the educational project
- practical information about what equipment and organizational arrangements are needed for the realization of the project
- explanation of its benefits for the school and the students
- conclusion.

Write **200-250** words. Provide the **title** and the **subheadings**.