LISTENING – ANSWER KEY

Candidate Number:

Place a X in the appropriate box.
Do not make corrections.
Never mark more than one box.

Task One: Short Conversations Question 1 - 4

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Task Two: Making Notes Question 5 - 7

| 5 | • 1915 opal was first discovered  
• 95% Coober Pedy produces 95% of the world’s opal  
• 24 (gallons) the entitlement of water per week in the early days |
|---|---|
| 6 | • cultural/ethnic diversity /45 different nationalities in such a small community  
• underground living  
• searching for opal/noodling |
| 7 | • land cheap to acquire  
• moderate climate / even temperatures  
• affordable / manageable cost of living |
### Task Three: Radio Programme Question 8 - 15

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Scripts for Task One: Short Conversations

Conversation 1
Sarah: You probably won’t like it, Dad, but I’m really interested in this course. I think I’m an outgoing personality, and I have the talent to project myself.
Mr Jenner: “Won’t like it, indeed.” I’d love to fork out thousands of Euros for you to do a four-year course and then be unemployed, or perhaps even appear as an extra for half a minute in a soap.
Sarah: Oh, come on Dad…
Mr Jenner: More likely you’d end up working three hours a week showing disabled children around a museum or something like that. I’d love you to take that course. Believe me, Sarah, that’s my top desire.
Sarah: Don’t be like that, Dad.
Mr Jenner: Well, you’re such an engaging personality, aren’t you? So, you’re bound to be a success.
Sarah: What,… what do you m…mean?
Mr Jenner: And such beautiful elocution too. You really do have all the skills that are needed.

Conversation 2
Sarah: I am seriously considering this course, Dad.
Mr Jenner: Which is that one, Sarah. I’m just about to send this email. A lot of money hangs on the outcome of this deal.
Sarah: I know it’s not directly about making money, but we should be interested in everything around us – the media, family structure, schools, poverty – you know what I mean.
Mr Jenner: The answer’s ‘no,’ Sarah. Those institutions and practices which don’t make money are parasitic on business, and I’ll have no daughter of mine wasting her time and my money studying them for so-called intellectual interest.
Sarah: You don’t seriously mean that…
Mr Jenner: Yes, I do. The social structure and all that sort of thing doesn’t concern me; only business does. Now I’ve got to get on.
Sarah: Dad !
Mr Jenner: Whatever you’ve got to say keep it to one minute. I’ve got work to do.
Sarah: But Dad!
Mr Jenner: No ‘but Dads’ now, Sarah. I’ve got work to do.

Conversation 3
Sarah: I suppose you’d like me to do this course, wouldn’t you, Dad?
Mr Jenner: Now, you’re beginning to talk like a daughter of mine, Sarah.
Sarah: There’s so much learning, and it changes all the time. It’s so cold and analytic.
Mr Jenner: This is life, Sarah – or at least as sensible people have always seen it: companies, tax – there’s money to be made here, so I’d be happy to invest in your education.
Sarah: I don’t think I’d like it, though.
Mr Jenner: Well, if you’re sensible enough to do that course, I’ll back you all the way.

Conversation 4
Sarah: This would really be an interesting course to do, Dad.
Mr Jenner: Do you mean the psychology course?
Sarah: Well that’s largely an experimental science; this course is not like that.
Mr Jenner: I hope you don’t mean the course that I think you mean.
Sarah: Yes, I have always been interested in thinking. You know what I mean finding out what the world means and how we know things. Really, Dad, it would be so interesting.
Mr Jenner  That sort of waffle and nonsense is not for our family, Sarah. There’s only one question that matters: how much does something cost? The rest doesn’t concern me.

Sarah  But the whole purpose of my taking this course would be for me to get a broader and deeper view of the world.

Mr Jenner  Sarah, I just don’t want to know.

**Script for Task Two: Making Notes**

Examiner  Question 5: what is the significance of the following numbers? 1915, 95%, 24

Speaker  Let me begin with a short introduction to the town and its history.

The modern day Coober Pedy deservedly lays claim to the title, ‘opal capital of the world’, as it is currently responsible for producing a staggering 95% of the world’s total output of opal. The town is located some 845 kilometres north of Adelaide in the middle of the great Australian Outback. It is surrounded by an inhospitable stony arid landscape that is littered with the evidence of earlier mining activities.

Opal was discovered in this region more by accident than design. A prospecting company were fruitlessly searching for gold and it was only when they had set up camp that they came across pieces of opal scattered on the ground. That was 1915 and since then the fortunes of Coober Pedy have followed the boom and bust nature of the industry. A settlement on the site quickly followed to capitalise on the discovery and in 1920 it acquired the name Coober Pedy, an anglicisation of the Aboriginal ‘kupa pita’, or white man in a hole. Construction of the trans-continental railway was completed in 1917, which provided an invaluable link to other trade centres and paved the way for demobilised soldiers returning from the First World War. However, the beginnings were inauspicious. The nature of the environment meant living conditions were incredibly austere and demanding. Water and provisions had to be carried great distances under very trying circumstances. The construction of water tanks in the 1920s resulted in marginal improvement, but water was still rationed to twenty-four gallons a week.

Examiner  Question 5: what is the significance of the following numbers? 1915, 95%, 24

(2 minute pause)

Question 6: what are the three things that make Coober Pedy a unique place to visit?

Speaker  The sixties and seventies were decades of unprecedented growth in Coober Pedy accompanied by a huge influx of European migrants intent on making their fortunes. Today the town is home to upwards of 45 distinct ethnic groups, making it one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Australia. This is even more startling considering that the town has a population of only 3,500. The town has an undeniably cosmopolitan atmosphere and celebrates its cultural diversity, which appeals to any visitor. It is also a unique experiment in tolerance and acceptance at the institutional level. The desire to retain traditions and customs has served to shape much of the education syllabus. These different values have filtered or have been deliberately incorporated into the normal school day.

The climate is typical of desert regions and has been the impetus for a number of innovative solutions. The most remarkable among these must surely be the development of luxury underground homes that often surpass modern day living standards. Underground living in Coober Pedy goes as far as to embrace most facilities expected of any town, but below the desert. Visitors marvel at underground churches, shops, hotels, and even camping areas.

Although the population is relatively small it is spread over a vast area. This has meant that Coober Pedy has been blessed with one of the best public bus systems in the Outback, whereas other similar sized settlements suffer from underfunding.
Coober Pedy is one of the last protectors of the principle of noodling, whereby ordinary people may share in the wealth of mining. This involves sifting through the waste material left over by the mining process for pieces of opal. This is the only place where you don’t require permission and one of the last where you’re likely to find anything. So, if you’re visiting don’t miss this chance to make your fortune.

Examiner Question 6: what are the three things that make Coober Pedy a unique place to visit.

(2 minute pause)

Question 7: what are three advantages of being a home owner in Coober Pedy?

Speaker Life in Coober Pedy is inextricably bound to its surroundings. It’s impossible to escape the endless lunar-like landscape, which has been the striking backdrop for a host of blockbuster films. Needless to say there is ample opportunity for outdoor pursuits, and Coober Pedy boasts everything from a successful drive-in cinema to a top ten golf course.

There are other associated benefits to the town’s desert setting. Obviously there is unlimited scope for development and there aren’t the same pressures on land use that are experienced in the more developed coastal parts of Australia. Furthermore, government restrictions and red tape operate at the bare minimum. Consequently, it is remarkably cheap to lease or acquire land for residential use. The residents of Coober Pedy have profited from this and often buy three or four adjoining plots with the intention of transforming them into huge underground mansion style homes.

Living underground also means that you can escape the extreme temperatures of the desert. Bored into the hard rock, the underground rooms maintain a comfortable, even temperature in the mid-20s throughout the year. In marked contrast to city living, the natural air circulation found in subterranean spaces renders air-conditioners and heaters unnecessary. These factors ensure that the cost of living is easily manageable for the people of Coober Pedy. Even the recurring problem of how to supply fresh and clean drinking water has proved to be surmountable. Residents now receive an excellent supply piped directly into their homes from a source twenty-four kilometres north of the town. True, there are attendant costs involved in the treatment and pumping which homeowners must pay – currently $5 for 1,000 litres – but even this is heavily outweighed by the supremely energy efficient homes.

Examiner Question 7: what are three advantages of being a home owner in Coober Pedy?

(2 minute pause)

Script for Task Three: Radio Programme

Interviewer Good evening everybody. I’m Marsha Pink. In today’s programme we have with us the well-known local politician, Arnie Fischer. But today it’s not Arnie’s politics under the spotlight, but Arnie the man. Hello, Arnie.

Arnie Hello, Marsha. Nice to be with you again.

Interviewer Now Arnie. I understand that you got married when you were seventeen – many years ago now. Can you tell something about that?

Arnie Yes, it does sound strange. And when I think back to it, it all happened very quickly. I was just seventeen when I first met Ruth. I was interested in increasing my knowledge of philosophy, so I enrolled in Professor Slovo’s philosophy lectures. Initially intended to be held in his home, they were moved to the local cultural centre. The lecture along with the seminar afterwards lasted about three hours. There were two sessions a week, and of course there was the compulsory reading and essay writing.

Interviewer OK, so was your future wife at this course?
Arnie: Yes, she was. I was sitting in the second row of benches, and Ruth was sitting in the row in front, so I first fell in love with Ruth's hair. She always swept back her long black hair before she said anything. I have to say I was always a little intimidated by her because she seemed to have a much stronger grasp of the issues than I did.

Interviewer: I see. So when did you first talk to Ruth?

Arnie: Well, there was a short break in the evening for refreshments; I found myself standing next to Ruth in the canteen. In the lecture she had asked Professor Slovo a question about Plato's theory of forms, so I asked her to explain her point of view.

Interviewer: So how did the relationship proceed after that?

Arnie: We got so involved talking about Plato, that we were ten minutes late back to the seminar on Plato's metaphysics. I will never forget until I die the look that Professor Slovo gave us. Well, we caught up with the discussion in the seminar as best we could. At the end of the evening, I offered to walk Ruth home, so we could continue the discussion.

Interviewer: Did she live alone?

Arnie: Of course not. She was seventeen like me. The shock for me was that Ruth was Professor Slovo’s daughter. Of course that explained the look I got in the seminar. While I felt a bit of a fool for not knowing, the thought that I had been talking to Professor Slovo’s daughter was extremely exciting.

Interviewer: Did you ask Ruth out?

Arnie: Well, to tell you the truth, it was more of a question of being asked to stay in. Ruth wasn't allowed out. Her parents were very strict about that. So I have the memory of spending many hours talking to the Slovos in the sitting room. I nearly made myself ill studying at home, so I wouldn’t fail in Professor Slovo’s philosophical cross-examinations, which always started the evening.

Interviewer: Arnie, were you ever allowed to spend any time alone with Ruth?

Arnie: A little. In the winter Ruth’s mother would leave us alone for half an hour or so in the kitchen; that was a place where Professor Slovo seldom ventured. In summer we were allowed to walk round the garden. There was a beautiful cherry tree and we were able to sit under it and talk about philosophy. It was one summer evening, just before we had to go inside that I asked Ruth to marry me. I hadn’t really thought about it. I just asked.

Interviewer: So what happened?

Arnie: Well, Ruth ran inside without saying anything. I was horrified, and I couldn't sleep that night. The next day when I visited the Slovos I was trembling. Professor Slovo took me into the living room, and Ruth was there too. He told me that he agreed with our marriage, and he saw no reason why we could not be married without delay.

Interviewer: And you were only seventeen. What did your parents think of this?

Arnie: Well, they held Professor Slovo in such high regard that they readily agreed. Professor Slovo provided a room for us in his house and some money on condition that I continued with my studies in philosophy. As I was so interested in the subject, that was no problem at all.

Interviewer: And what about your formal education, Arnie? You were still at school.

Arnie: Yes, I was the only married boy at school. And there were very few of us at university who were married. It was hard at times, but I never regretted our decision.

Interviewer: And how about Ruth?

Arnie: Well, she abandoned formal education for several years when she was eighteen because she was pregnant with our daughter, who turned out to be our only child.

Interviewer: And today, over fifty years later.

Arnie: I’m a very happy grandfather. Ruth and I are still very happy together. And we still discuss philosophy in the evenings.

Interviewer: Well, thanks Arnie. We have our first caller on the line, Mr Hemmingway…