

Student's Notes

First (FCE): LISTENING

There are four parts with a total of **30** questions.

You will hear each part of the listening twice.

Before listening it is important to read the questions to help you predict what you will hear. This will help you in your understanding. While listening, ask yourself: *Who, Where, What?*

Part 1 – eight short extracts (spoken by one or more speakers) followed by multiple-choice questions with A/B/C options.

Be careful of distractors. Do not always opt for the first thing that you hear. Instead, wait until the end of the recording before making your choice.

Part 2 – ten sentence-completion questions. One or more speakers will talk for approximately three minutes. Write a word or short phrase to complete the sentences.

When looking at the questions before listening, think about **WHO** is speaking (male, female, old, young?). These predictions will help you when listening to get the correct answer.

Remember that your answer must fit into the gap grammatically.

Part 3 – five multiple matching questions. Five monologues will each last approximately 30 seconds. Your task is to match the extracts with the options.

Part 4 – seven multiple-choice questions (A, B or C) related to an extract of one or more speakers talking for approximately three minutes.

Remember that the questions will relate to content given in the order of listening, so if you are looking at question 2 and you hear the answer to 3, you have missed an important answer. Remember to focus on this question during the second listening.

Do not worry about the spelling when listening. Instead, focus on the correct spelling when transferring your answers. However, if a name is spelled out by one of the speakers, make sure you write it down correctly the first time.

Improving your listening – use **the radio** for listening practice rather than the TV, as pictures help you to understand what is being said and you will not have this benefit in the Listening exam. The Listening section is at the end of the exam day so you will be tired. By doing practice tests and listening for pleasure, it will become easier and less tiring.