

IELTS: LISTENING

The students find the Listening test quite challenging compared to the **Reading**, **Writing** and **Speaking** tests. This is because in the Listening test they have to read, listen and write at the same time and they only hear the audio once. So, it is very important that they know what the strategies are and when to apply them.

- Familiarisation of the different question types.
- Read ahead.
- Highlight keywords.
- When the time for reading ahead terminates, **STOP** reading immediately and begin to listen to the very first word spoken.

Task: Although they only hear the audio once, generally the answer is given in a different form a second time within the extract, e.g. 'You need to be at the exam centre at nine fifteen' will be repeated as 'The exam centre opens at quarter past nine'. When listening to appropriate extracts, get students to see if they can note down the two ways that an answer is given.

Task: Likewise make sure that students do not accept the first answer that seems correct. Subsequent information may change the answer. Distractors are included to really test the candidates' listening. Do a listening activity and see if the students can spot the distractors.

Task: By looking at exam questions, get students to predict who the speakers are going to be by thinking about age and gender; this will help them to understand who is saying what.

Emphasise to the students not to leave any blank spaces on the answer sheet, and if they are not sure of an answer then to make a guess.

Familiarise students with the different accents that they will hear during the speaking i.e. Australian, a variety of UK accents, Canadian and USA. By listening to different TV channels and watching films from different countries they will become familiar with the variety of accents used by the people speaking in the test.