



Task 1. Listening comprehension / 8 p.

(source: Cambridge English Qualifications, B2 First, Listening part 4, sample paper 1)

1	less maintenance	5	old shipping containers
2	the Mesopotamian civilization (-sation)	6	durable (and) versatile OR versatile (and) durable
3	rapid housing demand	7	self-sustaining off-grid OR off-grid self-sustaining
4	material and labour (-or) OR labour (-or) and material	8	wastewater leftover OR leftover wastewater

Task 2. Listening Comprehension 2 / 7 p.

(source: Second Edition Advanced Trainer Six Practice Tests, CUP 2015)

1.	b
2	b
3	a
4	c
5	a
6	c
7	b

Task 3. Reading comprehension / 10 p.

(source: First Trainer Six Practice Tests, CUP 2015)

1	C
2	F
3	A
4	D
5	B

Task 4. Working with words 1 / 5 p.

1	into
2	against
3	between
4	on/off
5	through/via

Task 5. Working with words 2 / 10 p.

1	leverage	6	communal
2	exploded	7	density
3	ensure	8	comprise
4	classical	9	evolve
5	civic	10	elevated

Task 6. Language at work / 10 p.

1	c	3	b	5	a	7	b	9	a
2	a	4	b	6	c	8	c	10	b

Task 7. Word formation / 10 p.

1	SPATIALLY	6	RENEWED
2	DEFORMS	7	SPECIALISING/ZING
3	IMMOVABLE	8	(PRE)DOMINANTLY
4	HEIGHT(S)	9	RENTAL
5	PROCEEDING	10	ENCOMPASS

Task 8. Transformations / 10 p.

1	As far as I can tell
2	takes it for granted that
3	is unlikely to succeed in winning
4	Had it not been for (NOT Hadn't it...)
5	if/whether he had gone
6	resulted from the late arrival
7	work nearly as well as
8	ought to have employed
9	for keeping/putting her in the picture
10	the fall in profits on



Audio scripts:

Listening 1 (total time: 11:00)

Welcome, everyone. Today, I'll be discussing sustainable housing options and why they might be the homes of the future. I will describe three examples of sustainable houses, their history, and their positive impact on the environment and the owner.

Lecturer: So, what makes a house sustainable? Well... a sustainable house reduces the negative impact on the environment by efficiently using resources and energy. It also has lower costs and requires less maintenance. In a time when people are far more environmentally conscious and are facing ever-increasing housing costs, these options are more appealing than ever before.

Lecturer: Let's start by talking about the most common type of house, the prefabricated house, also known as a prefab house. Prefabrication is the process of building elements off-site and then transporting the pieces to a site to assemble them. Interestingly, prefabrication building methods have a long history and go as far back as the Mesopotamian civilisation and Roman times. Records show that the Romans used prefabricated components to build forts quickly in new lands. In the 1800s, the Eiffel Tower in Paris was created with the help of prefabrication methods. Due to time constraints, 12,000 parts of the tower were pre-built in a workshop. In the 1830s, John Manning, a London carpenter, created the first prefabricated home for his son who was emigrating to Australia. He built the different parts of the house in London and then shipped them to him in Australia. The prefabricated model then became popular in the United States during the gold rush in the 1840s to meet the rapid housing demand. In 1942 prefab houses were used in the United Kingdom when Winston Churchill, the prime minister at the time, wanted a speedy, efficient solution to the housing crisis that was unfolding due to the Second World War. Nowadays, prefabricated houses are becoming more popular than ever, offering a more sustainable and affordable housing option. The process of building off-site reduces water usage, and material and labour costs. Manufacturers are also including sustainable, energy-efficient components in the designs as house owners are looking for more environmentally friendly options.

Lecturer: Let's move on to shipping containers. Shipping containers have been used to transport cargo internationally since the 1950s, but now are being used to create housing and other buildings. In the 1960s, Reyner Banham wrote his thesis on the concept of converting old shipping containers into homes. However, it wasn't until a few decades later that the first building was made. In 1985, on the set of a movie called Space Rage, shipping containers were used to create several buildings. Then in 1987, a man called Phillip Clark applied for a patent for the 'method for converting steel shipping containers into habitable buildings' and two years later it was finally approved. This was the first official record of a shipping container home. Nowadays they are being used as homes, offices, schools, and restaurants. As they are made from steel, they are extremely durable and versatile as multiple containers can be joined together to make a bigger, more creative structure. Shipping containers are an excellent example of upcycling. Rather than wasting unused containers, they can be turned into homes saving builders from using new materials. And like prefab houses, they are built first and then transported to the site, reducing the cost of labour and additional material. As the containers are smaller than traditional homes, they require less energy to heat and power the space.

Lecturer: The final house I am going to talk about is probably the least common but most progressive and unusual type of sustainable housing. It is called the Earthship, and it is a completely self-sustaining off-grid house that was designed by an American eco-architect called Michael Reynolds in the 1970s. He was inspired by the increasing problem of rubbish, the energy crisis and the lack of affordable housing and wanted to create environmentally friendly structures that only use renewable resources. He started by creating building materials from recycled materials such as tin cans and tyres and his designs and vision developed into the Earthship. There are currently around 3,000 Earthships, mostly built in America. The houses are not only built using all recycled materials but are also designed to heat and cool themselves using solar power and wind power. They collect water from the rain and use a purifying system, so the water is drinkable, and any wastewater leftover is used to water the plants.

Lecturer: It is clear that people are looking for an alternative option to the more traditional, unsustainable houses that are used today. Environmental and social issues are prompting them to search for something different. So, perhaps in the future, we will be seeing more shipping containers, prefab houses and Earthships popping up in our neighbourhoods.

Listening 2 (total time: 08:26)

Woman: Good morning. My name's Caroline MacArthur and I'd like to tell you a little about my research project into rivers that have been turned into underground streams. Of course, some rivers flow underground naturally, but I'm interested in the ones that have been put into pipes deliberately.

In Britain, a number of rivers were buried underground in large pipes during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. Rivers had always been used for sewage, but in this period, industry created pollution that affected lots of rivers, either deliberately or by accident. The aim was that it should be carried away by turning the river into a drain. One benefit, although this wasn't known at the time, was that covering rivers limited the spread of water-borne diseases. This led to significant improvements in the quality of people's lives. Because underground rivers have no sunlight, plants can't photosynthesise, and so existing habitats were effectively destroyed, and there was no chance of new ones developing. In other words, the river ended up with no plants and no fish.

Another reason for the lack of wildlife was that when rivers were put into pipes, sections of pipe that were supposed to meet precisely didn't necessarily, and the difference in level could be great enough to prevent fish from passing along the stream.

Nowadays, we know covering rivers over isn't a particularly effective way of dealing with flooding. In fact, it can make the risk worse; one reason being that pipes may suffer a blockage, causing the water to back up. Similarly, if the pipe is under pressure from large amounts of flood water, it may collapse. In either case, serious damage is a potential outcome.

Let me give you an example. A few years ago, a block of flats had to be evacuated. What nobody knew was that a river flowed underneath it in a pipe. So, when a serious storm caused the pipe to collapse, the river spread out and washed away the foundations of the building, putting it at serious risk of falling down. It cost millions of pounds to demolish the building and construct a new one. Rather short-sightedly, perhaps, the river remained underneath the building, in a new pipe.

It's remarkable how few underground rivers are known, and identifying the unknown ones can be very difficult. I'm consulting old maps, of course, and I'm also looking at documents that mention rivers which aren't visible these days. Apart from that, I'm using software that shows the contours of the land, and maps where water would run if it flowed naturally through the landscape. Comparing the results of this with old maps predicts fairly accurately where there are valleys – often ones that aren't at all visible on the ground. And these often contain an underground river.

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