



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
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ENGLISCH (FREMDSPRACHE)

Nr. Kandidat/in

NAME:

Vorname:

Part 1: Reading Comprehension (28 points)

1. Multiple Choice (14 points)

You are going to read a magazine article about a radio presenter. Choose the answer (A, B, C, or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

A New Voice on the Radio

Margherita Taylor talks to Sarah Edghill about what it's like being at Capital Radio.

Margherita Taylor is the only female presenter at Capital Radio, one of London's top music radio stations. She got into radio while she was a student in Birmingham. Along with hundreds of other hopefuls, she and a friend queued for hours in the rain to take part in a 'Search for a Star' competition held by a local radio station, BRMB. 'I had to read a travel script and a weather script, talk about myself for a minute, then introduce a record. After that, they sent me back out into the rain,' she says. But within days the phone call came to say that her voice had earned her a regular show on BRMB. Truly the stuff dreams are made of. After working there for eighteen months, she was offered a job with Capital.

Margherita is a London girl and arriving at Capital was like coming home. 'I grew up listening to Capital Radio,' she says. 'People say, "Wasn't it frightening, joining such well-known presenters?" But everyone here is so down to earth. It would be off-putting if the others had people doing their make-up, or star signs on their office doors. But there's none of that — Mick Brown, for instance, finishes his show and wanders off to get the bus home with everyone else.'

Margherita claims never to get nervous before a show — nerves are for the weak. 'You can't get nervous because then you make mistakes,' she says. Of course, there has been the odd disaster. 'For instance, when I did my first live concert show at BRMB, I'd only done one programme. In front of a crowd of 50,000, I went on stage to introduce a certain well-known singer. I said: "Please welcome our next performer. You know her best for hits like ..." Then I just went blank. There was this silence from the crowd, and for the life of me I couldn't think what she'd sung. That's one occasion that will stay with me for ever.'

Margherita says that her own musical tastes are varied. But she doesn't pick her own music for her shows. The Capital computer selects the records in advance from a list approved by the station managers. 'The station has a certain sound, and if we all picked our own music, it wouldn't sound like Capital,' she says. 'But for someone who likes music, this is a dream job. I get to go to concerts and meet the bands you can hear on my show. It's great to hear the "behind the scenes" gossip.'

Most people would expect that a presenter's most important qualities are a nice voice and huge amounts of confidence, but Margherita says that basic maths is handy as well. 'You have to make sure that you've got an eye on everything that's going on in the studio, but you've got to be able to add and subtract and think in minutes and seconds,' she says. 'You're dealing with timed records, and with announcements and commercials that are also timed precisely, and you have to be ready to switch to the news at exactly the right second. If you're going over to a live event, you need to be ready for that on time, not a second earlier or later.'

This isn't the sort of girl to let the rock 'n' roll lifestyle go to her head. Even if she did, her family would bring her down to earth. 'When I started at Capital the only thing my brothers asked was whether they'd get free records,' she remembers. 'And my mum couldn't even find the station on her radio.'

Margherita Taylor is very nice and very easy-going, but very much in control. She is so much a 'Capital Radio girl' that you might think she is just doing a good job for the station's publicity department, although you know what she's saying really comes from the heart. She smiles a lot, laughs a lot and is generally a great advert for Capital.

line 25

1. What do we learn about Margherita in the first paragraph?
 - A She became a radio presenter by chance.
 - B She expected to win the competition.
 - C She was keen to become a radio presenter.
 - D She practised before the competition.

2. What does 'that' in line 25 refer to?
 - A the fame of the other presenters
 - B Margherita's fear of the other staff
 - C self-important behaviour by the other presenters
 - D bad treatment of Margherita by the other staff

3. What do we learn about Margherita's first live concert show?
 - A It is the only time she has made a serious mistake.
 - B Being nervous was not the cause of the problem.
 - C People often remind her of what happened then.
 - D She had not expected to have the problem she had.

4. One point Margherita makes about her job is that she
 - A has changed her attitude to music.
 - B is unhappy that the records she plays are chosen for her.
 - C likes most of the music that she plays on her show.
 - D enjoys talking to the people whose records she plays.

5. What does Margherita say about presenting a show?
 - A It is essential to keep in mind what is going to happen next.
 - B It is more complicated than she had previously thought.
 - C The ability to add and subtract is the most important requirement.
 - D The content of a show is sometimes changed suddenly.

6. How have Margherita's family reacted to her success?
 - A with caution
 - B without interest
 - C with surprise
 - D without excitement

7. In the final paragraph, the writer says that Margherita
 - A was different from what she had expected.
 - B genuinely believes that Capital is a good radio station.
 - C feels it necessary to talk about Capital Radio all the time.
 - D has already changed her job at Capital Radio.

2. Headings (14 points)

You are going to read a magazine article about a violinist. Choose the most suitable heading from the list A-H for each part (0-6) of the article. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.

Maria Bachmann talks to David Henley about her career as a violinist.

0

This is going to be Maria Bachmann's year. She'll see to that. She is determined to make her mark on the British classical music scene. In America she has already had the most stunning reception and critics have called her 'the most exciting young violinist around'.

1

Although she is now on the verge of international fame, the path there has not been simple. 'It's very competitive, that's for sure,' she says. 'As a young soloist, you aren't only trying to compete with other young soloists, you're trying to break into a field that has many established artists as well.' However, a lot of work, a little bit of luck and a great deal of persistence at trying to be 'as good a musician as possible' seem to have worked for her.

2

As a child, the piano was her first instrument. But when she was seven, she found a violin that had belonged to her grandfather. Just a year later, she abandoned the piano to concentrate on the violin. There were two reasons for the change. 'Even at that young age, I felt that the violin had a more expressive quality. But that wasn't the only reason. Being a pianist, my father would always criticise me when I practised. But he didn't have the same expertise with the violin, so I was able to play as I wanted to.'

3

After graduating from music college in New York, Maria had a careful think about how she wanted to proceed. 'I didn't want to keep on studying forever,' she explains. 'I felt it was important to have my own unique kind of playing. You can only do that if you follow your own instincts and aren't being influenced by someone else's ideas.'

4

Every year international music competitions are held which can bring a young musician both fame and fortune. Not surprisingly, young musicians prepare for these competitions with the dedication of professional athletes readying themselves for the Olympic Games. Maria was no exception and she won first prizes in both New York and Vienna. These were important steps on the road to success, and yet she dislikes the whole idea of competitions. 'They're really not fun at all,' she says, 'and there are many, many artists who deserve to be heard on the concert stage, not just first prize winners.'

5

She has a passion for modern composers and her first two albums have clearly marked her as a champion of modern music. However, she sympathises with the charge that twentieth-century music can be rather difficult to understand. 'When I do a concert, I try to put in one or two modern pieces along with the standard works, but I'm very careful about the kind of new music that I choose. For me to put it in a concert, it has to be really beautiful and have an emotional message as well.'

6

Maria lives mainly in New York. It's here that she spends time away from concerts, going to jazz clubs with her husband. However, she is so keen to find fame in Europe that they have bought an old castle in Scotland, which they hope to move into when it has been made habitable. Eventually, Maria wants to start a festival in the castle grounds, not just for music, but also for the visual arts and theatre.

- A A hard struggle
- B Agreeing with criticism
- C The need for a style
- D Criticising the system
- E Escaping disapproval
- F Being famous
- G Wider ambitions
- H Good reviews

Part 2: Use of English (50 points)

1. Vocabulary and Structures (12.5 points)

Underline the word or expression that fills the gap best.

1. The food at the hotel was excellent and the were friendly and polite.
crew staff service crowd
2. After careful consideration, we've come to the that we can't afford to move house.
expectation evidence conclusion prediction
3. He's incredibly! He'd rather make a mistake than take someone else's advice.
emotional sensitive upset stubborn
4. Don't your time trying to convince Janet – she's made up her mind.
waste spend throw away spare
5. The school's decision to change the date of the school dance brought many complaints.
down round up about
6. British Rail apologise for the delay which is to the breakdown of another train on the railway line ahead.
resulted because due developed
7. I'm afraid I'm coffee. I can neither wake up nor work without huge amounts of it.
hooked to addicted to keen on disgusted by
8. Her asthma means that she gets of breath after even the slightest physical exercise, such as climbing stairs.
ill weak half short
9. The number of children with allergies has significantly over the last 30 years.
rised raised arisen risen
10. Would you like to play a game of chess with me? – No, thanks! I'm completely out of
practice practise exercise talent
11. If Celia is a good friend, she certainly won't away your secrets.
put tell announce give
12. I've never met talented juggler as Nicolas.
a so as much a a more than such a

13. Have you heard? Last night a baby was on the stairs of the hospital by a stranger.
laid lain lying lied
14. I wish I played as well as Roger!
can will does played
15. The jury found the young man manslaughter.
accused for accused about guilty of guilty about
16. No wonder her marks are bad – she does work.
nearly any hardly any almost any not any
17. Today, the kids were really , they got from one mess into another.
disobedient disrespectful impatient immature
18. You didn't even that I'd cleaned the kitchen! Something like 'thank you' would have been nice.
mention remark note notice
19. He's very quick to lose his temper. In that respect he his father.
looks like looks after looks up to takes after
20. I'd like to play a musical instrument.
can manage succeed be able to
21. Women drive men, that's why they have fewer accidents.
more careful as as careful as more carefully as more carefully than
22. We had the most wonderful of the harbour from the lighthouse.
looks views sights visions
23. the snow and ice we had no trouble driving over the mountain pass.
although because despite but
24. Just imagine! Our London friends geese and sheep in the middle of the city.
rear rise grow grow up
25. When the boys came in from playing football in the rain for the better part of the afternoon, they were absolutely
fussy bossy scary filthy

2. Vocabulary/Grammar: Open Cloze (7.5 points)

Read the text below. Think of the best word for each space. Use only ONE word each time. An example is given (0).

Why do we like some people more than we do others? Why do we fall (0) in love? Astrologers say it is determined (1) _____ the stars. Others believe in fate.

However, psychologist Angela Hubbard, (2) _____ advises one of the biggest computer dating services in the country, rejects these explanations. „The reason people are attracted to each (3) _____ have been known for a very long time. There are four main reasons, and there's nothing mysterious about (4) _____,“ she says.

The first reason is Frequency of Contact. The (5) _____ often we see a person, the more likely it is that we will become friends or lovers. Angela describes a well-known experiment that (6) _____ place in the 1960s. „People were shown photographs of strangers and asked (7) _____ faces they liked most. They didn't realize it but they were shown (8) _____ photographs more frequently than others, and these were of the faces they later said they liked.“

The second reason is Similarity of Interests. The more interests we share (9) _____ another person, the more likely it is that we will not only become friendly with that person but that our friendship will not break (10) _____.

The third reason is called Complementary Qualities, which basically means that we are more likely to like or love people (11) _____ personalities balance our own in positive ways. If, for example, you are a very quiet person, you may unconsciously look (12) _____ a friend or lover who has a need to talk and who is more expressive than you are.

The fourth reason is Recognition and Reward. We tend to like people who (13) _____ us a feeling that they like and appreciate our good qualities (14) _____ than reject us because of our faults. However, most of us tend to be suspicious (15) _____ people who flatter us - who say nice things about us but who we think are not really sincere.

3. Grammar: All Tenses (12.5 points)

Read the text below and put the verbs in brackets into an appropriate tense so that you get a meaningful text.

Lady Macbeth **was standing** by the window. In her hand she (hold) _____ the letter which her husband (send) _____ her the evening before after his great victory against the Norwegians.

She (read) _____ again these sentences:

„Last night I (make) _____ Count of Cawdor by King Duncan to thank me for my courage.“ And further down:

„When we (ride) _____ from the ceremony some hours later my friend Banquo and I (meet) _____ three strange old women, witches probably. They greeted us politely and one of them said: ‘ You, Macbeth, (be) _____ king one day. ‘ This would make you Queen of Scotland. What (you think) _____ of this?’“

Lady Macbeth smiled a satisfied and catlike smile to herself.

„Queen of Scotland, not bad. But the question is: (have) _____ that cowardly husband of mine _____ the courage to make our dreams come true?’“

She (still think) _____ about this when a maid (knock) _____ loudly on the door and (enter) _____:

„ My lady, we (just hear) _____ that the king (come) _____ here tonight, to pay us a royal visit.“

„Excellent news, get everything ready! We (make) _____ the king's night at Macbeth's castle one that he (not forget) _____ until the end of his life. Ah, my darling!“ she said to her husband who (enter) _____ the room when the maid (leave) _____.

„Welcome home, my gallant Count of Cawdor and future royal husband.“ Macbeth answered: „ Yes, about the king. He (visit) _____ us tonight with his sons and advisors.“

„Don't worry. The preparations (take) _____ care of. Now all we (modal verb) _____ do is to take care of the king.“

„ I don't know what you (talk) _____ about.“ said Macbeth, looking uncomfortable away.

„ Don't be ridiculous! We (wait) _____ for this chance for years and years. And we (not get) _____ another chance like this again.“ It (modal verb) _____ be done tonight! You just leave all the details to me!“

4. Grammar: Transformation (10 points)

Complete the second sentences so that they have the same meaning as the first one. The beginning of the new sentence has been done for you. Do not change it in any way.

1. You can play football indoors or outdoors.

Football _____.

2. The British build quite a few of the Formula 1 cars driven today.

Quite a few _____.

3. The staff haven't cleaned the outdoor swimming pool since the beginning of summer.

The outdoor _____.

4. John is so uneducated that he doesn't even know the difference between jury and injury.

If John _____.

5. Sandy can be really rude to the customers. That's why many don't come round a second time.

If Sandy _____.

6. They say the weather won't improve tomorrow. We probably won't go for a hike then.

But if the weather _____.

Make ONE Sentence!

7. Some people tend to be easily embarrassed. I think they are quite sensitive.

I think people _____.

8. My grandmother used to live in this house.

This is the house _____.

Change the sentence by replacing the underlined part of the sentence with a modal verb.

9. When I was at school it was obligatory for us to wear school uniforms.

We _____.

10. At my daughter's school girls are forbidden to wear any jewellery or make up.

Girls at _____.

5. Correct lines / Deletion (7.5 points)

Read the text below and look carefully at each line. If a line is correct, put a tick (✓); if it has a word which should not be there, write the word into the margin.

A Letter of Apology

Dear Richard,

Thanks very much for your letter. It was good to hear
all your news and I'm glad that your family are all as well.

It's very kind of you to invite for me to stay with you in
the June, but unfortunately my exams are that month
and I don't yet know of the dates. I think they may be in
the week that you've suggested. In any case, judging
from my last Geography results, I will need to be studying
rather more than having a good time with my friends.

As soon as I will get the dates, I'll let you know but I
don't much expect I'll be able to come. Perhaps we'll be
able to get something organised for July. It's a long time
ever since we got together and I'd love to catch up on
what has been happening to you. If only your parents
don't want their house full of visitors in the holiday, you
could come over to stay with me. There's a plenty of
room and the house is just at a short bike ride from the
beach, so there would be lots to do. Let me know it if you
think this is a good idea.

Best wishes

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