

FCE Sample Test

Listening – Transcript

Part 1

Question 1

O.K. everyone, uh, before we go into the next room I'd like to warn you not to try and touch any of the wall-hangings or furniture. As you will see they're very beautiful, with very delicate finishes. The museum is very strict about this and they will ask you to leave if they think you're not taking the rule seriously. I actually had someone told to leave when I brought a group here last year because he accidentally brushed against something. Um?

Question 2

Well, I said, I don't stand for that sort of thing from anyone. I don't care whether they've been coming here since before I was born, they've no right to speak to anyone like that. I'm doing my job and it's my job to serve her a meal, not run up and down the road with messages. She's going to complain about me she said. Well, I'm going to complain about her!

Question 3

To be honest I thought at first he'd got my notes mixed up with someone else. We didn't seem to be talking about the same illness. He kept going on about how it's not uncommon for these side-effects to occur. And I thought, that's all very well for you to say, but I'm the only case I know, and I asked what he was going to do now. Well, he just sort of smiled, and said something about "weighing discomfort against disease", really pompous! And that was it as far as he was concerned.

Question 4

SHOP ASSISTANT: Unfortunately, it's just not possible for me to do that. I don't have the authority, you see.

MAN: But, but, it's faulty. I know my rights.

SHOP ASSISTANT: But I can't tell if there's really anything wrong with it, just looking at it, so the best I can do is give you a credit note as if you'd changed your mind about wanting it. Then you can choose goods to the same value, well, either now or at a later date. Because we don't give cash refunds unless there's something actually wrong with the item. Otherwise, I can have it sent back for checking, but

I still can't pay anything out till we've had confirmation of a fault.

Question 5

Now, it gives me the greatest pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker. I take no small pride in having had even a minor role in the development of one of the most forward-thinking workers in his field. We shared many fascinating discussions as he raced through my course, too many years ago now. I can hardly claim to have taught, merely to have helped along the way, although he has been kind enough to say he learnt from me! Anyway, I'm very honoured to present to you...

Question 6

No, no, I'm sorry, I simply can't accept that. I'm running a business here, too, and I can't just turn round and tell my customers that, well, sorry, no vegetables this week, I haven't had time to pick them! I've got fields here waiting to be planted out. You've been telling me for a week you'd have the fertiliser in stock tomorrow. I need it on that field today. If you can't get it here I'll have to find someone else who can.

Question 7

I was really pleased to be asked to review this, because I was enormously curious to see whether Delaney could handle the change of medium, whether he could colour in the bits between the dialogue, so to speak. In fact I think he's done very well, and there's no sign of that horrid "book of the film" feel that you sometimes get from people who are crossing over from script-writing to the novel. The characters are very finely drawn and right from the first chapter the plot is cleverly worked. I have some little doubts about...

Question 8

I won't keep you more than a few minutes, and I'm sure if you think about it, you'll realise that talking to someone like me will be a lot better than leaving people to make everything up. Because I can assure you, they will make it up, if you don't get your story out first, so why not just give me your side of things now?

Part 2

Yeah, over last summer I did this job in an old people's home. I'd been looking for work and I said I wanted something which might be useful, because I want to train as a nurse when I finish school, so they said what about a care assistant, and I said, sure. So, anyway, I went along and it's in this old house, it was a farmhouse, but the farm's all gone, now the town's got bigger, and it's just got a bit of a garden round it. It's got a lawn and flowerbeds at the back, but the front is quite near the road. I was surprised but the old people like it they say, because they can watch what's going on a bit. You know, some places, they're very pretty, but so quiet and they feel cut off. It's quite a nice building, with lots of the old woodwork and so on, just they've put in a couple of lifts for obvious reasons, because they've got some quite frail people among the residents.

I really liked the work, which was a relief, and I got on pretty well most of the residents. Some of them were a good laugh. They like talking about when they were younger. The best part of my work was when I'd take round their evening drinks, I wouldn't be having to rush off, and I could take time

to listen. I suppose they'd told all their stories before but I hadn't heard them, so I was a good audience.

I didn't see much of Mrs Stone, that's the owner, but she seemed all right. She's got two or three of these places, and I think she's always concerned about whether she's going to lose money. But I don't think she's mean. She just can't afford not to be businesslike about it, or they'd go bust. The residents mostly seemed to like her, anyway. They were nice, most of them, one or two of the old girls could be a bit snappy, but I think that was their arthritis, and the old boys were all ever so grateful if you had time to do them any little extras. The only really tricky one was this old girl who thought I was her son-in-law, because of my hair being the same colour, and she didn't get on with her son-in-law, so she didn't get on with me. But I survived, anyway. The rest of the staff did what they could. It was really good, being treated just the same, like an equal, by very experienced people. It made me value my own work and try to do it as well as them. It was a really useful experience, and I learnt a lot. I'm going back there next month, because I'm organising a concert for them. They're looking forward to it. And what I wanted to ask, was whether anyone...

Part 3

First woman:

I must admit that I was extremely reluctant. You know I don't go out much these days, I don't see many people and I tend to think that anything with more than a handful of people will be noisy and exhausting. But it was really pleasant. There was masses of room, lovely things to eat and drink, and when I discovered it was gone midnight I was amazed. The time had flown and I hadn't noticed.

Second woman:

Well, they said, Come on, you know how people do, so I went, I didn't want them to think I was being an old misery. After all, I don't often see them since we left college. But, I swear, that's the last time I let them drag me anywhere. I don't think they thought it was much fun either, though they wouldn't admit it of course, but I haven't been so bored for years. I should've stayed at home watching the rubbish on telly!

Third woman:

So anyway, they all decided they'd come too. And I said, 'But were you invited?' And they said, well, I don't know, they sort of implied they were. So I turned up with them and the girl who was giving the party, you don't know her, she's very nice, anyway she came to the door, and said 'Hello' to me and sort of looked at the others and then looked at me and I realised

she thought I was taking advantage, and I went all hot and cold. Anyway we went in and I could see her looking at me from time to time, and I thought, well she won't ask me again, and I was longing to explain but I never had a chance. It was horrible. I'll never forgive them.

Fourth woman:

We all arrived and my friends went off to find drinks and things and I was just standing there feeling shy as usual and thinking, 'Why did I come?' And I saw this girl watching me, and I thought she'd noticed something wrong, so I was sort of checking myself in a mirror, trying not to look as if I was, then she came up and asked if I was Suzanne, and I said I was, and then she started on about my work. She knew all about it and said a lot of flattering things, in a very nice way. I enjoyed meeting her, she really made the evening for me. I wish I'd remember to find out where she lived.

Fifth woman:

It was nearly a disaster. I mean, I wouldn't have missed the opportunity to meet him, but I'd had no idea it'd be swarming with children. And we were outdoors most of the time, so of course I was freezing, because I'd only got a shawl over my dress, trying to look smart. I needn't have bothered of course. Anyway, I, I did enjoy talking to him, although it wasn't for long enough really, and the food was wonderful. But, um, I think I'll swallow my pride and phone and check another time!

Part 4

Nick: Hi, Sandra, where've you been?

Sandra: Oh, am I late? Sorry. I had to do some tidying up before I came out.

Nick: Yeah, I know. I hate getting home and finding I've still got to wash up from breakfast.

Sandra: It's not me that minds. It's my mother. She treats me like I was twelve or something. You've no idea how lucky you are to have your own place.

Nick: Well, you'd have to do it eventually, wouldn't you?

Sandra: I don't see why. It's my room, she doesn't have to come poking in there and telling me what to do.

Nick: Well, I guess if you don't mind the mess and it's just your room, then I suppose she should let you. Personally, I like to be able to find things in a hurry.

Sandra: I can find things when I want to. What really gets me is she makes me do all sorts of stupid chores every Saturday round the house.

Nick: Well, she can't do them all.

Sandra: She isn't going anywhere. She's got all weekend to do them.

Nick: Oh, come on. Why should she do housework all weekend while you enjoy yourself?

Sandra: She hasn't got exams next month. I haven't got time.

Nick: I think you're being a bit unreasonable. You have time to come and meet me.

Sandra: That's different.

Nick: No, it isn't.

Sandra: Whose side are you on, here?

Nick: Look, perhaps I just have a better idea how much your Mum has to get through. When you're responsible for a place it makes a lot of difference.

Sandra: Oh, don't be such a pain. Are you going to keep lecturing me all evening or are we going to see this band?

Nick: Sure. Have you brought the tickets?

Sandra: What tickets?

Nick: I got them on Thursday and gave them to you to look after. Don't you remember? You put them in your jeans pocket.

Sandra: You're teasing me. Oh no! Mum washed these jeans yesterday. I bet she never checked the pockets. Oh, I'll kill her!

Nick: Well, have a look. Anyway, I don't see why she should check your pockets.

Sandra: Okay, okay. Don't start that again. Oh no, wait a minute. This might be them. Do you think they're all right? They're a bit crumpled.

Nick: Honestly! Next time I'd better look after them myself. I'm sure they'll be OK. Now, get a move on, or we won't get in after all this.