

Listening

Paper 4 Part 1 p.137

1 B; 2 A; 3 B; 4 C; 5 B; 6 C; 7 C; 8 A

Audio script

Basically, I was looking for somewhere to get away from it all and relax, because the last few months have been so hectic at work, but I didn't want to feel cut off, because it's nice to meet people on holiday too. The complex sounded exactly what I was looking for – there were ten villas with a shared swimming pool and a restaurant, but each one had its own private sitting-out area. What I wasn't prepared for, however, was the fact that the place was popular with young families. So it was very noisy during the day, and extremely dull in the evening.

W = Woman; M = Man

2

M: How did you get on at the dentist's?

W: I'm afraid it's a bit of a long story. I got held up on the motorway, so I was 15 minutes late for the appointment. Anyway, the next patient had gone in, so I'd missed it, which is fair enough, but then the receptionist said I'd have to pay anyway. I'm afraid after rushing like mad trying to get there on time, I was a bit stressed out and I just lost my temper. I feel awful about it now because I really shouted at her in front of a waiting room full of people. It made me feel better at the time, though.

3

W: I feel sorry for Mandy really, I mean she spent hours preparing that report and no one thought to tell her that the policy had changed.

M: Well, you know, she's invited to all the meetings ...

W: Come on, if we went to all the meetings we're invited to, none of us would ever get anything finished.

M: Well, even if you're not there, the minutes are circulated by email, you know, so I don't believe that she wasn't told. Either she wasn't listening, or she hadn't checked her in-box.

W: I guess so, but I still feel sorry for her.

4

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PR = Presenter

5

PR: A listener, Mary, writes from Oxford to ask: what's the best age to introduce a child to computers? Well, Mary, recent research suggests that this can be a positive move for kids as young as three. It can enhance language and creative skills and give them

a headstart in understanding technology. But that doesn't mean sticking the child in front of a screen and leaving them to it. Get a chair that's the right height, and keep each session to half-an-hour or less – more than enough time in one position for growing bones and a vulnerable spine. And sit with them, then you can answer any questions they might have.

6

There can't be many people around who haven't read at least one book by David Granham. His blend of subtle characterisation and superb plot lines makes his thrillers almost universally popular. But if you haven't sampled one yet, his latest offering *The Colne Verdict* is not the place to start. Although fans will find all the usual ingredients in place, and the writing is up to his usual standard, my impression is that the formula is beginning to wear a little thin, as if perhaps he's getting a little bored with it himself, and needs to try something a little different.

PR = Presenter; S = Sally

7

PR: And next we have a call from Sally, who works in a bank. Go ahead, Sally.

S: Hello, yes... I work in a big office and my department has hired and lost eight secretarial staff in as many months. I wouldn't say our salary structure was poor, and the hours and conditions are fairly standard, so what is driving new recruits away? As a section leader, I'm involved in recruitment discussions, but I'm at a loss to know how to reverse the situation.

PR: Right well, let's ask our expert, Tom Willis what he ...

W = Woman; M = Man

8

M: I made a reservation for this evening. The names's Walters.

W: Mmm ... Ah, yes here we are. The front row of the stalls and I think you've also booked dinner in the restaurant upstairs before the performance.

M: That's right – a table for two. What time is dinner served?

W: From six-thirty onwards, but we recommend that you take your seats in the auditorium by about seven twenty-five, because the curtain goes up at seven-thirty, so it's best not to leave it too late.

M: Oh, right. My wife's just gone to freshen up in our hotel room. It's only across the street, but I hope she's not long.

Paper 4 Part 2 p.138

9 uncle; 10 the past; 11 London; 12 stable; 13 sensitive hands; 14 back; 15 1650; 16 sentimental; 17 clean; 18 conservationist

Audio script

PR = Presenter; P = Peter

PR: Today, I'm visiting Peter Denison who makes his living repairing old clocks and watches. Peter, is this a family tradition?

P: Not really, my father was a farmer, but he preferred the animals to the machinery, and my grandfather had been a vet. But while I was growing up, I was always fixing bikes and taking things like radios to bits. And I remember going to see an uncle whose garage was full of tools and machines. I used to spend all day in there with him while my cousins were playing football. I guess he saw that I was interested and encouraged me.

PR: So why clocks in particular?

P: Well one day, when I was 14, I took my parents' clock to bits and discovered that clocks are actually beautifully made inside. It never worked again, but I'd made a thrilling discovery and that's when I decided to specialise in clocks. For me, clocks are something which connect us with the past. I like old things that haven't been altered or modernised, but still work perfectly.

PR: So what exactly did you study?

P: I did a course in what's known as horology at a college in Birmingham. I did well, and went on to get a job with a top firm of jewellers in London afterwards. I was employed as what's called an improver, doing all sorts of repair work for two years. It was excellent experience, but I didn't like city life, so eventually I decided to go home and set up my own workshop in the country.

PR: Was that easy?

P: Well, I began working in a corner of an old factory. Other craftsmen used the rest of the building, so it was relatively cheap. Actually I've spent my entire adult life working on my own in little rooms. I had a garden shed at one point, then a little office behind a shop, and my current workshop is in a converted stable. My workspace is made up of hundreds of little drawers and each piece of equipment has its place – so it's not as untidy as it might appear.

PR: And what qualities do you need for this kind of work?

P: Good eyesight, sensitive hands and a lot of patience are essential. Repairing a woman's watch the size of a small coin can be like doing micro-surgery and I work with my shoulders hunched forward, an eyeglass in my eye, just a few centimetres away from the watch or clock mechanism. Fortunately, my eyes are still sound, but like a lot of watchmakers, I do find I get back problems.

PR: And is it mostly old clocks you work with?

P: Yes, mostly from the period between 1850 and 1950, although occasionally I'll get one going back to 1750, and that's a real thrill for me. The oldest I've worked on was an Italian night clock dating from 1650. A lamp shone behind the clock face so that the time was reflected onto the wall, a lovely piece of craftsmanship.

PR: And can most things be fixed?

P: Oh yes, if they were well-made originally. People are very sentimental about old clocks. They're often inherited, you know, handed down through the generations. But people generally don't bring them in to me until they break or stop working properly. In the old days people knew they needed to clean

working things, but now it doesn't occur to them. It needs doing at least once every three years.

PR: And so what is it you get out of the job exactly?

P: I often think of myself as a conservationist because I'm devoted to repairing things and keeping old things going. Working with your hands doesn't seem to be as valued in modern society as it once was, which is a shame. The environment is very important to me and I try to grow my own vegetables and keep hens for eggs. So it's not just the clocks.

PR: Peter, thank you for talking to us today.

P: Thank you.

Paper 4 Part 3 p.139

19 B; 20 E; 21 A; 22 D; 23 F

Audio script

Speaker 1:

I've been here about five years. At first I wasn't sure that I'd made the right choice, because it was quite a while before I got to know the neighbours. For me it was a question of position. I work from home, so it wasn't that I had to travel in to work or anything, but I wanted to be able to pop to the post office and get in a few basic provisions without wasting half my day. All the bigger flats I looked at were a bus ride away from the shops. I don't have a car, and I didn't like the idea of being cut off, so I settled for less space.

Speaker 2:

I'm so close to the station you can hear the trains from my flat. I didn't realise that until I moved in, but I've got used to it now. I came here when I retired. I used to have a much larger place, but no longer needed the space. What attracted me was the fact that there's a man on the door downstairs who checks who's coming in and what's going on – being on your own at my age, that's a comfort. I thought he'd also do little maintenance jobs for me, but that's not part of his job apparently. Fortunately, I made friends with a nice couple downstairs who help me out when anything needs doing.

Speaker 3:

I was looking for somewhere close to my work because I didn't want to waste time travelling back and forth, so I wasn't really looking in this area at all. Then a colleague who lived in the block told me that this place was free. As soon as I saw how much space you got for your money, I jumped at the chance. I'd been looking at places with tiny rooms just because they were on good bus routes. It was only after I'd moved in that I realised how good the local shops are and what a nice part of town it is. You really feel safe walking round here – even late at night.

Speaker 4:

When I first saw this flat, I was put off by the fact that it's on a very busy road. It's the main commuter route into the city centre. But actually, I bought it from a friend, who introduced me to the people upstairs. They were very welcoming and convinced me that it really wasn't a problem. I liked the idea of being close to such nice people so I decided that, although I'd have liked bigger rooms, it was probably a good buy. It was only later that

I discovered how good the local shops are and that the block itself is well-maintained by the security guard who lives on the ground floor.

Speaker 5:

My last flat was very convenient, handy for the shops and well-connected for public transport. But the building itself was falling to pieces, and I got fed up trying to get the owner to do something about it. So, I moved out to this place instead because there's a caretaker who's paid to keep the place in order. I wasn't looking for much bigger rooms, but actually I've had no trouble using the space, and the other residents turned out to be really friendly. It gives you a nice feeling of security to know that if you have a problem, you can always pop next door for help.

Paper 4 Part 4 p.140

24 A; 25 C; 26 C; 27 B; 28 A; 29 A; 30 B

Audio script

PR = Presenter; G = Grant

PR: My guest today will soon be joining a very small and very special group of people. Ever since the idea of space tourism was first seriously considered in the late 1990s, some people have had their name on the waiting list, as they saved up the fee. One of those people is Grant Sowerby, who is just about to leave on the trip of a lifetime. He'll be spending ten days on a space station as it orbits the Earth. Grant, welcome.

G: Hi.

PR: What are you most looking forward to about the flight?

G: There'll be so many experiences in those ten days that it's hard to know which will be the greatest moment. But I guess the launch is what I'm looking forward to most. There can't be many things as exhilarating as being in a rocket as it flies out of the atmosphere. The first experience of weightlessness and seeing the Earth from outside the atmosphere; those are going to be incredible too, but maybe not quite so thrilling.

PR: Don't you feel scared at all?

G: I wouldn't be human if I didn't. Because I'm not a military pilot or even a professional test pilot – this isn't something I do every day, you know. But I've done months of training alongside real astronauts, so I hope I'm up to the challenge.

PR: Will you have specific responsibilities on the flight?

G: Very much so. The spaceship is extremely small and so every seat has a set of controls in front of it. I'll be handling the systems that are controlled from the right-hand seat; for example, radio, TV, and some of the navigation systems. The flight commander sits in the centre and can take over from me on those functions if necessary, but hopefully I'll be a fully-functioning member of the crew.

PR: And was the training difficult?

G: Some of the survival training, you know, when we're prepared for an unexpected landing in the sea or in an extreme winter climate, has been physically very challenging. Much worse than the training for

weightlessness, although that was pretty tough too.

PR: Some people are completely against the idea of tourists going into space. Do you see this trip as a holiday?

G: Actually, I see it very much as a life experience.

People use the term 'space tourism' to describe what I'm going to do, but actually it's a bit misleading.

I've been training flat-out for twelve months and I'll be working flat-out every day that I'm up there. So I'm going to need a real holiday when I come back.

PR: What sort of things will you be doing?

G: I'll be looking at different ways of measuring the energy an astronaut uses during a space flight, and how that affects the muscles. But the astronauts all tell me that the one thing they wished they'd had more of up there is free time. So I'm going to make sure that I have some, at least.

PR: And what advice do you have for other people who fancy a trip into space?

G: Well, the price is a bit steep at the moment which cuts a lot of people out, and then you've got to go through months of training. I mean, not everyone's up to that, physically, nor can they spare the time, and it can be frustrating for people. I mean, I was fortunate because if you don't make it through the training, basically they don't let you go.

PR: Right.

G: The best advice I can give is to say: 'Just keep patient'. I mean, space travel's going to become far more accessible, sooner or later, and I reckon it's going to be sooner than people think. I'm confident that with so many companies keen to organise trips, this market's going to open up considerably. I couldn't tell you what it might cost, but I'm confident that within ten years, I'll be able to buy a ticket and fly up there again without having to go through such a complicated training procedure.

PR: Grant, thank you ... and best of luck with the flight.

G: Thanks.