

UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST B

DICTATION

You are going to listen to a recording about how to talk about problems. Listen to the whole recording once. Then you will hear the recording again with pauses for you to write down what you hear. Make sure you spell the words correctly.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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LISTENING

You are going to listen to five people talking about making friends.

Task 1

For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) how each speaker feels about making friends.

- A** I'm generally keen to start new friendships.
- B** I try to find new friends on social networking sites.
- C** It's better to have friends with shared interests.
- D** I prefer my own company to being with other people.
- E** Making new friends can bring different benefits.
- F** I often say silly things when I meet new people.
- G** I often get nervous when I have to talk to new people.
- H** Making friends in new places is not always easy.

Speaker 1 **1**

Speaker 2 **2**

Speaker 3 **3** _____

Speaker 4 **4**

Speaker 5 **5**

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Task 2

For questions 6–10, choose from the list (A–H) what advice each speaker gives for making friends.

- A** Making someone laugh is a great way to make them like you.
- B** It's a good idea to talk to people wherever you are.
- C** Looking at people shows you might be interested in talking to them
- D** Find places where there are people of a similar age to you.
- E** School is probably the best place to make new friends.
- F** Showing interest in the other person can help you feel more relaxed.
- G** I wouldn't recommend the internet for making new friends.
- H** It can be helpful to share your problems with people you've just met.

Speaker 1 **6**

Speaker 2 **7**

Speaker 3 8 _____

Speaker 4 9

Speaker 5 **10**

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UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST B

READING

Task 1

Read the article and choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

11 What does the writer say about the Slimden festival in the first paragraph?

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| A It's similar to the festivals at Glastonbury and Reading. | C It takes place in muddy conditions. |
| B Its accommodation is worse than at other music festivals. | D It's older than many other musical festivals. |

12 According to the article, why are the children excited about going to the festival?

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| A They are looking forward to seeing all the musical instruments. | C They hope it will help them get work in the future. |
| B They are able to spend a week away from their parents. | D They have never been in a concert hall before. |

13 How do the organisers decide who can attend the festival?

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| A They listen to different children and choose the best ones. | C They only choose children who have taught themselves to play. |
| B They visit music schools around the country looking for promising students. | D They send out invitations to thousands of people. |

14 What does 'dedicate' mean in line 39?

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| A to waste a lot of time and energy on something | C to give a lot of time and energy to something |
| B to spend a lot of money on something | D to use up all your energy doing something |

15 Why did Blanca decide to ask for a place at the festival?

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| A It was something she had always wanted to do. | C It was impossible to practise the flute at home. |
| B She was advised to do it by someone she knew. | D Her teacher said that she had to go. |

16 What does Luigi think the music festival can help him to do?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A meet other young musicians | C develop new musical skills |
| B get a place in his country's orchestra | D be able to play with famous musicians |

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Task 2

Read the article again and answer the questions in your own words.

17 How do the young musicians feel as they enter the festival?

18 What can the children do to relax at the festival?

19 How many times has Luigi been to the festival?

20 What event is organised for the end of the festival?

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| | 8 |
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| Total: | | 50 |
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UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST B

An alternative music festival

1

The Slimden Music Festival is one of the longest-running musical festivals in the UK, but it's likely that you won't have heard it. Unlike the Glastonbury or Reading music festivals, there's no queuing to see your favourite bands, sleeping in tents or slipping around in the mud. That's because Slimden is a festival which is only open to classical musicians and it takes place in a holiday camp; the festival-goers all sleep in relative luxury in caravans and cabins.

2

Founded in 1978, Slimden is a week-long festival for young musicians under the age of sixteen. There are children of all ages and they can play every instrument you can imagine. It really is something to see them arriving at the festival, streaming in from the car park with their trumpets, double basses, guitars and drum sets. There's a sense of excitement in the air as they head for the main concert hall where John Steele, the festival organiser and world-famous pianist, will welcome them. Everyone knows this is going to be a special week which could help them launch a professional career.

3

All of these kids are promising musicians who have managed to catch the attention of a team of musical experts. There are children from prestigious music schools, famous for training the best musicians in the world. There are others who are self-taught and haven't had a music lesson in their lives. All of them, however, have been recommended by someone who has noticed their talent. Their performances have been recorded and sent to the team of experts, who decide which lucky youngster will get a place. Every year, more than ten thousand people apply, but only five hundred are chosen.

4

With that level of competition, standards are obviously high. No one is likely to get a place without making a serious effort. All of them are still at school and they are expected to spend seven or eight hours a day on their academic studies. However, to get this good at their instruments, they must also dedicate

several hours a day to practice. This means that they have little time for socialising. Fortunately, the organisers realise this and they make sure that there are plenty of chances to have some fun. There are daily trips to places of interest and there's a disco every night.

5

Fourteen-year-old Blanca picked up the flute when she was six and has been a member of her school orchestra for a couple of years. Her teacher thought she had something special and suggested that she apply for a place. Blanca couldn't decide whether to go or not, but now she's here, you can't help noticing her enthusiasm. 'I can't believe I'm here with all these other amazing musicians,' says Blanca. 'I can't always find enough time for the flute at home, but here I can play all week and hang around with other classical musicians. I should learn loads of new skills and meet some really inspirational people.'

6

Many of the children at Slimden are looking forward to playing side-by-side with some of the most famous classical musicians and directors in the country.

It's well known that they will be searching for talent among the young players. If you're lucky, you could find yourself playing for one of the country's symphony orchestras in the future. 'This is my second festival and I want to be spotted by one of the musical directors,' says Luigi. 'I learnt a lot the last time I came and I've spent the last year developing those skills. I really hope someone notices me and that I get offered a place in the national orchestra. That would be my dream come true!'

7

Over the week, the children take part in various workshops and work on learning new pieces of music. They've also benefitted from personal feedback from the professionals and had a laugh with their new friends. Everyone's had an incredible time and, on the last night, the only way to celebrate is with a huge concert. Everyone takes part and they put everything they've got into it. This has to be the most emotional concert I've been to in my life.