

UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST A

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.

[illegible]

	10
--	----

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 prefer my friends to have similar interests to me.
- B** I'd rather spend my free time on my own.
- C** Making a new friend can change your life in different ways.
- D** It can be challenging to make friends in a new place.
- E** I like to find new friends on the internet.
- F** I need to be careful about what I say when I first meet someone.
- G** I tend to be enthusiastic about meeting new people.
- H** I get anxious when I have to talk to new people.

Speaker 1 1

Speaker 2 **2** _____

Speaker 3 **3**

Speaker 4 **4**

Speaker 5 **5**

	10
--	----

Task 2

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

- A** Starting an unexpected conversation can help you make friends.
- B** I'd avoid trying to make friends on the internet.
- C** The best place to make new friends is at school.
- D** You're more likely to make new friends where there are people of your age.
- E** Discussing your problems can make people more interested in you.
- F** Finding out about the other person can make you more relaxed.
- G** Make sure you look at people if you are interested in speaking to them.
- H** Try telling a joke to make the other person laugh.

Speaker 1 **6**

Speaker 2 **7** _____

Speaker 3 8

Speaker 4 **9**

Speaker 5 **10**

	10
--	----

UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST A

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 it say in the second paragraph about the people arriving at the festival?
- A** They are people of all ages. **C** They don't know where they're going.
B They seem to be enthusiastic. **D** They are welcomed by John Steele in the car park.
- 12** What does the word 'standards' mean in line 34?
- A** the level of work **C** the level of quality
B the level of difficulty **D** the level of enjoyment
- 13** The festival organisers understand that the children
- A** won't make much effort during the festival. **C** don't spend enough time practising their instruments.
B need to have some time to relax during the festival. **D** won't be interested in socialising with each other.
- 14** Before the festival, Blanca
- A** didn't know if she should attend. **C** was unenthusiastic about going.
B had only just started playing the flute. **D** hadn't hung around with other musicians.
- 15** What does Luigi hope to achieve by attending the festival?
- A** to learn some new skills **C** to meet other children with talent
B to play with famous musicians **D** to make a good impression
- 16** What does the writer say in the final paragraph?
- A** There wasn't enough advice from professional musicians. **C** It's been a fantastic experience for all the participants.
B People were mostly interested in having a good time. **D** The players didn't make much effort for the final concert.

	12
--	----

Task 2

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

- 17** How can the music festival help young people professionally?
-
- 18** Why are there such high standards at the festival?
-
- 19** When did Blanca start playing the flute?
-
- 20** What would Luigi like to achieve as a result of the festival?
-

	8
--	---

	50
--	----

UNIT 4: SKILLS TEST A

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

- 10 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.
- 20 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

40 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.