

GRADE 12 ('Core') — SEMESTER TWO, 2007/ 2008 — FIRST SESSION

LISTENING 1

- Wife:* Oh yes, I almost forgot. I had a phone call today.
- Husband:* Who from?
- Wife:* The people who are going to rent our house. They wanted to know when they can move in.
- Husband:* And what did you say?
- Wife:* Nothing definite. I just told them I had to discuss it with you first.
- Husband:* Good. So what do you think? When can they move in?
- Wife:* Well, not until the beginning of next month.
- Husband:* Yes, I agree. So that gives us two more weeks to get ready. That should be enough time. We're leaving all the furniture here, aren't we?
- Wife:* Well, not everything. We are taking some things with us.
- Husband:* Oh, you mean the carpet in the bedroom? The one we bought in Iran. Oh yes, we must take that — it's a beautiful carpet and it's worth a lot of money.
- Wife:* And don't forget the sofa in the living room.
- Husband:* Oh, please! Not that old thing! You know I've never liked it!
- Wife:* But it was a present from my mum!
- Husband:* And that was very kind of her, but...
- Wife:* OK, OK, we'll leave it here. But we'll have to buy another one for our new house.
- Husband:* Of course! Now, apart from the carpet, what else should we take?
- Wife:* Why don't I make a list?
- Husband:* Good idea! And don't forget to include all my books — and all my files.
- Wife:* Do we really have to take the files?
- Husband:* Yes, I need them for my research. They contain the results of all my experiments.
- Wife:* Alright, but in that case we'll need a vehicle, a lorry or something.
- Husband:* No, we don't need to do that. It's too expensive. And our new house is only just down the road, two hundred metres away. We can carry everything. My brothers will help.
- Wife:* That's very good of them. Now, I have to make that list. Where's my notebook?
(*fade*)

LISTENING 2

“And now, listeners, a Japanese project which proves that you’re never too old to learn! Because of economic success and a very healthy diet, Japan now has more old people than any other country in the world. Twenty per cent of the Japanese population are over sixty-five years old, and more than half of these old people are women. Traditionally, old women in Japan always spent the time quietly at home — mostly just sewing and helping to look after their grandchildren. But now they have a new interest. ‘Grandma’s Computer Club’ in Tokyo is one of several projects in Japan which aim to teach computer skills to old people. At the club, classes meet once a week and the women who attend the course can learn anything from sending e-mails to surfing the Internet. And they don’t even have to pay— it’s completely free. A telephone company provides the computers and the teaching is done by teenagers who want to help. We spoke to Kayoko Okawa, a seventy-one-year-old student, who told us that when her son and his family had moved to the USA, she had missed them all terribly. But now she was able to communicate with her grandchildren by e-mail any time she liked. Another woman we interviewed said: ‘Coming to computer classes makes us all feel young again. We’ve all started dressing more fashionably and become much more lively. It’s great!’”

LISTENING 3

1. “So, this new machine of yours, you say it can produce electricity without causing any pollution. Sounds like a great idea, but how does it work exactly?” (F)
2. “This is Air Traffic Control calling Flight TK 341. I'm sorry, but you won’t be able to land for a few more minutes. There’s a plane blocking the runway.” (M)
3. “All of our customers are complaining about that chicken salad you made. I told you not to put so many spices in it!” (F)
4. “Have you thought about what you’re going to do after finishing school? Are you planning to go to university? Or will you try to get a job immediately?” (M)
