

**LANGUAGECERT IESOL**  
**Communicator level - B2**  
**Practice Paper 3**

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**Part one**

Number one. Number one.

F: The most important thing is to distribute the report.

M: Oh, is it ready?

F: Yes, I told you this morning; it's all finished.

Number two. Number two.

M: I think there's some confusion.

F: No, really. They told me I have to discuss the project with you.

M: No, it's Peter you need to talk to.

Number three. Number three.

F: I think they've done their best really.

M: Huh! All they've done is make problems!

F: I think you're wrong there; it's not like that at all.

Number four. Number four.

M: I can't imagine what's happened to him.

F: He's usually so punctual.

M: He's probably missed the train.

Number five. Number five.

F: When's the interview?

M: Tomorrow at three. I'm really nervous.

F: Don't worry. Everything will be fine.

Number six. Number six.

F: Excuse me, sir. This area has to be kept clear at all times. Can you do that somewhere else? I've got lots to do...

M: Yes, all right. I'm just waiting for someone.

F: I'm afraid you'll have to get out of the way.

Number seven. Number seven.

M: Now we've made the decision, we'd better tell Carlos.

F: I'm seeing him in the morning.

M: Why don't we tell him straight away?

## Part two

### Conversation One

- F: But Mike, you still haven't told me what you don't like about the idea.  
M: I'm sorry Mary, but I just hate sitting around on the sand doing nothing and getting sunburnt.  
F: You don't have to. There's lots of other things to do. It's a lovely old fishing village. And anyway we've only got one week.  
M: Look, I love wandering around old towns, but in that heat! It's just too much for me. There's nothing much to do there.  
F: Well, we have to make a decision.  
M: Why don't we go somewhere where there's a beach and a sizeable town nearby with things to see? Somewhere like Barcelona. There's lots to do there.  
F: Yes, that's an idea... I don't think the beaches around Barcelona are particularly nice, but I suppose if that's what you want to do...  
M: There'll be lots of local buses and trains to take you to the nicer beaches and I can have a look around the city. I just need to be doing something.

### Conversation Two

- F: I thought I'd better tell you; I won't be working with you for much longer.  
M: What? Are you changing departments?  
F: No, I'm leaving altogether. I'm going back to college. I'm going to train as a teacher. I've had enough of the business world.  
M: Wow! That's a change, but what about your salary? How are you going to live?  
F: Well, I've got quite a lot of money saved and there's this government scheme that gives you some money to re-train. There's a shortage of teachers, especially in science subjects, which is my area.  
M: Well, good for you. We'll always need good teachers and at least it's a secure job, not like this one.  
F: Yes, that was one of the things I considered, and I'd rather be doing something I enjoy. Anyway, money isn't everything.  
M: Well, good luck, anyway.

### Conversation Three

- M: Where were you this morning? I waited for ages.  
F: What? I don't know what you're talking about. I was at home.  
M: Didn't you get my message?  
F: What message?  
M: I sent you a text message yesterday to meet this morning. I was wondering why you hadn't replied. And then you didn't come. I couldn't ring you because my phone had no battery.  
F: Oh, I'm really sorry. I hope you didn't wait too long. It's my phone, I'm having real problems with it. Sometimes I don't get messages at all and other times I get them really late, like the day after they're sent. Oh look! Your message has just come through now.  
M: Oh, that's not much use is it? Have you tried calling your supplier?  
F: Yes, I really must do that. Look, I'm really sorry. Probably best to call in future.

### Part three

During the Middle Ages, the populations of towns grew and so did the volume of trade. Trade routes grew too, but because the roads were pretty bad, and even dangerous, most goods were still transported by water.

At this time the merchants were the elite of towns. Merchant guilds regulated prices, quality and business practice. As well as the merchant guilds there were the craft guilds; these regulated the quality and working hours and conditions of its members. There were three levels of craftsmen: masters, journeymen and apprentices. Parents paid to place their son with a master craftsman as an apprentice. In return he got food, accommodation and training in the craft. After a few years, the apprentice became a journeyman. This has nothing to do with a journey, but comes from the French word 'journee', meaning 'day' and meant the journeyman was paid by the day. Eventually, the journeyman would become a master craftsman and own his own shop.

New roadways were often built directly on top of the old and street levels rose and rose. In London the original Roman roads are about eight metres beneath the street level of today. As you might imagine, the streets were pretty dirty. Open drain channels ran along them and people often threw dirty water out of windows. Pigs and other animals were also found in the streets because houses and gardens were too small.

Curfews were imposed in towns to keep the peace. The curfew bell was rung at eight or nine o'clock in the evening to tell shopkeepers to close for the day. Anyone in the street after that had to carry a light and have a pretty good excuse for being out.

Most houses were made of wood, and because they were very close together, fires were frequent and spread quickly. Beds were made of straw and were commonly kept close to open domestic fires for warmth, which caused lots of house fires. Straw roofs were also common. Everybody had to keep a full container of water outside their door. When there was a fire, everyone had to help by pulling down burning roofs and even pulling down buildings to stop the fire spreading.

Bells were the main way of telling the time and making announcements. The day began with the ringing of a bell at four or five o'clock. Most shops and market stalls opened at six and closed at three o'clock. Others stayed open until the curfew bell sounded. A Common Bell was rung to announce civic meetings and courts, and as an alarm in case of fire or attack. Every town also had a town crier who rang a hand bell when he walked around the town telling the townspeople the main news of the day.

**Part four**

- M Ooh! You don't look too happy, Carmen, what's wrong?
- F Our bank statement, that's what's wrong, Steve. Look. This is the money coming into the account and there's more going out. We're spending too much and we have to do something about it.
- M Yes, I was thinking the same, and not getting a pay rise this year doesn't help. We'll have to cut down on things a bit. Hold on, there was an article in that magazine the other day about how to save money.
- F Is it this you're looking for? There are quite a lot of really good ideas. Apart from a few obvious ones and a few stupid ones, most of them are perfect for us. Did you read the article?
- M Yes, of course. The first suggestion is about reducing energy bills. Well, we shouldn't have the heating so high and we should turn things off at night. I feel bad about leaving the computer on and there's that outside light, too.
- F Yes, you're right about that. And what about the phone? Did you see the bill last month?
- M Well, you know why that is. Jamie's on the phone all the time to his friends. That has to stop.
- F But he's got his mobile.
- M Yes, but that can be expensive as well, and we pay for it because he's got no money. I'm going to change his mobile phone deal as soon as I can, and we have to put a limit on his use of the house phone.
- F Okay. Now one of the most important areas is food shopping.
- M Uh-oh, I know what's coming now.
- F Well, you go to the supermarket and always buy the same things, whether we need them or not. Sometimes we've got the things already and on the other hand, when we need something like washing powder, you don't buy any.
- M I know, I know, but that's often because of the special three for two offers as well.
- F Yes, but you have to decide if we actually need three. You're not saving any money if we end up throwing the stuff away.
- M You're right.
- F And if you make a shopping list and only buy what's on the list, then you're not going to buy lots of things we don't really need. When did you last write a list?
- M Okay, you're right. We'll start doing that. Maybe we should go to the local market, too, especially for fruit and vegetables. It's a lot cheaper in the market.
- F And another thing, you love cooking. Ready-made meals are very nice and are great if you don't have much time, but they cost a lot more than home-cooked meals. Besides they're much nicer and healthier. So we should plan our meals for the week and then make a shopping list.
- M OK, I've got another idea. We've got all those channels on the television that we don't really use because we're so busy; have you seen how much they cost? Well, we can cut them. It's only films and football and I hardly ever get a chance to watch.
- F But what about Jamie? He watches TV a lot.
- M Jamie's leaving home at the end of the year, remember he's going to university.
- F Yes, I suppose so. And d'you know what; it means we can get a smaller car, one that doesn't use so much fuel.
- M Good idea. Mmm. All this sounds like a lot of time and hard work, just to save some money, but I suppose it's necessary.
- F Of course it is, Steve. We can't go on like this.