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UNIT

Environment



Basic Listening Skill

Taking Notes

In the IELTS listening test, especially in Section Four, which is closely related to academic setting and features high-speed speaking and large numbers of questions, the concise and pinpointed notes will be of great help for the candidates to have a solid and comprehensive understanding of the listening material. Then, what to be taken as notes and how to take it should be clarified.

When talking, the speaker always hopes to make his or her main points stand out, which is also the purpose of any designer for English test, including listening. The questions in virtually any English listening test are closely related to the thesis and the points emphasised by the speaker. Therefore, it is important for IELTS candidates to catch the beginning of the listening where the thesis usually lies. If they miss the beginning, they can still compensate for it by taking the important information down. Usually, the information worth taking down can be illustrated in the following table.

Key Information in the Listening Material			
1. thesis	2. reason	3. result	4. procedure
5. transition	6. example	7. negation	8. repetition
9. comparison	10. definition	11. emphasis	12. conclusion

Accordingly, you can form your own system of note-taking symbols. Some widely-used symbols are listed in the following table.

Useful Symbols for Note-taking			
1. T	2. ∴	3. ∴	4. 1 st , 2 nd
5. !	6. e	7. ×	8. _____
9. > ; <	10. ∴	11. △	12. →

Exercise (01.mp3)

Listen to the recording and take notes with the help of various symbols.

Notes



Vocabulary Drill

The IELTS listening test often relates to the environment. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the words from the list.

ozonosphere	noxious	sewage	deteriorate	nonrenewable
contaminant	indigenous	permafrost	irrigation	erosion

1. We must trace the source of these _____ gases.
2. But in 1974, an American professor pointed out that CFC, once in the stratosphere, destroys the _____ which protects the human race from the radiation of ultraviolet rays.
3. Yet, in these countries, _____ groundwater resources are also being exploited.
4. And now she has widened her criticism to the harsh treatment of _____ people, the first Australians.
5. Using sprinkler systems and drip _____ techniques, the farmers have reduced their consumption of water.
6. There are fears that the situation might _____ into full-scale war.
7. At the same time, _____ wears mountains down, bringing those rocks closer to the surface.
8. Meanwhile, the Arctic tundra's _____ is thawing and releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.
9. The _____ found in poultry will also be found in their eggs.
10. All the _____ drains off into the lake.



Basic Listening Practice

Task 1 (02.mp3)

Word Bank

skyscraper	<i>n.</i>	a very tall building with many stories
ecologist	<i>n.</i>	a biologist who studies the relation between organisms and their environment

lavish	<i>a.</i>	large, impressive and expensive
masonry	<i>n.</i>	the parts of a building that are made of stone
insulation	<i>n.</i>	a material that reduces or prevents the transmission of heat or sound or electricity
sanitation	<i>n.</i>	the state of being clean and conducive to health
sewage	<i>n.</i>	waste substances carried away through sewers or drains

Questions 1–10

Complete the summary below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

The primary concern of the listening passage lies in the 1. _____. According to the ecologists' understanding, tall buildings in a city add a lot to public 2. _____ and parking lot 3. _____. Skyscrapers consume a large amount of 4. _____. For example, the addition of 5. _____ square feet of skyscraper office space in New York City demanded electricity as many as 6. _____ kilowatts. Furthermore, the glass walls of the skyscrapers retain less heat than traditional walls. In order to prevent the loss of heat, 7. _____-glazed panels of glass, and 8. _____ glasses coated with silver or gold mirror films were highly recommended though the latter might raise the temperatures of the surrounding air. Finally, skyscrapers put a strain on the sanitation 9. _____ in a city. The twin towers of the World Trade Centre would generate 10. _____ million gallons of raw sewage each year.

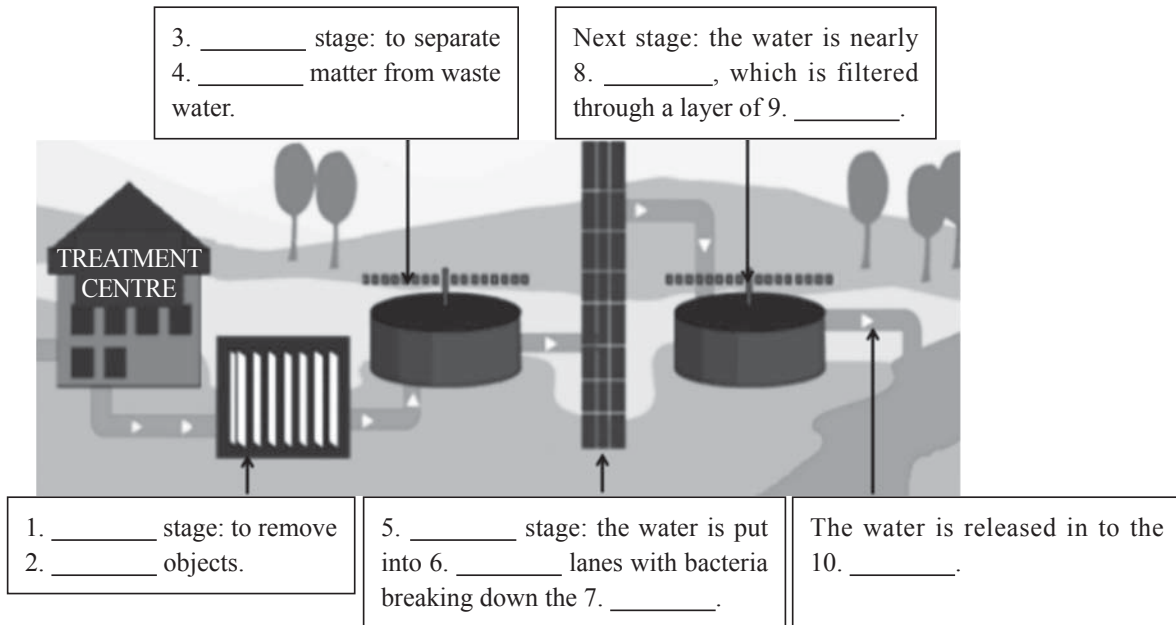
Task 2 (03.mp3)**Word Bank**

sink	<i>n.</i>	a large fixed container in a kitchen or bathroom, with faucets to supply water
drain	<i>n.</i>	a pipe that carries water or waste liquids away
screening	<i>n.</i>	a system for examining and separating into different groups
sanitary	<i>adj.</i>	of or concerned with protecting health
grit	<i>n.</i>	very small pieces of stone
sludge	<i>n.</i>	thick mud, sewage, or industrial waste
aeration	<i>n.</i>	the act of charging a liquid with gas

Questions 1–10

Complete the flow chart below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.



Task 3 (04.mp3)

Word Bank

provoke	v.	to cause a particular reaction or have a particular effect
purify	v.	to make sth pure by removing substances that are dirty, harmful or not wanted
noxious	adj.	poisonous or very harmful
recycling	n.	the process of treating used objects or materials so that they can be used again
fertilizer	n.	a substance added to soil to make plants grow more successfully

Questions 1–10

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

Environmental Issues in the Future

Introduction:

Technological development brings 1. _____ and 2. _____ to the ecosystem. People's

views on these damages vary from person to person.

Thesis:

I firmly hold the contention that 3. _____ can be solved or improved in the time to come.

Topic sentence one:

Much attention is attached to these problems.

Example(s):

Big 4. _____ improved or invented 5. _____ to remove the pollutants in the air.

Topic sentence two:

The citizens' awareness of 6. _____ was strengthened as a result of green campaigns.

Example(s):

Changes have taken place in their ways of handling wastes: Many people have been accustomed to 7. _____ and recycling materials such as 8. _____, cardboard and plastics.

Waste food is processed into 9. _____.

Conclusion:

I support the view that the environment will be bettered in the 10. _____.



Intensive Listening Practice

(05.mp3)

Word Bank

tutorial	<i>n.</i> a session of intensive tuition given by a tutor to an individual or to a small number of students
renewable	<i>adj.</i> capable of being replaced by natural ecological cycles or sound management practices
underneath	<i>adv.</i> under or below something else, especially when it is hidden or covered by the thing on top
turbine	<i>n.</i> a machine or engine which uses a stream of air, gas, water or steam to turn a wheel and produce power
outlay	<i>n.</i> spending, especially to help future developments in a business

Questions 1–3

Complete the sentences below.

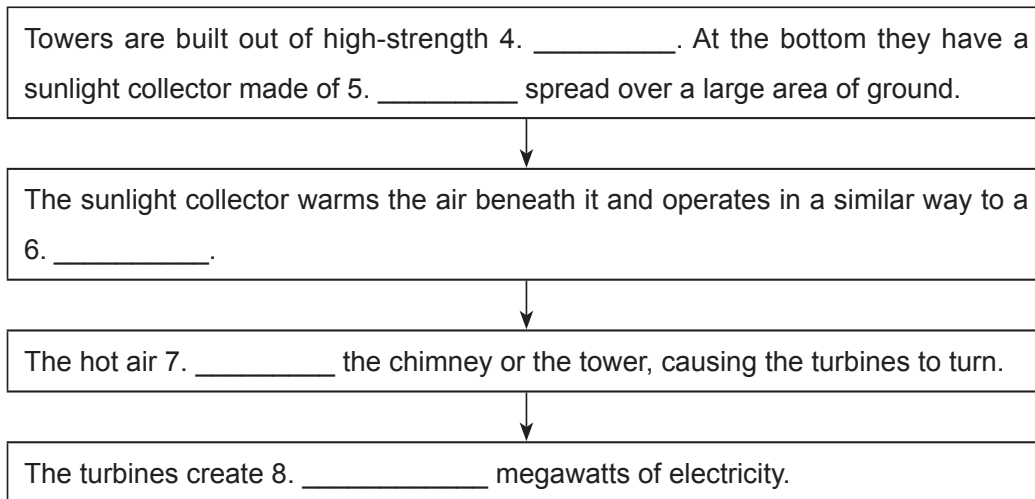
Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.

1. Solar towers create energy from moving _____ by using the sun.
2. The first recorded use of this type of energy was in the _____.
3. The first solar tower was located in the country of _____.

Questions 4–8

Complete the flow chart below.

Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.



Questions 9–10

Choose **TWO** letters, A–E.

What are the **TWO** disadvantages of solar towers?

- A. They are too expensive to run.
- B. The heat can escape from the solar collector.
- C. They require a great deal of land.
- D. They cannot produce electricity at night.
- E. They need to be able to withstand high winds.



Theme-related Vocabulary

battery disposal 电池处理

biodiversity 生物多样性

cement industry 水泥工业

decontamination 清除污染

counterbalance 使平衡，弥补

deforestation 砍伐森林

deterioration 恶化

dust storm 沙尘暴

ecosystem 生态系统

extinction 灭绝

incineration of waste 废物焚烧

industrial effluent 工业废水

inorganic pollutant 无机污染物

irreversible 不可逆的

vegetation 植物，植被

antelope 羚羊

invertebrate 无脊椎动物

mammal 哺乳动物

marsupial 有袋动物

aquaculture 水产业

breeding 养殖，饲养

eradicate 根除

irrigation 灌溉

meadow 草地，牧场

terrestrial background 土质

timber 木材，木料

sanitation 公共卫生

non-renewable 不可再生