

ISE I

Sample Independent listening task 1 - Crane flies

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a talk about an insect called the crane fly. You will hear the talk twice. As you listen, write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then, I will ask you six questions on some facts about crane flies. Are you ready?

The task will play twice.

Now I will ask you some questions. You only need to answer in a few words.

Audio script

OK, so what's a crane fly? Does anybody know? In fact they're often called 'daddy long legs' and that tells you something about what they look like. They look like rather large mosquitoes but they've got very, very long legs – their legs often break off because they're so long and fragile. There are over 14,000 different species of crane fly in the world but I'm going to concentrate on European crane flies. The adults hatch in September after they've lived under the ground for almost a year as larvae – that's young insects. If it's been a warm but rainy summer then you get very high numbers of crane flies. Adult crane flies only live for about two weeks. The female adults lay their eggs under the surface of the soil and the cycle begins again. People think that they're not very useful for anything but, in fact animals, such as spiders and birds, like them because they can eat them. They're also useful because in their young form they eat dead plants and so they improve the quality of the soil.

Questions and answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

	Question	Answer
1	What do crane flies look like?	Mosquitoes/have long legs
2	How many species of crane fly are there in the world?	(over) 14,000/allow 40,000 if misheard
3	When do adult crane flies hatch?	September
4	For how long do adult crane flies live?	(About) two weeks
5	Which animals eat crane flies?	Spiders/birds
6	What do young crane flies eat?	(Dead) plants