

ISE I

Sample Independent listening task 2 – Coober Pedy

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a short talk about geography. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about the town. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me six pieces of information about the town.

When the candidate has finished, select four follow-up questions from the list below. Choose four questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Audio script

The town of Coober Pedy in South Australia is home to about three thousand people. It is a dry place in the desert and it is extremely hot and dusty. So why do people come to live in this hot place? In fact, most people came to live here to look under the ground for beautiful and expensive coloured stones called opals. The first opals were found in Coober Pedy in nineteen fifteen. Over ninety percent of the world's opals come from Australia. So what is it like to live in Coober Pedy? Well about half the people in the town live in underground homes because of the extremely high summer temperatures. The town is a very long way from any other towns so the town's football team has to travel about nine hundred kilometres every time it plays a game. Very little rain falls here, so there are almost no trees, plants or grass. Most tourists visit when the weather is cooler, between March and November. Recently, they have found a lot of oil under Coober Pedy, so the town may soon change completely.

Questions and answers

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

What the talk is about: A (mining) town in Australia (any broadly similar formulation is acceptable).

	Fact from recording	Follow-up question
1	It's in South Australia	Where is the town?
2	About 3,000 people live there	How many people live in the town?
3	It is a hot, dusty place in a/the desert	What sort of place is it?
4	Most people went to live there to look for jewels	Why did most people go to live there?
5	The first jewels were found in 1915	When were the first jewels found in the town?
6	(Most of the) people in the town live in underground homes	What kind of homes do people live in?
7	The town is a very long way from any other towns	Is the town near any other towns?
8	The football team has to travel about 900 kilometres to play a game	How far does the town's football team have to travel to play a match?
9	Very little rain falls	Why are there no trees or plants?
10	Very high summer temperatures/cooler between March and November	What's the weather like in the town (in summer/ in winter)?
11	Most tourists visit between March and November	When do most tourists visit?
12	They have found a lot of oil under the town	Why will the town completely change soon?