

IELTS LISTENING – Kira – The Exchange Student S48T3



IELTS listening Kira – The Exchange Student listening practice test has 10 questions...

PAUL: Hello, Kira, how are you?

KIRA: Fine thanks, Paul, how are you?

PAUL: Well, thanks. It's good to see you. It must be twelve months since you did our course?

KIRA: That's right. It's nice to come back and say hello.



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PAUL: What course did you enroll in?

KIRA: Actually, I went straight into third-year Pharmacy. They credited me with two years, which probably made it more difficult for me.

PAUL: On the other hand, you were lucky to be granted credits. Is that why you chose the course?

Questions 21 and 22

Choose the correct letter from **A**, **B** or **C** for each answer.

21 In her home country, Kira had

☐ **A** completed a course.

☐ **B** done two years of a course.

☐ **C** found her course difficult.

22 To succeed with assignments, Kira had to

☐ **A** read faster.

☐ **B** write faster.

☐ **C** change her way of thinking.

Questions 23-25

Complete the sentences below.

Type **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer

23 Kira says that lecturers are easier to than those in her home country.

24 Paul suggests that Kira may be more than when she was studying before.

25 Kira says that students want to discuss things that worry them or than them very much.

KIRA: Yes. And, as I'd **q21 already finished a course** in it in my country. I thought it would be easier if I studied something I already knew.

PAUL: I didn't realise you went into third year. I thought you started in first year. No wonder it was so hard! And what do you think is one of the big differences between studying at a university here and studying in your country?

KIRA: Well, I've found it very difficult to write assignments, because I wasn't familiar with that aspect of the system here. The main problem is that the lecturers expect you to be critical. That made me feel really terrible. I thought "How can I possibly do it? How can I comment on someone else's research when they probably spent five years doing it?"

KIRA: I think a lot of people who come from overseas countries have similar problems. But after a while it became easier for me. People expect you to have problems with the process of reading and writing but, in fact, it is more a question of altering your viewpoint towards academic study.

PAUL: How was the content of the lectures? Was it easy for you?

KIRA: I didn't really have many problems understanding lectures. The content was very similar to what I'd studied before.

PAUL: And what about the lecturers themselves? Are they essentially the same as lecturers in your country?

KIRA: Well actually, no. Here, they're much easier to **q23 approach**. After every lecture you can go and ask them something you didn't understand. Or you can make an appointment and talk to them about anything in the course.

PAUL: Maybe you found them different because you're a more **q24 mature** student now, whereas when you were studying in your country you were younger and not so assertive.

KIRA: No, I don't think that's the difference. Most of the students here do it. In my faculty, they all seem to make appointments – usually to talk about something in the course that's worrying them, but sometimes just about something that might really **q25 interest** them, something they might want to specialise in. The lecturers must set aside certain times every week when they're available for students.

PAUL: That's good to hear.

PAUL: And how was your timetable? Was it a very busy year?

Questions 26-30

Answer the questions below.

Type **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

26 How did the students do their practical sessions?

27 In the second semester how often did Kira work in a hospital?

28 How much full-time work did Kira do during the year?

29 Having completed the year, how does Kira feel?

30 In addition to the language what do overseas students need to become familiar with?

KIRA: Very, very busy. They make you work very hard. Apart from lectures, we had practical sessions in a lot of subjects. We did these in **q26 small groups**. I had to go and work four hours every week in a community pharmacy. Actually, I enjoyed this very much – meeting new people all the time. Then in second semester, we had to get experience in hospital dispensaries, so **q27 every second day** we went to one of the big hospitals and worked there. And on top of all that we had our assignments, which took me a lot of time. Oh, I nearly forgot, between first and second semesters, we had to work full-time for **q28 two weeks** in a hospital.

PAUL: That does sound a very heavy year. So are you pleased now that you did it? Do you feel some sense of achievement?

KIRA: Yeah, I do feel much more **q29 confident**, which I suppose is the most important thing.

PAUL: And have you got any recommendations for people who are studying from overseas?

KIRA: Well, I suppose they need very good English. It would be much better if they spent more time learning English before they enter the university, because you can be in big trouble if you don't understand what people are saying and you haven't got time to translate.

PAUL: Anything else?

KIRA: Well, as I said before, the biggest problem for me was a lack of familiarity with the **q30 education system** here.

PAUL: It sounds as if it was a real challenge. Congratulations, Kira.

KIRA: Thanks, Paul.

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