

IELTS LISTENING – The Social History of the East End of London S33T4



IELTS listening The Social History of the East End of London listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Leisure & Entertainment subject.

In the last few weeks, we’ve been looking at various aspects of the social history of London, and this morning we’re continuing with a look at life in the area called the East End. I'll start with a brief history of the district, and then focus on life in the first half of the twentieth century.

Period	Situation
1st-4th centuries	1st-4th centuries Produce from the area was used to 31 <input type="text"/> the people of London.
5th-10th centuries	New technology allowed the production of goods made of 32 <input type="text"/>
11th century	Lack of 33 <input type="text"/> in the East End encouraged the growth of businesses.
16th century	Construction of facilities for the building of 34 <input type="text"/> stimulated international trade. Agricultural workers came from other parts of 35 <input type="text"/> to look for work.
17th century	Marshes were drained to provide land that could be 36 <input type="text"/> on.
19th century	Inhabitants lived in conditions of great 37 <input type="text"/> with very poor sanitation.

Questions 38 - 40

Choose **THREE** letters from **A - G** for your answer.

Which **THREE** of the following problems are mentioned in connection with 20th century housing in the East End?

☐ A unsympathetic landlords

☐ B unclean water

☐ C heating problems

☐ D high rents

☐ E overcrowding

☐ F poor standards of building

☐ G houses catching fire

Back in the first to the fourth centuries AD, when the Romans controlled England, London grew into a town of 45,000 people, and what's now the East End – the area by the river Thames, and along the road heading north-east from London to the coast – consisted of farmland with crops and livestock which helped to Q31 feed that population.



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The Romans left in 410, at the beginning of the fifth century, and from then onwards the country suffered a series of invasions by tribes from present-day Germany and Denmark, the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, many of whom settled in the East End. The technology they introduced meant that Q32 metal and leather goods were produced there for the first time. And as the East End was by the river, ships could transport goods between there and foreign markets.

In the eleventh century, in 1066 to be precise, the Normans conquered England, and during the next few centuries, London became one of the most powerful and prosperous cities in Europe. The East End benefited from this, and because there were fewer Q33 restrictions there than in the city itself, plenty of newcomers settled there from abroad, bringing their skills as workers, merchants, or money-lenders during the next few hundred years.

In the sixteenth century, the first dock was dug where Q34 ships were constructed, eventually making the East End the focus of massive international trade. And in the late sixteenth century, when much of the rest of Q35 England was suffering economically, a lot of agricultural workers came to the East End to look for alternative work.

In the seventeenth .century, the East End was still a series of separate, semi-rural settlements. There was a shortage of accommodation, so marshland was drained and Q36 built on to house the large numbers of people now living there.

By the nineteenth century, London was the busiest port in the world, and this became the main source of employment in the East End. Those who could afford to live in more pleasant surroundings moved out, and the area became one where the vast majority of people lived in extreme Q37 poverty and suffered from appalling sanitary conditions.

That brief outline takes us to the beginning of the twentieth century, and now we'll turn to housing.

At the beginning of the century, living conditions for the majority of working people in East London were very basic indeed. Houses were crowded closely together and usually very badly built because there was no regulation. But the poor and needy were attracted by the possibility of work, and they had to be housed. Q38 It was the availability, rather than the condition, of the housing that was the major concern for tenants and landlords alike.

Q39 Few houses had electricity at this time, so other sources of power were used, like coal for the fires which heated perhaps just one room. Of course, the smoke from these contributed a great deal to the air pollution for which London used to be famous.

Q40 A tiny, damp, unhealthy house like this might well be occupied by two full families, possibly including several children, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.

Now, before I go on to health implications of this way of life, I'll say something about food and nutrition.

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One Response







shaxzoda says:
thanks lot. i use this script for proving my answers .

December 15, 2022 at 11:50 am

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