

IELTS LISTENING – Antarctic Centre in Christchurch S38T3



IELTS listening Antarctic Centre in Christchurch listening practice test has 10 questions belongs to the Leisure & Entertainment subject.

INTERVIEWER: We're pleased to welcome Dr Martin Merry whether of the Antarctic Centre in Christchurch, New Zealand who has come along to talk to us today about the role of the Centre and the Antarctic Treaty.

INTERVIEWER: Now my first question is about the choice of location for the centre. Why Christchurch? Was it because of the climate?



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DOCTOR: Well actually New Zealand is the second closest country to Antarctica and Christchurch is often used on Antarctic expeditions.

Questions 21-26

Choose the correct letter A, B or C.

21 The Antarctic Centre was established in Christchurch because

☐ A New Zealand is a member of the Antarctic Treaty

☐ B Christchurch is geographically well positioned

☐ C the climate of Christchurch is suitable

22 One role of the Antarctic Centre is to

☐ A provide expeditions with suitable equipment

☐ B provide researchers with financial assistance

☐ C ensure that research is internationally relevant

23 The purpose of the Visitors' Centre is to

☐ A provide accommodation

☐ B run training sessions

☐ C show people what Antarctica is like

24 Dr Merry whether says that Antarctica is

☐ A unlike any other country

☐ B extremely beautiful

☐ C too cold for tourists

25 According to Dr Merry whether, Antarctica is very cold because

☐ A of the shape of the continent

☐ B it is surrounded by a frozen sea

☐ C it is an extremely dry continent

26 Dr Merry whether thinks Antarctica was part of another continent because

☐ A he has done his own research in the area

☐ B there is geological evidence of this

☐ C it is very close to South America

INTERVIEWER: Right, Q₂₁ so it's because of where we are... coupled with our historical role. So tell us—what is the main purpose of the centre?

DOCTOR: Well... we have two complementary roles. One is as a scientific base for expeditions and research and the other is as an information centre.

INTERVIEWER: Tell us something about the role as a scientific base.

DOCTOR: Q₂₂ We're able to provide information about what scientists should take with them to the South Pole—for example, the centre contains a clothing warehouse where expeditions are supplied with suitable clothing for the extreme conditions.

INTERVIEWER: I suppose you need a bit more than your normal winter coat!

DOCTOR: Yes, exactly and then there's also the specialist library and mapping services.

INTERVIEWER: Right. And which countries are actually located at the centre?

DOCTOR: Well... the centre houses research programmes for New Zealand, for The United States as well as for Italy... there's even a US post office at the American airforce base here.

INTERVIEWER: Really? And what does the visitor's centre offer?

DOCTOR: Well, since very few people will ever experience the Antarctic first hand, Q₂₃ the visitors' centre aims to recreate the atmosphere of Antarctica. There's a mock campsite where you can see inside an Antarctic tent and imagine yourself sleeping there. And the centre also acts as a showcase for the unique international co-operation which exists in Antarctica today.

INTERVIEWER: What is it actually like at the South Pole? I know you've been there on a number of occasions.

DOCTOR: Yes, I have and Q₂₄ each time I'm struck by the awesome beauty of the place. It's magnificent but you can really only visit it in the summer months.

INTERVIEWER: October to March.

DOCTOR: Yes, because it's completely dark for four months of the year (pause) ... and in addition it has to be the coldest place on earth.

INTERVIEWER: Colder than the North Pole? Why's that?

DOCTOR: Well, unlike the North Pole, which is actually a frozen sea, Q₂₅ Antarctica is a land mass shaped like a dome, with the result that the winds blow down the slopes at speeds of up to 150 km an hour and that's what makes it so cold. And one other interesting thing is that Antarctica is the driest continent on earth, surprisingly, and so you have to drink large amounts of water when you're there.

INTERVIEWER: How old is Antarctica?

DOCTOR: We're pretty sure it was part of a larger land mass but it broke away from the rest of the continent 170 million years ago.

INTERVIEWER: How can you be certain of this?

DOCTOR: ... Q₂₆ because fossils and rocks have been discovered in Antarctica which are the same as those found in places such as Africa and Australia.

INTERVIEWER: Amazing... To think that it was once attached to Africa...

INTERVIEWER: Now let's just have a look at the Antarctic Treaty. How far back does the idea of an international treaty go?

DOCTOR: Well, as far back as the 19th century, when eleven nations organised an international event.

INTERVIEWER: When was that exactly?

DOCTOR: In 1870. And it was called the Polar Research Meeting. And then, not long after that, they organised something called the First International Polar Year.

INTERVIEWER: And that took place when exactly?

Questions 27-28

Complete the table below.

Type ONE WORD OR TWO NUMBERS for each answer.

ANTARCTIC TREATY

Date	Event
1870	Polar research meeting
27	1st International polar year
1957	Antarctic treaty was proposed
1959	Antarctic treaty was 28

Questions 29-30

Choose TWO letters A-E.

Which TWO achievements of the Antarctic Treaty are mentioned by the speakers?

☐ A no military use

☐ B animals protected

☐ C historic sites reserved

☐ D no nuclear testing

☐ E fishing rites protected

DOCTOR: Q₂₇ Over two years from 1882 to 1883. But it wasn't until the 1950s that the idea of an international treaty was proposed. And Q₂₈ In 1959 the Treaty was actually signed.

INTERVIEWER: What do you see as the main achievements of the treaty?

DOCTOR: Well, Q₂₉ firstly it means that the continent is reserved for peaceful use.

INTERVIEWER: That's Article 1, isn't it?

DOCTOR: Yes...

INTERVIEWER: That's important since the territory belongs to everyone.

DOCTOR: Yes but not as important as Article 5, Q₃₀ which prohibits any nuclear explosions or waste disposal.

INTERVIEWER: Which is marvellous. Well, I'm afraid we're going to have to stop there because I'm afraid we've run out of time. Thanks for coming along today and telling us all about the centre and its work.

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