

Aim High 5 Listening Test 1 Answer Key

1

- 1 The Ritz
- 2 Piccadilly Backpackers' Hotel
- 3 London House Hotel
- 4 The Ritz
- 5 Piccadilly Backpackers' Hotel

2

- 1 b
- 2 a
- 3 c
- 4 b
- 5 c

3

- 1 travel writer
- 2 £12 a night
- 3 Japan
- 4 £75
- 5 £4,000 a night

4

- 1 It wants to attract young single people or students on a gap year.
- 2 They are decorated in bright colours, and they aren't noisy.
- 3 She says it feels cosy and homely.
- 4 The breakfast isn't five-star, but it's OK.
- 5 You can go in the Ritz Rolls Royce, with a driver.

[3.9]

Presenter: Hello and welcome to the Travel Show. Today we're talking about hotels in London. With me is travel writer Jennifer Brown. Jennifer's been trying out some of London's hotels. What did you find, Jennifer?

Jennifer: Well, at the bottom end of the market, is the Piccadilly Backpackers' Hotel. It's aimed at young single people or students on a gap year, and is perhaps the cheapest hotel in central London. You can stay there for as little as £12 a night. But the cheapest rooms aren't rooms at all, but 'pods'.

Presenter: What's a pod?

Jennifer: Well, the idea first came from Japan. The rooms are like dormitories, but on the walls are these wooden 'boxes'. They look a bit like book shelves, with sides, and each little box is a pod, with a bed in it. That's where you sleep. So, when I stayed there, my 'room' number was '3rd floor, room 311, top shelf, cubbyhole C'.

Presenter: It sounds atrocious!

- Jennifer:** Actually, it isn't bad. They're sparse, of course, but they're decorated in bright colours, so they're not uninviting. The sides of the pods are quite thick, so there isn't too much noise. If you're travelling on a budget, they're not a bad option.
- Presenter:** Not for me, I think!
- Jennifer:** OK, well the next one is the London House Hotel, a two-star hotel. It's in a charming 18th century town-house, and it's quite central. The rooms are small, and the bathrooms are tiny! But it's clean and fresh. It's a family-run hotel, and it has quite a cosy, homely feel. The staff are friendly, too. The facilities aren't brilliant, but the prices are quite attractive. A single room is £75, but there are double and triple rooms, so if you don't mind sharing a room with friends it's a bit cheaper – about £40 per person.
- Presenter:** That's not bad for central London.
- Jennifer:** No. The breakfast wasn't five-star, but it was adequate. I think it's a great hotel for a short stay in London, if you don't mind having very little luxury.
- Presenter:** What about your third hotel?
- Jennifer:** Well, after two nights in fairly unassuming hotels, I decided to go for a bit of luxury, so I spent my third night at The Ritz, London's most luxurious five-star hotel.
- Presenter:** Wow! That was a bit different, I should think.
- Jennifer:** Definitely! The rooms are opulent, with lavish decoration, and beautiful furniture. The hotel has several wonderful dining rooms, where they serve delicious food cooked by top chefs. If you prefer, a butler will deliver food to your room in silver dishes. Or, if you're going out for the evening, you can choose to travel in the Ritz Rolls Royce – with a driver, of course!
- Presenter:** And what about the prices?
- Jennifer:** Well, it isn't cheap. Prices go from about £400 per night up to over £4,000 a night. This sounds out of reach for most people, but if you book well in advance, and look out for special deals, you can sometimes stay there for as little as £200 a night. And for a special treat, I'd definitely say it was worth it!