

## Aim High 5      Listening Test 3 Answer Key

1

Kite, glider, helicopter, balloon, plane

2

1 c

2 c

3 a

4 b

5 b

3

1 15<sup>th</sup>

2 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

3 1903

4 200 metres

5 33 hours

4

1 They had problems with kites when the wind dropped.

2 They were used for flying over enemy territory to see what was happening.

3 You can't steer them and they are vulnerable. If they tear, they come back down to earth.

4 Their challenge was to make a machine that was heavier than air but could fly.

5 Other people started working on designs for flying machines.

### [3.12]

**Presenter:** Welcome to the show, and this week we're continuing our discussions about inventions that have changed our lives. Remember, last week we talked about the mobile phone, and today we're talking about the aeroplane. With me is Henry Carson, an expert on the history of flight. Welcome to the show.

**Henry:** It's a pleasure to be here.

**Presenter:** We now take it for granted that we can fly all over the world. But when did people first get the idea that they wanted to fly?

**Henry:** Oh, I think people have always been fascinated by the idea of flight. In 5th century China, people attached themselves to large kites, and found they could glide through the air for some distance. The problem came, of course, when the wind dropped. [laughs] Then in the fifteenth century, Leonardo da Vinci made several drawings of flying machines, including one that looked very much like a modern helicopter. But he didn't attempt to make any of his flying machines. Then in the 17th and 18th centuries people experimented with hydrogen and hot air balloons. These were quite effective, and in fact they were used during the American Civil War, for example, to fly over enemy territory and observe what was happening. But, of course, the problem with balloons is that you can't steer them, and they are quite vulnerable. If you get a tear in the balloon, you come crashing back down to earth.

- Presenter:** Really? So, when were the first actual aeroplanes?
- Henry:** The first modern aeroplanes, with an engine, didn't come until the Wright brothers in 1903. The Wright brothers had been experimenting with gliders for a few years before that, and they'd had some successes and some setbacks. The big problem that the Wright brothers struggled with was that it's quite easy to make something fly if it's lighter than air, like a balloon, but the challenge is to make something fly when it's heavier than air. But the Wright brothers persevered, and in 1903 they made their first powered flight.
- Presenter:** How far did they fly?
- Henry:** Oh, not far. I think it was just over 200 metres, and only about 3 metres off the ground.
- Presenter:** But it was still a huge breakthrough?
- Henry:** Oh, yes, absolutely. And as soon as one person had achieved it, a lot of other people began working on designs, and it's amazing how quickly things progressed. Just six years later, the Frenchman Louis Bleriot flew from France to England across the English Channel, and people soon wanted to fly longer distances. In 1927 Charles Lindbergh flew all the way across the Atlantic. It took him 33 hours, and it's amazing that he achieved it using only the stars to guide him!
- Presenter:** That is amazing. And what was the next step forward?
- Henry:** The next big breakthrough came with the invention of the jet engine in the 1930s. This enabled planes to go much faster. At that time, new technologies like radar also enabled pilots to steer much more accurately. Of course, since the 1930s planes have continued to develop and become faster, and much safer, too.
- Presenter:** So, next time we hop on a plane to another country, we should think about those early pioneers?
- Henry:** Yes, definitely!