

Aim High 4 Listening Test 2 Answer Key

1

- 1 IB
- 2 MP
- 3 MP
- 4 IB
- 5 MP

2

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

3

- 1 1304
- 2 24 years
- 3 more than 75,000 miles
- 4 17
- 5 24 years

4

- 1 Ibn Battuta's pilgrimage to Mecca was meant to take 16 months.
- 2 It describes the landscape of Battuta's travels in great detail.
- 3 He was stranded after his ship sank.
- 4 The ships weren't strong enough for the strong tides and large waves.
- 5 He drew detailed maps, and this helped map-making in Europe, so better maps made it easier for travellers.

[2.18]

Speaker A: Hello. Today I'm going to talk about Ibn Battuta, one of the greatest travellers of all time. He was born in Morocco in 1304. His family were Islamic legal scholars, so he became a scholar too. In 1325, at the age of 21, he left his hometown and set off on a pilgrimage to Mecca. The journey was meant to take 16 months, but in fact Ibn Battuta did not return home again for 24 years. His travels included journeys through North and West Africa, southern and eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. In all, he travelled more than 75,000 miles.

He returned home in 1354 and wrote an account of his travels, the *Rihla*. The book describes the landscape of his travels in great detail. For example, it describes his journey over high passes in mountain ranges such as the Hindu Kush and tells the story of how he was stranded on the shore on the coast of Asia after his ship sank. It also describes his journey across the Sahara Desert, and how the caravan he was travelling with stopped at an oasis for three days. A scout was sent ahead to the next oasis town to arrange for water to be carried towards them for four days' travel, to meet them in the middle of the

desert and allow them to continue. His book also provides a wonderful account of life in the fourteenth century.

Speaker B: I'd like to talk to you about the great Italian traveller Marco Polo. He was born in Venice in 1254. His father was a merchant who often travelled to the Middle East to trade. In 1269, when Marco Polo was 17, he set out for Asia with his father and his uncle. They returned to Venice 24 years later with many riches and treasures. They had travelled 15,000 miles. When he returned, Venice was at war with another part of Italy, and Marco Polo was arrested and put into prison. During his time in prison, Marco Polo wrote his book, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, giving an account of his travels through Asia. The book relates how they travelled on camels to the Persian port of Hormuz. From there, they wanted to sail to China, but the ships there were not strong enough to cope with the strong tides and large waves, so they continued their journey by land, visiting many towns and cities along the way. His book gave Europeans an idea about life in China for the first time, and so helped to improve trade between China and Europe. He also drew extremely detailed maps. This helped to improve map-making in Europe, which made it easier for others to travel.