

# Skills test 2

## READING

### *All things for all people – everywhere*

Many visitors to London know that Harrods is the largest department store in the world, with over one million square feet of selling space. But do they also know some other interesting facts about the company that, according to its motto, prides itself on selling “all things for all people – everywhere”?

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Today’s much-loved trading giant started out very differently when the company’s founder moved his grocery store to its current location in 1849. Initially, it consisted only of a single room with three employees: two sales assistants and a delivery boy. It took forty years to grow into a company employing one hundred people by 1880.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

An unexpected disaster made Harrods really famous in December 1883 when the store burned down in a fire. Amazingly, Harrods still delivered all its Christmas orders on time, and made a fantastic profit.

3 \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of the 19th century, it was Harrods that installed the world’s first escalator. Brave travelers on the moving staircase were rewarded with a drink when they reached the top.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

Harrods’ success in Britain did not extend to other countries. In 1912, they opened their only department store in a foreign country in Buenos Aires, Argentina, which became independent about thirty years later, but still continued to use the name. Finally, in 1997, a British court ordered the Argentinian store to stop trading under the Harrods brand.

5 \_\_\_\_\_

Famous customers of Harrods include author A. A. Milne, who bought the original Winnie-the-Pooh in the store, and film director Alfred Hitchcock, who ordered his favorite fish there, which had to be flown to him in Hollywood.

6 \_\_\_\_\_

And what do Darth Vader and James Bond have in common? Well, they both worked at Harrods! Actor David Prowse had been a fitness consultant in the sports department

before he became the most hated Jedi in the galaxy, and 007, Pierce Brosnan, worked as a sales assistant in the pharmacy.

And Harrods truly sells everything you can think of. At the beginning of the 20th century, they made yachts, sold planes, built homes – you could even hire an ambulance with a trained nurse! Today, it has 330 departments – including a bank, a beauty salon, and 28 restaurants. What more could you want?

### 1 Read the article. Match the headings (A-G) with the paragraphs. There is one extra heading.

- A Taking care of royal customers
- B There’s only one real Harrods
- C Are you being helped by Hollywood stars?
- D Reward for an adventure
- E From small beginnings to today’s fame
- F Literature and film connections
- G Nothing can stop Harrods

1 point for each correct answer

5

### 2 Read the article again. Write true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The store stands on a piece of land of about one million square feet. F
- 2 The Harrods store was originally somewhere else. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 In 1849, the store employed six people including a delivery boy. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Harrods had to cancel its Christmas orders when it burned down in 1883. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 No department store had an escalator before Harrods. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Harrods has successful branches in other countries. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 A store in Argentina was also called “Harrods” for 85 years. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Author A. A. Milne wrote *Winnie-the-Pooh* at Harrods. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Alfred Hitchcock flew to England to buy fish at Harrods. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Actor Pierce Brosnan used to earn a living by working at Harrods. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 If you want, you can have a meal at the department store. \_\_\_\_\_

2 points for each correct answer

20

Reading total

25

# Skills test 2

## WRITING

**1 Write a message to make an appointment with your English teacher. You should:**

- include a suitable greeting.
- explain the reason you need to see your teacher.
- ask about suitable times.
- indicate if there are any times that do not work for you.
- find a suitable closing phrase.

**Write your message in 80–100 words.**

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shorter writing task 

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**2 This is part of a message you received from your friend, Anna.**

**Our house is small, but it's comfortable. I really love living here! What's your home like? And your room? Do you like it?**

**Now write a message to Anna describing where you live, what your home and room is like, and why you like / don't like living there.**

**Write your message in 140–180 words.**

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longer writing task 

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 15

Writing total 

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 25

# Skills test 2

## LISTENING

**1 Listen to Lucia, a young woman from Slovakia, talking about living in New York City. Select the correct letter.**

1 When Lucia first arrived in New York City, she  
a really loved living there.

b spent a year there as a student.

2 What she found difficult in New York City was

a finding opportunities to socialize.

b making friends.

3 She avoided contact with other students because

a they didn't let her borrow money from them.

b she was embarrassed about not having enough money.

4 Lucia thinks the other students thought she was

a cold and unfriendly. b quite popular.

5 When she was in school in Bratislava,

a Lucia organized a lot of parties.

b students thought she was unfriendly.

6 She moved to New York City again five years later

a after she sold some houses and apartments in Slovakia.

b when she got a job at a small company.

7 She works in an office

a like she did when she was in Slovakia, too.

b which she's never done before.

8 What she likes about his company is the fact that

a they don't work extra hours.

b they work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

9 She visited the famous sights in the city

a when she first lived in New York City as a student.

b when she moved to New York City for the second time.

10 She has a lot of friends and she especially likes

a going out for meals with them.

b spending summer evenings in a friend's garden.

11 What she misses most about living in Slovakia is

a hiking and nature b the way people behave.

2 points for each correct answer

20

**2 Listen again. Write true (T) or false (F).**

1 Lucia first moved to New York City in 1999. T

2 She returned to Slovakia a year later. \_\_\_\_

3 She moved to New York City again in 2004. \_\_\_\_

4 She thinks the working situation is getting worse in Slovakia. \_\_\_\_

5 She never visits the local sights anymore. \_\_\_\_

6 She thinks it's difficult to find nature in New York City. \_\_\_\_

1 point for each correct answer

5

Listening total

25

## Skills test 2

### SPEAKING

#### 1 Ask and answer the questions with a partner.

- 1 Are you close to your extended family? How often do you see them?
- 2 What is your favorite free-time activity?
- 3 What kind of weather do you like/dislike most? Why?
- 4 Do you enjoy shopping? What kind of things do you like to buy?
- 5 How do you imagine yourself twenty years from now?

max. 1 point for each topic 

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#### 2 Look at the photos. Your American friend is planning to spend a vacation working in your country. Discuss what he /she should bring and what he / she should plan to do.

max. 10 points 

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#### 3 Who is your best friend? Describe what he / she is like? Include the following information:

- his/her appearance
- his/her character
- what you like about him/her
- how you became friends
- what kind of things you share with each other

max. 5 points for each topic 

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Speaking total 

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Skills test 2 total 

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