

SKILLS TEST 5 & 6

READING

1 Read the article. Match the questions 1–7 to the numbers in a–g.

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Radiohead – Rock’s most environmentally friendly musicians?

Radiohead have been writing songs since they got together in 1985. After their big hits in the 1990s, like *Creep* in 1992, they have continued releasing albums, selling more than 30 million copies, in total. They are one of the most successful bands from the UK, but what makes them different from other stars is that they try to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

This is not easy for a band that travels all over the world to perform. However, they try to play small gigs in cities, not large concerts or festivals far from city centres. This means that fans can use public transport, and not private cars, to travel to see Radiohead. For one concert in Paris, the band gave away 50 free tickets to fans. But these tickets were only available for people who went by bike to a special office to get them.

Radiohead also tries to help the environment by sending their music equipment across the world by ship, not plane, as this reduces the amount of pollution they create. Another interesting thing that they have been doing since 2007 is releasing their albums online as ZIP files for people to download. This means that they have been using much less plastic or paper than other bands, who prefer to sell CDs to their fans. Radiohead were not the first big music stars to release music online – David Bowie did this 11 years earlier – but their 2007 album was very successful with 1.2 million downloads within a few years. In total, they have now sold over 12 million albums as downloads.

Of course, Radiohead know that they are not perfect. They still drive cars, use planes, and use up a lot of fuel. Their fans do, too, when they come to see the band perform. Despite this, Radiohead knows it has a responsibility to make changes in their behaviour – some small, some big – and make a difference.

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- 1 When did Radiohead release their first album online?
 - 2 When did Radiohead release one of their most popular songs?
 - 3 How many albums have Radiohead sold online?
 - 4 When did a major artist first release music online?
 - 5 How many times was Radiohead’s first online album downloaded?
 - 6 When did the members of Radiohead start their band?
 - 7 How many albums has Radiohead sold in total?
- | | |
|--------|------------------------|
| a 1985 | e 1.2 million |
| b 1992 | f more than 12 million |
| c 1996 | g 30 million |
| d 2007 | |

7

2 Read the article again. Mark these sentences T (true) or F (false), or DS (the article doesn’t say).

- 1 Radiohead haven’t been popular since the 1990s.
- 2 Radiohead weren’t interested in the environment before they became famous.
- 3 They want their fans to be environmentally friendly, if possible.
- 4 In Paris, Radiohead wanted to encourage some people to use bikes.
- 5 Radiohead travel by ship instead of plane.
- 6 Since 2007, fans haven’t needed to go to a shop to buy Radiohead’s albums.
- 7 Not many people downloaded Radiohead’s first online album.
- 8 Radiohead never do anything to pollute the environment.

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LISTENING

3  Listen to a radio interview. Tick [✓] the eight things which are true.

- 1 The interview is about a music festival.
- 2 Helena didn't come to Iceland because of the festival.
- 3 It is a small festival.
- 4 You can see a concert in an unusual place.
- 5 Helena is going to see a gig inside a mountain.
- 6 The festival is in the summer.
- 7 When the festival is happening, it never gets dark.
- 8 The festival doesn't need to use much energy for lights.
- 9 Some people don't get enough sleep at this festival.
- 10 The festival uses energy from the sun to power things.
- 11 Most people come to Iceland by plane.
- 12 The people at the festival try to be careful with their rubbish.

✓

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4  Listen again. Use one word or number from the interview to complete each gap.

- 0 The festival is in *Iceland*.
- 1 Helena came to Iceland because of her _____.
- 2 It's possible to take a helicopter and go inside a _____ to see a gig.
- 3 The festival takes place in _____, when it's never completely dark.
- 4 The festival goes on for _____ days.
- 5 They use energy from the _____ to power everything.
- 6 Most people _____ to the festival.
- 7 People try not to use _____ after they arrive in Reykjavik.

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WRITING

5 Write a paragraph (100–125 words) about some small changes people can make to help the environment. Use the ideas below to help you, or your own ideas.

- recycle your rubbish
- don't throw things away
- switch off lights or computers
- don't use plastic bags
- walk or cycle
- eat less meat

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SPEAKING

6 Discuss the questions below.

- 1 What singers or bands do you like?
- 2 How long have you been listening to them?
- 3 Have you ever been to a music festival or concert?
- 4 What music do you listen to when you feel upset?
- 5 What music do you suggest your partner should listen to?

7 Work in pairs. You and your partner want to start a new hobby. Talk together about the different things you could do and decide which would be the most fun. Use the ideas below, and the phrases in the list to express surprise and enthusiasm.

What a brilliant idea!

That sounds wonderful!

How exciting!

That's amazing!

Wow!

Oh, really?

Incredible!

Cool!

Fascinating!

- grow all your own vegetables
- start a group to clean up all the litter in the streets near your home
- start your own band
- learn a new musical instrument
- your own idea

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TOTAL SCORE

	70
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