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|  | **OVERALL LISTENING COMPREHENSION** |
|  | *Has no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, delivered at fast native speed.* |
|  | *Can follow speech which is very slow and carefully articulated, with long pauses for him/her to assimilate meaning.* |
|  | *Can understand standard spoken language, live or broadcast, on both familiar and unfamiliar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational life. Only extreme background noise, inadequate discourse structure and/or idiomatic usage influences the ability to understand.* |
|  | *Can understand the main ideas of propositionally and linguistically complex speech on both concrete and abstract topics delivered in a standard dialect, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation.*  *Can follow extended speech and complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar, and the direction of the talk is sign-posted by explicit markers.* |
|  | *Can understand enough to be able to meet needs of a concrete type provided speech is clearly and slowly articulated.* |
|  | *Can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure etc., including short narratives.* |
|  | *Can understand straightforward factual information about common everyday or job related topics, identifying both general messages and specific details, provided speech is clearly articulated in a generally familiar accent.* |
|  | *Can understand phrases and expressions related to areas of most immediate priority (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment) provided speech is clearly and slowly articulated.* |
|  | *Can understand enough to follow extended speech on abstract and complex topics beyond his/her own field, though he/she may need to confirm occasional details, especially if the accent is unfamiliar.*  *Can recognise a wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms, appreciating register shifts.*  *Can follow extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly.* |