

Check your ALCE Listening Skills: Part 2: Activity 2

Key and item analysis

Question 1

The following is a conversation between two colleagues.

What has happened?

- A. Somebody has played a joke on him.
- B. He forgot to save his work on the server.
- C. His work was not saved.

ANSWER KEY

C.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

The woman tells the man he should have saved (“backed up”) his work on the server, but the man states that the server is not working (“wasn’t down”) and that he will have to do his work again from the beginning (“do it all from scratch”). Therefore, C is the correct answer choice.

Question 2

The following is a conversation between two real estate agents.

What is implied about the south side?

- A. It is expensive.
- B. It is developing.
- C. It is declining.

ANSWER KEY

B.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

The woman states that there are many properties at affordable prices on the south side and that buyers are taking advantage of these opportunities. The man replies that it is a developing area (“up and coming neighborhood”). Therefore, B is the correct answer choice.

Question 3

This conversation takes place between an undergraduate student and an academic guidance counselor.

What will the student probably do now?

- A. lower his expectations
- B. feel let down
- C. apply to Harvard

ANSWER KEY

C.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

Although the student initially says that Harvard will be too difficult for him to get into (“a little out of my league”), he eventually agrees with the woman that he should stop underestimating himself. Therefore, C. is the correct answer choice.

Question 4

The following is an exchange between two environmental activists.

What has the woman agreed to do?

- A. stop pollution
- B. join a demonstration
- C. fight big business

ANSWER KEY

B.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Less challenging

ITEM INFORMATION

The man suggests the woman should take part in a rally and she agrees, adding that they “need to take to the streets”. Therefore, B is the correct answer choice.

Question 5

This conversation takes place between two professors.

What is the man concerned about?

- A. managing his time
- B. making schedules
- C. teaching courses

ANSWER KEY

A.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

ITEM INFORMATION

The man states that he has a “full schedule of courses” and is concerned that he may have taken on too much work with the curriculum project (“bitten off more than I can chew”). Therefore, A is the correct answer choice.