

## Check your ALCE Listening Skills: Part 2: Activity 1

### Key and item analysis

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#### Question 1

The following conversation takes place between two journalists.

**What situation are the insurance companies in?**

- A. Difficult
- B. Secure
- C. Remarkable

#### ANSWER KEY

A.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Less challenging

#### ITEM INFORMATION

The text states that insurance companies have encountered difficulties (“taking a hammering”) due to natural disasters and that this has had a negative effect on their shares, while events in Portugal and Switzerland have led to a substantial decrease (“wiped out”) in profits. Therefore, A is the correct answer choice.

#### Question 2

The following is a conversation between two colleagues.

**What is the woman’s attitude to Chinese imports to Europe?**

- A. Pessimistic
- B. Favorable
- C. Undecided

#### ANSWER KEY

B.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

#### ITEM INFORMATION

The man is pessimistic about the effect of Chinese imports, but the woman is favorable (“they should up the quotas and make them more flexible...Surely these low prices keep inflation in check”). Therefore, B is the correct answer choice.

### Question 3

The following is a conversation between two journalists.

**What does the woman object to?**

- A. Reporting rumours.
- B. Reporting a case of corruption.
- C. Reporting about people's personal lives.

#### ANSWER KEY

C.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

#### ITEM INFORMATION

The woman states that she is uncertain about running the story because "if ever there was an invasion of privacy, this is it", and defends her story about Senator Dawson as being in the interest of the public. Therefore, C is the correct answer choice.

### Question 4

The following is a conversation between two political analysts.

**What might bring victory to the environmentalist?**

- A. The wide choice of parties.
- B. Co-operation between the parties.
- C. Habitual non-voters.

#### ANSWER KEY

B.

#### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Medium

#### ITEM INFORMATION

The second speaker expresses the opinion that even with three parties attempting to gain the votes of the environmentalists, this will not bring them victory, because their lack of cooperation ("splits and bickering") has left them divided. The other speaker replies that if they can "overcome their differences and form a coalition" then they may have a chance at victory ("might still be in the race"). Therefore, B is the correct answer choice.

## Question 5

The following is a conversation between a lawyer and her client.

**What crime has the man committed?**

- A. Speeding
- B. Theft
- C. A traffic accident

### ANSWER KEY

A.

### LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Less challenging

### ITEM INFORMATION

The fact the man was speeding can be inferred from “it’s not as if I was doing more than 80” and “I was in a hurry”, as well as “you were in a built-up area and there was a school nearby”. Therefore, A is the correct answer choice.