

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 92,000 square metres 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'?

2 **E**

Today's much-loved trading giant started out very differently when the company's founder moved his grocery shop to its current location in 1849. Initially, it consisted only of a single room with three employees: two shop 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

It was Harrods at the end of the 19th century that installed the world's first escalator. Brave travellers on the moving staircase were rewarded with a glass of brandy 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 shop to stop trading under the Harrods brand.

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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 favourite 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 shop 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 Serving royal customers
- B There's only one real Harrods
- C Are you being served 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 92,000 square metres. T
- 2 The Harrods shop was originally somewhere else. —
- 3 In 1849, the shop 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 shop 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 an email 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 suit you.
- find a suitable closing phrase.

Write your email in 80–100 words.

shorter Writing task 10

2 This is part of a letter you receive from your English 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 letter to Anna describing where you live, what your home and room is like, and why you like / don't like living there.

Write your letter 140–180 words.

longer Writing task 15

Writing total 25

Skills test 2

LISTENING

1 Listen to Jan, a young man from Slovakia, talking about living in the UK. Circle the correct letter.

- 1 When Jan first arrived in Britain, he
 - a really loved living in Oxford.
 - (b)** spent a year in Oxford as a student.
- 2 What he found difficult in Oxford was
 - a finding opportunities to socialize.
 - b making friends.
- 3 He avoided contact with other students because
 - a they didn't let him borrow money from them.
 - b he was embarrassed about not having enough money.
- 4 Jan thinks the other students thought he was
 - a cold and unfriendly.
 - b quite popular.
- 5 When he was at university in Bratislava,
 - a Jan organized a lot of parties.
 - b students thought he was unfriendly.
- 6 He moved to Oxford again five years later
 - a after he sold some houses and flats in Slovakia.
 - b when he got a job at a small company.
- 7 He works in an office
 - a like he did when he was in Slovakia, too.
 - b which he's never done before.
- 8 What he likes about British companies is the fact that
 - a they pay for the extra hours you have to work.
 - b they work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 9 He visited the famous sights in the city
 - a when he first lived in Oxford as a student.
 - b when he moved to Oxford for the second time.
- 10 He's got a lot of friends and he especially likes
 - a going out for meals or a drink with them.
 - b spending summer evenings in a friend's garden.
- 11 What he misses most about living in Slovakia is
 - a the hot summers.
 - b the way people behave.

2 points for each correct answer **20**

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

- 1 Jan first moved to Oxford in 1999. T
- 2 He returned to Slovakia a year later. —
- 3 He moved to Oxford again in 2004. —
- 4 He thinks the working situation is getting worse in Slovakia. —
- 5 He never visits the local sights any more. —
- 6 He thinks summer weather in Britain is too hot. —

1 point for each correct answer **5**

Listening total **25**

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 favourite 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 **5**

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



max. 10 points **10**

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 **10**

Speaking total **25**

Skills Test 2 total **100**