

ISE I

Sample Independent listening task 2 – Ellen MacArthur

Examiner rubric

You're going to hear a short talk about a woman called Ellen MacArthur. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me in a few words what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me in a few words what the talk is about.

Give the candidate some blank notepaper.

Now listen to the talk again. Write down some notes about what you hear, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me six pieces of information about Ellen MacArthur. Are you ready?

The task will play once.

Now tell me six pieces of information about Ellen MacArthur.

When the candidate has finished, select four follow-up questions from the list below. Choose four questions which correspond to facts not already reported by the candidate.

Audio script

In today's programme we're going to talk about a British sportswoman, Ellen MacArthur. She first went sailing when she was a little girl. She remembers how the boat made her feel free.

When Ellen was twenty four she sailed right around the world. On the journey she had to cross the Southern Ocean. In the Southern Ocean the waves are huge, and there are terrible storms. And it is impossible to get help in the middle of the Southern Ocean. This is because the nearest land is over three thousand kilometres away. When she was twenty eight, Ellen sailed around the world for the second time. She completed the journey in only seventy two days. This was special because she became the fastest person ever to sail around the world.

Next, Ellen wants to make a film about her life. And now let's hear about another great adventurer...

Questions and answers

If the candidate asks, the examiner may repeat the questions once.

What the talk is about: The talk is about a sportswoman/sailor who sailed alone around the world.

	Fact from recording	Follow-up question
1	Ellen first went sailing when she was a little girl	When did Ellen first go sailing?
2	Ellen felt free	How did Ellen feel in the boat?
3	When she was 24, she sailed around the world	What did Ellen do when she was 24?
4	She had to cross the Southern Ocean (accept 'South')	Which ocean did she have to cross?
5	In the Southern Ocean, the waves are huge (accept 'big')	What are the waves like in the Southern Ocean?
6	In the Southern Ocean, there are (terrible) storms	What is the weather like in the Southern Ocean?
7	It is impossible to get help in the (middle of the) Southern Ocean	What is it impossible to do in the middle of the Southern Ocean?
8	The nearest land is over 3,000 kilometres away (from the middle of the Southern Ocean)	How far is the nearest land to the middle of the Southern Ocean?
9	When she was 28 , she sailed around the world for the second time	When did Ellen sail around the world for the second time?
10	She completed the journey in 72 days	How many days did it take her to complete the journey?
11	She became the fastest person to sail around the world	What was special about her second journey?
12	She wants to make a film (about her life)	What does Ellen want to do next?