

Part 1: listening
Questions 18 - 22 correspond to questions 1-5 in your test.

- 18 (A) Diana clearly feels that her friend should have honoured the agreement that they made and that her refusal to give Diana the washing machine is not fair to Diana. Her friend has broken the agreement, by which Diana used her name in order to put two entries into the competition (one with her name on it, the other with her friend's name on it) and her friend agreed to give Diana the prize if the entry with her name on it won. Diana feels that this is wrong and unfair to her. She wonders too whether it may be legally wrong and whether consulting a lawyer would result in her getting what she regards as fair treatment.
- B: She asks whether she would get what she wants by going to a lawyer but she does not say that she is unwilling to consult one at this point and she is not phoning because she wants to be told not to consult one.
- C: She had a clear understanding with her friend, in her view – she would buy her a small present and her friend would give her the prize. She does not suggest that she thinks she may have misunderstood what they agreed, she is phoning because she wants to force her friend to do what they agreed.
- D: Her friend has *refused point blank* (directly, rudely and without any further discussion) to give her the prize, and so it would appear that they are no longer friendly with each other. She has not phoned in order to prevent their friendship from ending or to prevent a disagreement between them, because this has already happened.
- 19 (D) Kathy says that if she went to a lawyer, she wouldn't have even the *faintest chance* of forcing her friend to give her the prize and that legally she doesn't *have a leg to stand on* (she is completely in the wrong, there is nothing at all to support her case). She says that *the law would take a very dim view* (disapprove very strongly) of her situation because she has tried to *evade the rules* (break them by doing something that does not conform with the official requirements) of the competition and in doing so she has acted with *premeditated fraudulent intent* (these are legal terms meaning 'the crime of deliberate, planned in advance intention to cheat for financial or material gain'). In other words, she could get into trouble if she took legal action because she has herself done something illegal.
- A: She tells Diana that she has *found out the hard way* (learnt through a very unpleasant experience) that it is not a good idea to break the rules of a competition but she does not say that her situation is unusual.
- B: She says that even if Diana had *drawn up* (written on paper) a legal agreement with her friend, she would still be in trouble legally. She is saying that having been more careful about the agreement would not mean that Diana was now in a better position.
- C: She says that this situation has *cost* Diana her best friend as well as the prize (she has lost her best friend as well as the prize because of it) but she does not say that this is because her friend has the wrong attitude or criticize the friend in any way. In fact, she clearly feels that it is Diana who is wrong.
- 20 (C) Ron asks whether people who run competitions keep a *blacklist* (a list of people not allowed to do something, that is kept by an organization) containing the names of people who often win competitions and who the organization will not allow to win any more competitions. He wonders whether, if they do keep such lists, people like him should use *aliases* (false names) when entering competitions. Kathy says that it is natural for people who often win competitions but then go through a period of not winning any to get *paranoid* (wrongly believing that they are being intentionally badly treated) and suspect that such lists exist. However, she says that *no reputable* (respected, considered honourable) *firm would even contemplate* (consider) *such a measure* (action). The only exception to this is competitions run by shops, where there is a *faint* (very small) *risk* of the manager of a particular shop deciding to *deliberately disregard* (intentionally

ignore) an entry from someone who he knows often wins competitions. But in *mainstream* (conventional, available to people in general) *competitions*, she says *such worries* (that blacklists are kept) *are groundless* (without foundation, not based on good reasons), and there is no reason for someone to use false names when entering them. In other words, she is saying that it is rare for the organizers of a competition to have a blacklist and therefore it is rare for the idea of using an alias to be logical.

- A: She says that it might prove to be *stupid* to use a *phoney* (false) name because you would have to use that name while on a holiday you have won or you might have to prove your identity in order to collect a prize. She does not, however, say that people who use false names have often been discovered to have used a false name in these circumstances.
- B: She says that people entering competitions should use their own names and that the reason why someone is not winning competitions may be that their entries are of poor quality, not that there is a blacklist. In other words, she says the answer to the problem is not to use a false name, it is to improve your entries and use your real name. She is not talking about the effect on the quality of entries of using a false name.
- D: Her point is not that people seldom use false names, it is that it is unusual for such an idea to be logical, since it is unusual for the organizers of a competition to have a blacklist. It may be that many people use false names – Kathy's point is that it is usually both unnecessary and possibly stupid to do so.
- 21 C Stan knows his answer was correct but the answer sent to him by the organizers when he *sent for* it (wrote to them and asked for it) was completely different from his and therefore wrong. He has phoned to ask whether he has *grounds* (good reasons) to *make a formal objection* (complain formally).
- A: He has not made a complaint yet – he has phoned to ask whether he should.
- B: He is not confused about the rules, he is confused as to why an answer he knows to be wrong has been given as the correct answer.
- D: It is not that he wants competition organizers to give more details about the results of competitions or that he wants the organizers of this competition to explain their answer openly – they have given him the information he asked for. His point is that he wants to know whether he should complain because their answer is definitely wrong and his is right.
- 22 B Kathy says that in this competition, the *key* (most important) word is 'estimate' because people have been asked to give an approximate figure not an accurate one. She says that it is therefore likely that the answer given by the people running the competition is also a guess, not an accurate figure. Their answer is therefore factually incorrect but it has to be accepted as the right answer because the rules of the competition state that 'the judges' decision is final' (it cannot be disputed). People entering the

competition have agree to *abide by* (accept and obey) the rules and so they have to accept the answer given, even if it is wrong, as it is in this case. Her point therefore is that, although it might seem unfair that a wrong answer has to be accepted as right and therefore a correct answer does not win, this situation is covered by the rules and so no rules have been broken.

- A: She quotes the word 'estimate' and the phrase 'the judges' decision is final' from the rules of the competition but she does so in order to explain to Stan that he has no grounds for complaint, not because these things could be interpreted in different ways.
- C: Although Stan clearly thought he was supposed to give an answer that was factually correct, whereas in fact the incorrect answer given by the organizers is acceptable according to the rules, Kathy is not saying that the organizers intentionally tricked competitors such as Stan. She is saying that it is understandable that he should wish to complain but that no attempt has been made to give competitors the wrong impression – the rules are very clear and have not been broken by the organizers.
- D: She says that competitions involving distances have always *given rise to this sort of controversy* (caused disagreements about the answers like Stan's) but that no court case about such competitions has resulted in the original decision being changed. She suggests that one reason why there are problems with this kind of competition is that it is hard to say that there is one single correct distance between two places, since even road atlases differ on these. However, although she describes problems surrounding them, she does not suggest that people shouldn't enter such competitions.

Part 1 listening. Text.

Presenter:

OK, today I have with me Kathy Ford, winner of more than 500,000 worth of prizes in all sorts of consumer competitions and dubbed 'The Queen of Competitions' by the British press. She's now editor of *Competitor's World* magazine and as an expert on competitions has appeared regularly on TV. Kathy, let's go straight to our first caller, and that's Diana. Diana, what's your query?

Diana:

Yes, hello Kathy. Well, in order to send in two entries to a competition where only one entry per person was allowed, I asked my best friend if I could submit an entry in her name. She agreed, and the understanding was that, if 'her' entry won, I would receive the prize, but I would buy her a small gift for allowing me to use her name. Well, the inevitable has happened – I've won a much-needed new washing machine, but in my friend's name, and she has now refused point blank to hand the machine over. If I went to a lawyer, would I have any hope of getting my prize from her?

Kathy:

Not even the faintest chance. I'm afraid that your efforts to evade the rules have not only cost you the prize, but also your best friend as well, and legally you just don't have a leg to stand on. Even if you'd drawn up some sort of legal agreement with your erstwhile friend, I think you'd find that the law would still take a very dim view of your case, since it was obviously done with premeditated fraudulent intent. It's not worth trying to evade the rules as you've just found out the hard way.

Presenter:

Next, it's Ron. Ron, go ahead, you're through to Kathy.

Ron:

Someone told me that some firms that run competitions keep a blacklist of frequent prizewinners, and that I should use a lot of different aliases in order to avoid being put on such a list. Is this true?

Kathy:

No! Competitors can sometimes get a little paranoid, and if they start going through a winless spell (and we all get them, from time to time!) they start to imagine that they've been blacklisted. No reputable firm would even contemplate such a measure, and the only time there's even a faint risk of this sort of thing happening is with 'in store' competitions, where an individual store manager might just conceivably think 'Oh no, not *him* again' and deliberately disregard your entry. For mainstream competitions, however, such worries are groundless, and the use of aliases is not only unnecessary but can even prove to be pretty stupid. Think about it for a moment – what would happen if you won a holiday under a phoney name? Or were asked to prove your identity to collect a prize at a presentation ceremony? My advice is to stick with your own name and if prizes stop arriving, take a long, close look at the quality of your entries rather than trying to blame it on blacklists.

Presenter:

OK, next it's Stan. Stan, what can Kathy help you with?

Stan:

Well, Kathy, I recently entered a competition which asked you to estimate the distance between a store in Newcastle and its London head office, using the shortest route. In order to make my entry as accurate as possible, I used a Routemaster computer program to determine the shortest possible way and calculate the distance, quite literally, from door to door. Imagine my astonishment, therefore, when I sent for the results and found that the answer they had given as being 'correct' was fully 73 miles longer than mine. I know my answer was correct, so do I have grounds to make a formal objection?

Kathy:

I'm sorry, but no, you haven't. As far as the promoter is concerned, the key word in the instructions, here, is 'estimate' – they expect you to guess, not measure the distance accurately, and it's likely that their own answer will also be based purely on an estimate. As a result, judges will always be right, even when they are wrong as in a case like this, and in entering the competition at all, you have agreed to abide by the rule that states 'the judges' decision is final'. Distance estimation competitions have always given rise to this sort of controversy, and although court cases have been brought, the entrant very seldom succeeds in having the decision changed. You have only to check the distance charts in road atlases to see how this type of problem occurs. No two ever agree, yet as far as I know, towns simply don't move around very much!

Presenter:

OK, and now on to our next caller, who is ...