

ENGLISH EXAM: Part 3 - Listening Comprehension

EXAMINER BRIEF:

The examiner reads out the text below at normal speed and without pauses. The candidate may make notes, but will not see the text, and should not interrupt the examiner while the text is being read. When the examiner has finished, the candidate may ask for sections to be repeated, or ask for clarification. The candidate then paraphrases the text in English. The examiner will ask at least two questions on the text and on the candidate's paraphrasing of it.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Text:

The First and Second World Wars turned the Natural History Museum into a hive of activity, giving historians a rich and unique perspective on wartime Britain. The Museum's invaluable contribution can be seen in the rare collection of manuscripts and photographs held by the Library and Archives.

Museum experts provided allied forces with crucial information. The Museum became a sanctuary for convalescing soldiers and educated the public on important war-related matters, while also ensuring the safety of its own natural history collections.

During the First World War the Museum's contribution included supplying scientific expertise, furthering public education, providing civil services and, in the case of individual staff members, undertaking military service.

The Museum and its experts were called on to assist armies in unfamiliar conditions overseas. It provided critical information about the problems mites and ticks could cause for humans, army horses and food supplies. The Zoology Department reported on the use of crustaceans in determining the ages of shipwrecks and examined sunken submarines, and the Botany Department advised on suitable food for humans and horses in foreign climates. The Museum also established a wartime farm that grew vegetables for troops in the area. It put on special exhibitions, which advised the public on such matters as how to develop wartime allotments or deal with insect infestation.

Adapted from *The Museum in the First and Second World Wars* by <http://www.nhm.ac.uk>

2 – 3 Questions which may be asked by the Examiner:

1. What role did the zoology department have to play?
2. In what way did the museum help to educate the public?
3. How did the museum help the troops abroad?