Study tips

Recognizing and understanding opinions and attitudes

There will be occasions in your Listening test where you will be asked to match a speaker to his or her opinion, based on comments that each person makes about a particular topic or issue. Let’s practise this here.

Before we listen to the recording, form a small group of four or five people and discuss the following opinion for about five minutes:

We need to develop the transport industry so that it becomes global. The best way to bring people together around the world is without doubt to make them travel more and visit each others’ countries more often.

How many different views were raised in your group discussion? How many people agreed with the opinion, and how many disagreed? What were some of the other, connected, issues that emerged?

Track 12.4 Listen to the views that six people present about a proposed new rail link. They each have different opinions but of course may also agree with one another to some extent. However, the key skill here is for you to identify the way in which each person differs in his or her views from the others.

Now try to match the speakers to the opinions. Just to make it interesting, we have added an opinion that none of the six people have. Can you tell which one it is?

Jane  A Thinks that faster trains means more effective business
Mohammed  B Believes that the investment is well worth it
Sarah  C Thinks that there is no evidence that the rail link is needed
Miguel  D Takes a balanced view
Trevor  E Would rather see the airline industry developed
James  F Wants to see much quicker train journeys
G Understands the need for the link but is pessimistic