

Listening Exercise 2.1.

Listen to the following sentences, pausing your machine after each sentence to write down the essential details of what you have heard:

- a. Cardiff has been the official capital of Wales since only 1955.
- b. This city of 270,000 people is prosperous, with a large university and an extraordinary castle.
- c. Wales has some extremely beautiful scenery, but also some of the most depressing coal-mining towns.
- d. More than 50% of the pits closed during the 1930s, and the last large coal mine in Wales closed in 1994.
- e. Nuclear power stations now supply much of the energy that was once derived solely from coal.
- f. The major industry in Wales these days is tourism, which accounts for over 10% of jobs in the region.
- g. Cardiff was once the world's busiest coal port, producing one third of the world's coal.
- h. The city was heavily bombed during the Second World War, because of its strategic importance.
- i. Fortunately, since the '60s, much of the industrial damage to the Welsh environment has been reversed.
- j. The Cardiff Bay Project, a 30 minute walk from the city centre, has rejuvenated the old dock area, and nearby mud flats have been turned into a freshwater lake.

Exercise 2.2.**A**

Write down the numbers you hear in the following sentences:

- i. Wales is approximately 170 miles long and 60 miles wide; 8000 square miles in total.
- ii. Over 2.9 million people live in Wales; they comprise almost 5% of the total population of Britain.
- iii. 1.8 million people (60% of the Welsh population) live in the highly industrialised South-east region.
- iv. The Welsh language is now spoken by over 500,000 people, mostly in the north.
- v. The distance from London to Cardiff is 155 miles and takes about 3 hours by car.
- vi. In 1302, the conquering English king Edward I gave the the title of the Prince of Wales to his eldest son.
- vii. Swansea, birthplace of the famous playwright and poet Dylan Thomas, is the second largest city in Wales with around 200,000 people.
- viii. The highest peak in South Wales is Pen-y-Fan (2907 ft), but Snowdon is the highest in Wales at 3650 ft.
- ix. The Snowdon Mountain Railway, built in 1896, will take you to the top daily in just under 60 minutes.
- x. The Welsh village with the longest name in Britain has 58 letters in its name.

B

Spell correctly the longest named village in Britain. The name is one word of 58 letters long, but will be dictated in 10 parts:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| i. LLANFAIR | vi. DROBWLL |
| ii. PWYLL | vii. LLAN |
| iii. GWYNGLL | viii. TYSILIO |
| iv. GOGERY | ix. GOGO |
| v. CHWYRN | x. GOCH |

Welsh translation: *'St Mary's Church by the pool of the white hazel trees, near the rapid whirlpool, by the red cave of the Church of St Tsilio.'*

C

Spell correctly the names of the following persons associated with Wales:

- i. Athelstan (*Anglo-Saxon king of England, reluctantly accepted by the Welsh kings as their leader, so that they could be saved from the Viking invaders*)
- ii. Owain Glyndwr (*leader of last revolt against England; defeated by Henry IV*)
- iii. Richard Trevithick (*his engine made the world's first train journey in Wales in 1804*)
- iv. William Burges (*architect and interior designer of Cardiff Castle in the late 19th century*)
- v. Saunders Lewis (*one of Wales' greatest modern writers; founded the Welsh National Party*)
- vi. Gwynfor Evans (*charismatic political leader of the Welsh National Party*)
- vii. Augustus John (*Wales' most famous artist – particularly of portraits*)
- viii. Dylan Thomas (*probably the best-known and loved of Welsh writers; died in America while on a literary tour – of an overdose of whisky*)
- ix. Shirley Bassey (*internationally acclaimed singer, born in the docklands of Cardiff*)
- x. Richard Burton (*famed Hollywood actor; twice married to Elizabeth Taylor*)

D

Write down the telephone numbers of the following Welsh Youth Hostels:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| i. Cardiff (01222-462303) | vi. Pen-y-Pass (01286-870428) |
| ii. Swansea (01792-390706) | vii. Saundersfoot (01834-812333) |
| iii. Brecon (01874-665270) | viii. St David's (01437-720345) |
| iv. Bala (01678-521109) | ix. Monmouth (01600-715116) |
| v. Harlech (01341-241287) | x. Aberystwyth (0197085-693) |

Exercise 2.3.

Radio Item 3

Announcer: Today's edition of 'PlanetWatch' brings you our latest world environmental report. This week, Troy Hartwell takes a brief look at the most precious substance on Earth: water.

Troy: The surface of our planet is two-thirds water, of which 97% is seawater and therefore undrinkable; a further 2% is ice – unusable – that is, because it is locked up in the polar icecaps. This leaves a comparatively minute area of 12,600 cubic kilometres of fresh water, scattered unevenly about the globe, for drinking, bathing and other personal use. Of course, by far the largest percentage of available fresh water is used for farming – over 70% – while industry consumes up to 25%.

The major problem is that our water is far too easily contaminated in a world which produces a staggering amount of pesticides from agriculture as well as industrial waste from manufacturing plants – a large proportion of which ends up in the rivers and streams that feed the reservoirs we rely on to supply us with fresh water. In addition, in many poor and developing countries of the world, sewage is added untreated to flowing and non-flowing water sources causing devastating outbreaks of disease and, sadly, more than 25,000 deaths per day. One startling statistic, which shows the extent of water pollution in a major nation, is taken from a recent United Nations report which estimates that over 78% of people in China drink from polluted water supplies.

Unfortunately, the enormous efforts that humankind has taken to provide plentiful fresh water for all – I refer to the more than 35,000 large dam and hydro-electric turbine construction projects throughout the world – these might well be ultimately responsible for falling water tables, the shrinking of natural lakes, and shrivelling rivers everywhere. One consequence of artificially diverting massive amounts of water is the loss of trees, plants and wildlife that depend on wet areas that are fast drying up. It is clear the 21st century's greatest challenge will be to reverse these worrying trends towards a drier and, therefore, dirtier world. Troy Hartwell for 'Planet Watch'.

Announcer: School project kits on this week's topic are available by telephoning this number now: 0171-825-992. I'll repeat that number ... 0171-825-992 .

Radio Item 4

This is 'Postcards from the Edge of the World'. I'm Catherine Small with a disturbing story from the Great Barrier Reef in Northern Queensland, Australia. Residents of the sleepy beachside town of Carrsville near the luxurious resort of Port Charles were woken yesterday at 6.20 a.m. to the sound of a number of explosions that many were convinced was either a serious thunderstorm, blasts of gas or even planes nose-diving into the sea! It turned out, however, that the sounds heard were actually part of a series of 25 controlled explosions set off approximately 200 metres offshore and conducted by marine authorities in an attempt to rid the sea of dangerous swarms of Portuguese Man-O'-War jellyfish that have been plaguing the local beaches for the past two years.

No-one is certain why the jellyfish have made a home in the once clear blue waters near the popular resort, but what is certain is that something had to be done. The town relies almost exclusively on the resort and tourism for its survival; but Carrsville beach has been strewn with the deadly jellyfish now for the last two summers, and fishing and bathing are no longer possible. Last year, the Shire Council decided to enlist the help of Professor Stephen Blunt, a British marine biologist working with the biology department at the University of Northern Queensland, who proposed a controversial solution to the problem involving the foreshortening of the 2 kilometre long rock shelf that lies 200 metres out to sea. The shelf apparently traps the creatures before they have the chance to escape back to the ocean and this, in turn, encourages them to increase in numbers.

Global warming is thought to be at least partly responsible for slight changes in the recent patterns of moon tides which have, however, been enough to upset the delicate natural balance – allowing the jellyfish to reach the shore in numbers previously unheard of. By blasting away almost half of the rock shelf, Professor Blunt hopes the jellyfish will soon be a thing of the past. If the technique is successful, it may be used along other sensitive coastal waters of Northern Queensland. Environmentalist groups are observing the experiment with caution.

Exercise 2.8.

Lecture 2

To be living at the start of the new millenium is to exist in the most advanced technological era in history. It is easy to forget that we are still surrounded by countless opportunities to get close to the earth, the sea and all the other wonders of the natural environment. But for how long? Fortunately, the agricultural and industrial excesses of the past fifty years are beginning to be reversed, and, with the establishment of such watchdog organisations as Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund, it is likely that government policies which threaten the environment will come under ever-increasing scrutiny. Environmental agreements involving a consensus of world nations, once thought impossible, promise reductions in levels of so-called 'Greenhouse' gases, and the banning of the production of substances which interfere with key eco-processes such as those which deplete the ozone layer.

In Britain, perhaps the most encouraging sign is the recent change in political thinking, even among the conservative elements of the major political parties. Though once there was believed to be little political sense in pushing environmental policies in elections, 'green' political parties with policies geared towards saving the environment are supported by a significant number of electors whose views can therefore make a lasting difference.

However, there is still much to be done and little room for complacency. Unchecked consumerism in developed nations, and the destruction of virgin hardwood forests in developing countries for short-term financial gain are but two examples of issues where greed is the direct cause of environmental ruin. But what is often overlooked, even by well-intentioned 'forces for the good' such as Greenpeace, is that the best recipe for failure is poverty.

Economic growth and technological progress are not the enemies of environmental protection, but the means by which protection programmes can be implemented and conservation attained. High-tech solutions ranging from cheaper food production to safer waste disposal, from cleaner cars to more efficient energy sources – these can only come about if economic growth continues. It is very much in our interest to help make the world a richer, and therefore more environmentally-friendly, place to live.