



I – READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

1. More evidence has emerged that listening to personal music players too loudly could make you deaf. Experts have warned that new technology makes it easier to listen for longer – and louder – than ever before. But those who turn up the volume to drown out noise on the tube or a bus run the risk of permanent hearing damage. Extended exposure to volumes of 80 decibels – the level of city traffic – can cause temporary tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, according to the Royal National Institute for Deaf People. Listening at the maximum 105 decibels for more than an hour a day could cause incurable hearing loss, the institute warned.
2. Its research shows that more than half of 16 to 24-year-olds listen to digital music players such as iPods for more than an hour a day. Institute chief executive Dr John Low said young people are 'frighteningly unaware' of the dangers of listening to their iPods or MP3 players too loudly. He added : 'If young people don't heed our warnings about safer listening, they could end up facing premature hearing damage. New technology and ever-increasing storage capacity enable people to listen non-stop for hours – and at louder volumes than ever before.'
3. Institute audiologist Angela King urged music fans to look out for the warning signs of hearing problems. She said : 'Hearing loss from loud noise is caused by listening too loudly for too long a period of time. Ringing or buzzing in your ears after a long stint of being plugged in to your audio is a warning sign that if you continue to stress your ears like this, you could damage your hearing permanently.'
4. The institute advises music-lovers to take regular breaks from their headphones to give their ears a rest. Other tips include turning down the volume – as even a small reduction in noise can make a big difference to the risk of damage to hearing.

Daily Mail, July 15, 2006



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Tick (✓) the right alternative.(2 marks)

a – The text is mainly

narrative ☐

descriptive ☐

expository ☐

b – In this article, the writer is :

- urging the authorities to ban music players on public transport ☐
- criticizing the ever-increasing use of music players by young people ☐
- warning young people against the possible risks posed by music players ☐

2) Complete the following table with details from paragraph 1.(2 marks)

Cause	Consequence
Turning up volumes of their music players	Young people.....
.....	Incurable hearing loss.

3) Find details in the text showing that the following statements are false. (2 marks)

a) Young people are conscious of the risks linked to loud music. (paragraph 2)

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b) Reducing the sound of music players is the only remedy to hearing loss. (paragraph 4)

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4) Find words in the text meaning nearly the same as : (3 marks)

a) take notice of something (paragraph 2) :

b) overcome (paragraph 1) :

c) early (paragraph 2) :

5) What do the underlined words in paragraph 2 refer to ? (2 marks)

a) Its refers to :

b) they refers to :

6) Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

Would you take the scientists' warnings about listening to loud music seriously ? Why ? Why not ?

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