# Defense Language Proficiency Test 5 (DLPT5)

**Multiple-Choice Format** 

## Saudi Familiarization Guide



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## Introduction

This Familiarization Guide is designed to provide prospective examinees with information about the Defense Language Proficiency Test 5 (DLPT5) in multiple-choice format. This guide contains general information about the test design, the format of the test, its length, its content, the skills tested, and procedures used in scoring and reporting the scores. In addition, screen shots of what the examinees will see when taking the test on the computer as well as information on testing procedures are provided. Finally, there is a section of sample listening passages with questions, answer choices, and explanations for each choice.

## **Overview of the DLPT5 Multiple-Choice Test**

Department of Defense Instruction DoDI 5160.71, 2019 identifies the Defense Language Proficiency Testing (DLPT) System—for reading, listening, and speaking modalities—as an essential component of the Defense Language Program, and critical to the Department's ability to measure and capture the language capabilities of the DoD Components and to determine readiness.

Except as otherwise provided in DoDI 5160.71, 2019<sup>1</sup> or as authorized by public law, the DLPT System is the only test battery authorized for assessing an individual's proficiency in a foreign language and for determining qualification for receiving a Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) for military personnel pursuant to DoD Instruction 1340.27 or Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) for civilian personnel pursuant to DoD 1400.25-M in the Department of Defense.

The fifth generation of the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT5) measures target language proficiency in two modalities, reading and listening, regardless of how the target language has been acquired. Target languages refer to the languages other than English for which the DLPT5 is developed. Like all previous generations of DLPT—since the inception of the first standardized Army Language Proficiency Tests in 1948—the DLPT5 was developed as a bilingual test requiring English language proficiency as prerequisite for foreign language proficiency testing.

The DLPT5 tests measure proficiency as defined by the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Skill Level Descriptions, levels 0+ through 4 (<a href="https://www.govtilr.org/">https://www.govtilr.org/</a>), where available. The results of the DLPT5 will be used to make operational readiness, incentive pay, and training decisions for civilian and military language analysts in the United States government.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: DoD Language Testing Program, Department of Defense Instruction 5160.71, January 26, 2009, Incorporating Change 2, Effective April 9, 2019, USD(P&R).

# **Description of the DLPT5 Lower-Range Test** in Multiple-Choice Format

## • Test Design

- Typically, the Lower-Range Listening Comprehension Test contains approximately 60 questions with about 37 passages A listening passage can have up to 2 questions, each with 4 answer choices.
- Examinees have 3 hours to complete the Listening Comprehension Test. Approximately halfway through the test, examinees will be given a 15-minute break. The break does not count toward the test time. For the Listening Comprehension Test, although the playing of the passages is controlled by the computer, examinees may take as much or as little time as they wish to answer each question. Managing time effectively is the examinee's responsibility.

#### • Test Content

- The DLPT5 is designed to measure proficiency in the target language regardless
  of how that language has been acquired. For this reason, and because of the broad
  proficiency orientation of the test, its content is not tied to any particular
  language-training program.
- The majority of passages included in the test are sampled from authentic materials and real-life sources such as radio and television broadcasts, the Internet, etc.
- The passages cover a broad range of content areas, including social, cultural, political, economic, geographic, scientific and technological, and military and security topics.
- o The content of the test forms will be systematically updated.
- **Test Format**: The test includes instructions on how to take the test, examples of how to answer the questions, and question sets. Each question set contains the following parts:
  - Orientation: This is a short statement in English that appears before each passage. Its purpose is to identify the context from which the passage is taken.
  - Passage: This is the only element of the test that is in the target language being tested. The maximum length of a Listening Comprehension passage in the test is approximately 2 minutes.
  - O **Question statement**: Each individual question is based on the passage, is written in English, and is posed in the form of a complete question or an incomplete statement. The questions may ask about what is explicitly stated in the passage or, in some cases, what is implied in it. Occasionally, questions may ask about

specific words or phrases that are used in the passage. The number of questions asked about each passage is related to the length and complexity of that passage.

• Answer choices: Each question statement is followed by 4 answer choices, also written in English, only one of which is the correct answer. Each answer choice is displayed on the screen with a button next to it that examinees will click to select that choice. Examinees can change their selection by clicking on a different button.

DLPT5 is for official use only and the unauthorized discussion, disclosure, or possession of any of the test content is forbidden.

For military personnel, failure to comply with this prohibition is a violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and will result in administrative or disciplinary actions.

For civilian personnel, failure to comply with this prohibition may be prosecuted under Title 18, Section 641 of the United States Code.

## **Scoring**

Examinee scores are reported in terms of ILR levels, including "plus" ratings. Lower-Range tests are intended to cover ILR levels 0+ through 3. Possible scores are 0, 0+, 1, 1+, 2, 2+, and 3.

Scores reflect current functional language proficiency in listening as defined in the ILR Skill Level Descriptions (<a href="https://www.govtilr.org/">https://www.govtilr.org/</a>). Scores do NOT reflect proficiency in speaking or writing, nor do they reflect examinees' job-related performance or ability to perform specific language-related tasks under special circumstance (e.g., listening to a target language passage indefinitely many times with the aid of supplemental reference materials and information sources).

Scores on the test are based on the number of questions answered correctly. Since there is no penalty for incorrect answers, it is to the examinee's advantage to attempt to answer every question, even if it involves guessing.

## **Preparation for Taking the DLPT5**

The purpose of this publication is to familiarize prospective examinees with the DLPT5 multiple-choice format and general testing procedures. Other than carefully reading this guide so that the test instructions and format are familiar, there is very little to be gained from "studying" for the test. The best preparation for the DLPT5 is the acquisition of a solid base of general proficiency in the target language, both through formal training and through language exposure and use in a variety of real-life language-use settings. Study aids (i.e., dictionaries, reference books, etc.) are not permitted for this test.

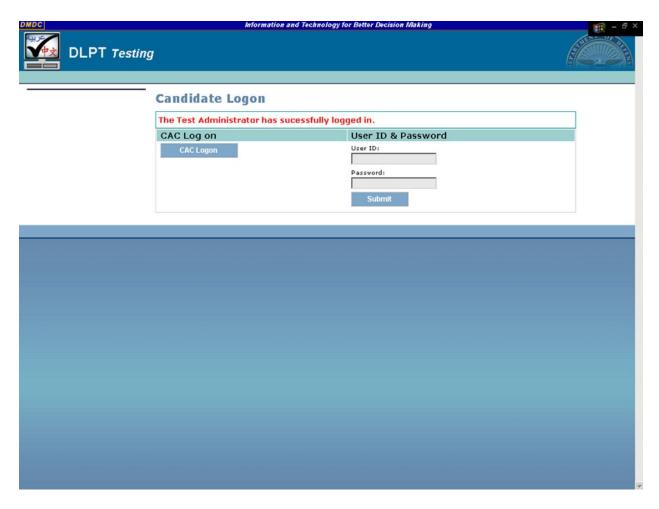
# Test Procedures and Instructions for Taking the DLPT5

The purpose of this section is to familiarize prospective examinees with how to take the DLPT5 multiple-choice Listening Comprehension Test. Test procedures and instructions for the Listening Comprehension Test are provided.

## **Test Procedures Overview**

This section is to help prospective examinees become familiar with the test procedures of the DLPT5 multiple-choice Listening Comprehension Test. First, there will be a short description of what the examinees see before the actual test begins. Then screenshots of what examinees will see on the computer screen will be provided.

At the beginning of the test session, the examinee logs on to the system using a Common Access Card (CAC). The examinee must click on the [CAC Logon] button before moving to the next screen.

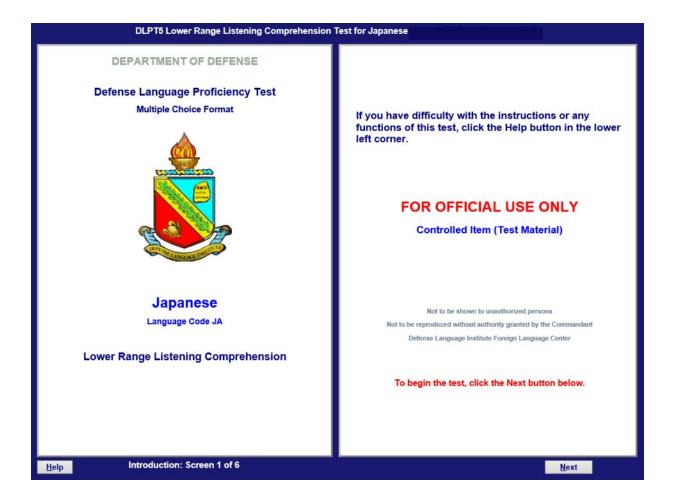


The next screen provides a list of tests for which the examinee is registered; the examinee selects the appropriate test from the list.

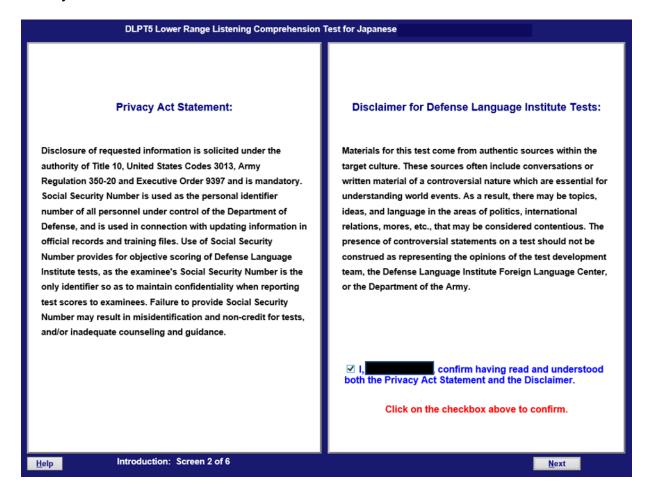


Once the test has been selected, a series of introductory screens appears. These screens contain the Privacy Act Statement, the Disclaimer for Defense Language Institute Tests, the Non-Disclosure Statement, and the Test Administration Statement (of the examinee's ability to take the test at that time). The examinee must click on the indicated checkboxes under the Disclaimer Statement and then the Test Administration Statement before moving to the next screen.

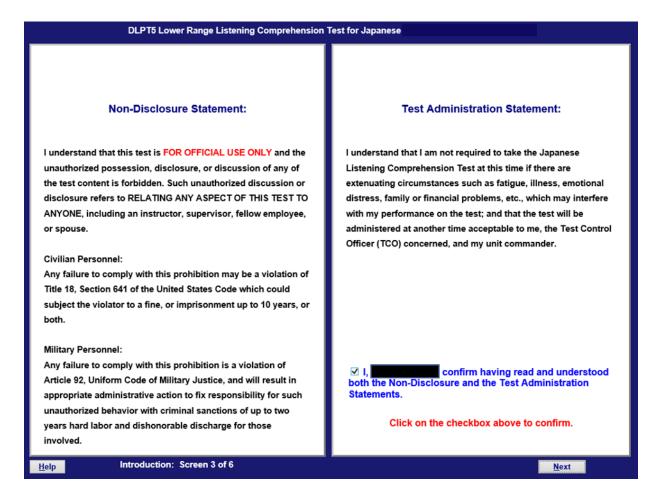
Below are introductory screens from a Listening Comprehension Test. Please note: the screen shots below were taken from the Japanese test as examples for the purpose of illustration.



## Privacy Act Statement and Disclaimer:



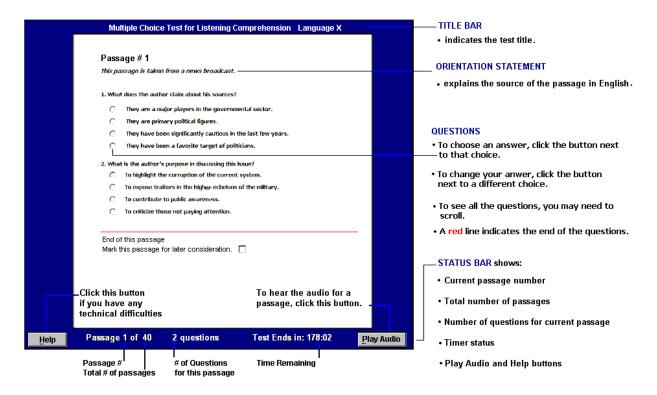
#### Non-Disclosure Statement and Test Administration Statement:



## **Listening Comprehension Test**

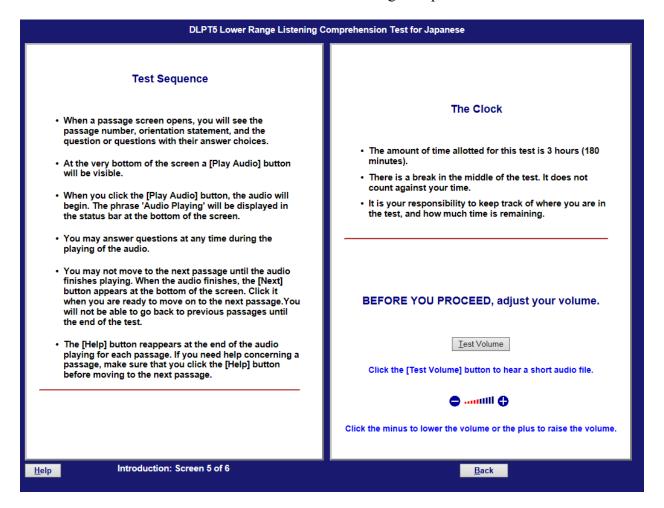
Example of screen layout for the Listening Comprehension Test:

Explanations of the parts of the screen are provided. Familiarize yourself with the features of this screen now.



Note: The text and questions in these screens appear smaller than the text and questions on the actual test passages.

The next two screens contain instructions for the Listening Comprehension Test.

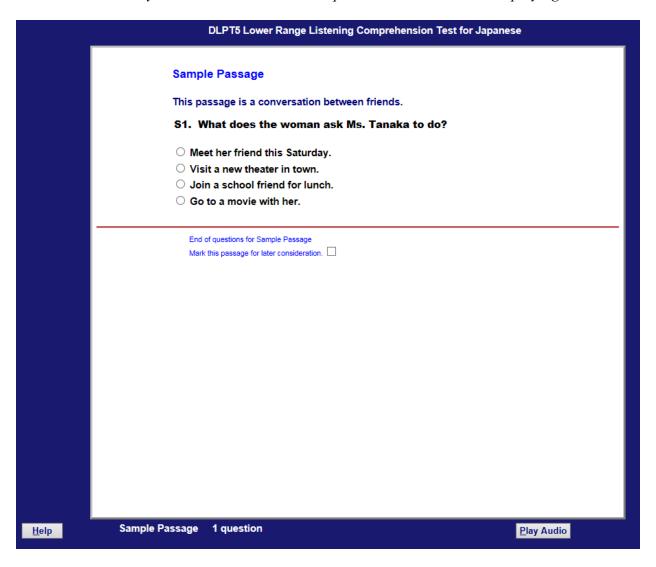


Instructions screen for the Listening Comprehension Test:

## **DLPT5 Lower Range Listening Comprehension Test for Japanese** ATTENTION: You should hear a voice reading the instructions below. If the audio is not clear or loud enough, raise your hand now to alert the Test Administrator. · When a passage screen opens, you will see a short statement in English that explains the context from which the passage was taken, and below that, the question or questions associated with the passage. When you are ready to hear the passage, click on the [Play Audio] button located at the bottom right corner of the screen. You will then hear the short statement in English followed by the passage. Some passages will be played once and some will be played twice. When a passage is played twice, there will be a short tone signal just before the passage is played the second time. · You do not have to wait until the passage has finished playing to begin answering the questions. After hearing the passage you will be reminded to answer the question or questions. Read each question and its answer choices carefully. Some questions may be in the form of an incomplete statement. · Based on what you have heard in the passage, choose the best answer to each question from among the four answer choices. The answer to each question may be stated overtly in the passage or only implied. · Click on the button next to the answer you have chosen. You may change your answer by clicking on a different button. · Click on the [Next] button at the bottom right of the screen to go to the next passage. · There is no penalty for guessing, so it is to your advantage to answer all of the questions. A sample passage follows on the next screen. If you need help during the test, click on the [Help] button. Introduction: Screen 6 of 6 **Audio Playing** <u>H</u>elp

Presented here is an example of a Listening Comprehension Test sample question (the sample passage audio would be played while the screen is displayed):

*Note: Examinees may select their answers to the questions while the audio is playing.* 



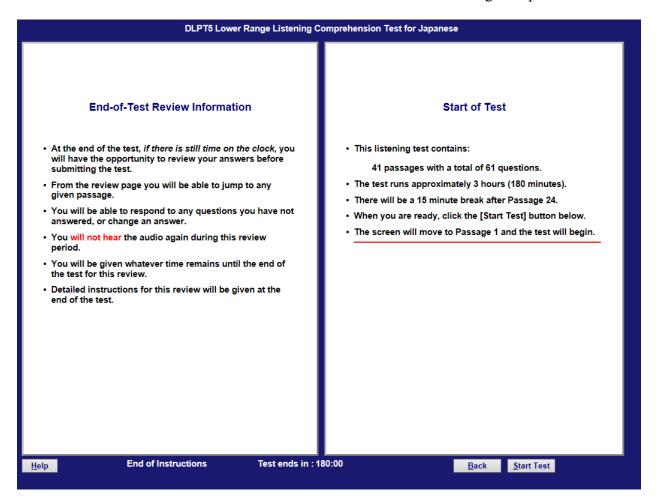
*Note: After audio plays, the [Next] button will appear at the lower right of the screen.* 

When a passage screen opens, examinees can start the audio by clicking on the [Play Audio] button whenever they are ready to listen to the passage. When the audio finishes, the [Next] button will appear.

Examinees can move on to the next passage once the audio has finished playing by clicking on the [Next] button. At the end of the test, examinees will be able to move back to previous questions, but the audio will not play again.

After the sample passage, the examinee clicks on the [Next] button and moves to the End-of-Test Review Information and Start of Test screen.

End-of-Test Review Information and Start of Test screen for the Listening Comprehension Test:



By clicking on the [Start Test] button, the examinee moves to the first passage of the test and starts the clock.

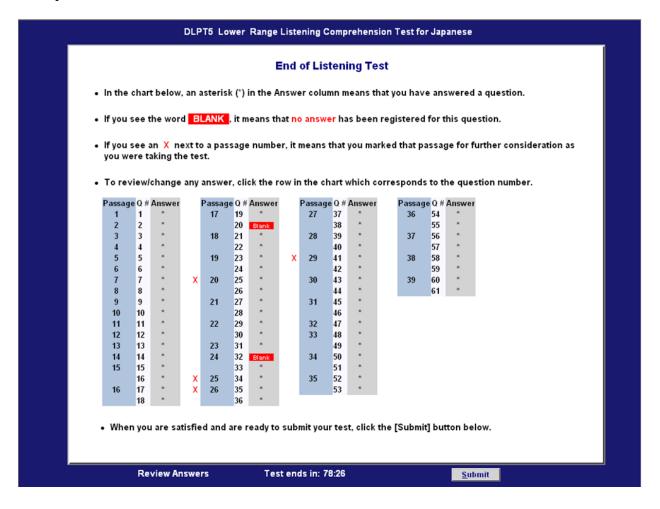
## **End-of-Test Review Information**

At the end of the test, a review screen appears for examinees to review their responses to the questions before submitting the test.

On the review page, examinees will be able to click and jump to any given passage. They will be able to respond to any questions they have not answered, or they can change an answer.

The audio for the Listening Comprehension Test will **NOT** be played again during this review period.

Example of the review screen:



## **Sample Passages**

The purpose of this section is to familiarize prospective examinees on the levels and types of passages as well as their associated questions that appear in a given DLPT 5 test in multiple-choice format. Below are some sample passages from ILR levels 1 through 3 in listening taken from Saudi, and their associated questions and answer choices. Explanations of the correct answer for each question are also provided.

## **Listening Comprehension Sample Passages**

Note: Examinees will NOT see passage transcripts in an actual DLPT5 Listening Test.

Sample Passage: ILR Level 1

This passage is a conversation between a husband and his wife.

Transcription:

- 1. What does the husband say he will do on the way home from work?
  - (A) Buy water.
  - (B) Order bread.
  - (C) Meet a friend.
  - (D) Mail a package.

The correct answer is (A).

Justification:

(A) is the correct answer.

The husband says that he will buy a box of water on the way home from work.

- (B) is **not** the correct answer. The wife tells her husband they need bread, but the husband does not say he will order bread.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. Although the husband mentions an invitation, which might suggest friends visiting, there is no mention of him meeting a friend in this conversation.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. There is no mention of mailing a package in this conversation.

## Sample Passage: ILR Level 2

## This passage is from a conversation between a male interviewer and a farmer.

## Transcription:

المذيع (ذ): من بداية الطروح كيف يبدأ؟

المزارع (ذ): بدايته زهرة

المذيع (ذ): هاذي بدايتها، زهرة.

المزارع (ذ): هاذي الزهرة تتحول إلى عقيده وتتحول إلى ثمرة.

المذيع (ذ): اش لون تعرف أنها هي استوت؟

المزارع (ذ): خلاص لما تصير ... اه ... عشرين سانتي وفوق خلاص استوت ... طبعا الطروح يحتاج إلى مي حلو.

المذيع (ذ): اه... حق زراعتها يعني

المزارع (ذ): حق زراعتها

المذيع (ذ): ومتى تزرعها؟

المزارع (ذ): الموسم الثاني

المذيع (ذ): ومتى؟

المزارع (ذ): في شهر اثنين إنجليزي

المذيع (ذ): له موسمين في السنة، يعني

المزارع (ذ): الله الله

المذيع (ذ): شتوي وصيفي

المزارع (ذ): أي نعم

المذيع (ذ): وطبعا الكبير هذا ما ينباع في السوق، لا؟

المزارع (ذ): لأ، ما ينباع

المذيع (ذ): فيعتبر اللي ياكله نادر.

المزارع (ذ): نادر

المذيع (ذ): اللي يذوقونه ذا الكبير نادر، أنا طبعا بجربه لأول مرة ذا الحين، طعم بطيخ ذا. كانه بطيخ حساوي بعد.

المزارع (ذ): ايه

المذيع (ذ): اخوي جعفر ... البذر ايش تسوون فيه بالضبط؟

المزارع (ذ): البذر نغسله، ونحطه في الشمس لما يجف. إذا جف بعدين نحطه في علبة ونخليه يقري يونا ويقعد من سنة لأربع سنوات ما يخرب

المذيع (ذ): أربع سنوات! تبذرون فيه وأموركم طيبة.

المزارع (ذ): وأمورنا طيبة.

## 2. According to the farmer, what indicates that the fruit is ripe?

- (A) When it develops a fragrant scent.
- (B) When it changes to another color.
- (C) When it becomes moderately soft.
- (D) When it reaches a minimum length.

The correct answer is (D).

#### Justification:

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. The farmer does not mention anything about scent of the fruit.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. The farmer explains how the flower becomes fruit. However, he does not mention a change in color as a sign of the fruit being ripe.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The farmer does not mention anything about softness of the fruit.
- (D) is the correct answer.

The farmer says the fruit becomes twenty centimeters and above when it is ripe.

## 3. What is one thing the farmer says about the seeds?

- (A) They can be sold at a good price.
- (B) They can be stored for a long time.
- (C) They cannot ever be treated as food.
- (D) They cannot always be found in stores.

The correct answer is (B).

Justification:

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. The farmer does not mention anything about the price of the seeds.
- (B) is the correct answer.

  The farmer responds to the question about the seeds by saying that when dried, the seeds can be placed in a container and don't go bad for up to four years.
- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The farmer does not clarify whether the seeds can ever be treated as food.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The farmer says only that the type of the fruit the farmers grow is not sold in markets. He does not say anything about whether the seeds can be found in stores.

## Sample Passage: ILR Level 3

#### This passage is from a commentary by a man.

## Transcription:

ذ: فدائما تبحث عن طبيبة. . .مرأة تبحث. . .أنت تبحث عن مرأة لزوجتك ولا لبنتك ولا غيرها. طيب إذا انت ما خليت بنتك و لا

غير ها تكون طبيبة، أو مسؤولة يعني في المستشفيات، فنية ولا أشعة ولا غيرها، مين اللي حيعالج نسائنا والبنات والزوجات ولا الأمهات ولا الأخوات، مين اللي حيعالجهم؟ تبي طبيبة ولكن تقول تنتقد وجود طبيبة، ويش لون؟ أيش هذا التناقض؟ ما يصير.

فاحنا قاعدين نعيش، يعنى الحمد لله، نشوف القرارات هاذي اللي قاعدة تصير تضعك في مجتمع متوازن يعني في حاجاته، في متطلباته، في كل شي، فلا تعظمون الشي ولا اللي يبالغون، كله حيروح وكله بيصير طبيعي، ونعيش حياة طبيعية ترى، ما هي قصة. فأنا. . مفروض اننا إحنا نشجع ها الشي وندعم ها الشي، ونحترم ها الشي لأنه المكاسب بلا حدود، وبدون مبالغة. مكاسب اجتماعية. يعني ويش تفضل انت، تصير سواق مع بنتك ولا مع زوجتك؟ خلها تسوق أحسن!

## 4. What is the speaker's purpose in mentioning a female doctor?

- (A) To point out that Saudi men possess incompatible beliefs regarding women's professions.
- (B) To prove that Saudi men fail to adopt a fair standard in assessing women's job performance.
- (C) To argue that the policy changes for gender equality created unexpected problems.
- (D) To demonstrate that advocates for gender equality fail to acknowledge the reality.

The correct answer is (A).

#### Justification:

(A) is the correct answer.

The speaker cites the example of the female doctor to show that while Saudi men prefer to have female doctors treat their wife or daughter, they don't allow women to have professions. This example is introduced to illustrate the inconsistent beliefs held by Saudi men regarding whether women ought to be in professions.

(B) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker's argument regarding female doctors does not concern an unfair standard held against women's job performance.

- (C) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker does not mention problems caused by policy changes for gender equality. In fact, the speaker argues that gender equality should be realized in practice.
- (D) is **not** correct answer. The speaker does not mention anything about advocates for gender equality or their failure to acknowledge the reality.
- 5. In light of the speaker's remarks on a driver, what can be inferred to be his point?
  - (A) The professional fields are likely to lead the gender equality movements.
  - (B) Gender equality is unlikely to ever be achieved in Saudi society.
  - (C) Gender equality would make Saudi society better for everyone.
  - (D) The benefits of gender equality should be discussed in the public sector.

The correct answer is (C).

#### Justification:

- (A) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker does not mention anything about gender equality movements nor which fields are likely to lead the movements.
- (B) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker urges Saudi people to embrace changes to women's rights, and he does not seem pessimistic about achieving gender equality in Saudi society.
- (C) is the correct answer.

  The speaker argues that the whole society will benefit from women having more freedom, and he introduces the example of women driving to support his point.
- (D) is **not** the correct answer. The speaker emphasizes the benefits of gender equality by saying there will be social gains and that the gains will be without limits, but he does not mention anything about discussing the issue in the public sector.