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## **Don't insist on English**

[listening test questions: [free download](#)]

**Author:** Patricia Ryan

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**Time:** (10:35)

**Level:** \*\*\*\* [B1/B2]

**TED TALKS Link:** [http://www.ted.com/talks/patricia\\_ryan\\_ideas\\_in\\_all\\_languages\\_not\\_just\\_english](http://www.ted.com/talks/patricia_ryan_ideas_in_all_languages_not_just_english)

Check these words before listening:

### **Key vocabulary**

1. Dubai / the Gulf / Abu Dhabi / Kuwait / Kenya / (places)
2. Undisputed
3. To recruit
4. To morph
5. A school curriculum
6. To be on the bandwagon (idiom)
7. Linguistic ability
8. Monolingual
9. Dutch language
10. A gatekeeper
11. A segment of society
12. Self-fulfilling prophecy
13. The Islamic golden age (google this)
14. Germanic languages
15. The dark ages in Europe 500-1000 AD
16. Arbitrary
17. Einstein (google him)
18. Remedial/ dyslexic
19. Prohibitive
20. A divide
21. A circular concept
22. Forelimbs and hind limbs of an animal
23. To someone credit for something
24. Kerosene lamp / solar lamp
25. Far-reaching consequences
26. Metaphorical

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# Student

## TED Talks Test Questions

**Time:** *Approximately 1- 1:30 hours*

### 1. Read the title

- Try to predict the content of lecture
- Write down key terms / ideas
- Check key vocabulary using a dictionary

Try to listen ONLY two times

### Three types of lesson

#### **Lesson#1:** [hard]

1. Listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Answer questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

#### **Lesson #2:** [medium]

1. Listen once – take notes.
2. Answer questions: 10-15 minutes
3. Listen again – answer the questions as they listen
4. Give yourself 10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
5. Listen again to check answers

#### **Lesson #3:** [easier]

1. Read questions – highlight key terms
2. listen once and answer questions
3. 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Listen again answer missed question
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers. Then check answers
6. Listen again to check answers

# Teacher

## TED Talks comprehension questions

### Lesson Plan

**Aim:** to develop the students' ability to listen to a 10 min+ lecture, to take notes and then use those notes to answer a range of test type questions.

**Lesson Time:** Approximately 1:30-2:00 hours

### Lesson Plan

#### 1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss the 'title' and predict the content of lecture
- Ask students to write down key terms / language from discussion
- Feed in / check key vocabulary

#### Three types of lesson

##### **Lesson#1:** [hard]

1. Students listen once – take notes
2. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
3. Listen again and add to notes (use a different colour pen).
4. Give out questions – set 20-25 minutes to answer.
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

##### **Lesson #2:** [medium]

1. Students listen once – take notes.
2. Give out questions: Set 15 minutes for students to answer questions from notes
3. Listen again – students answer the questions as they listen
4. Give extra 10 minutes to consolidate answers
5. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

##### **Lesson #3:** [easy]

1. Give out questions - students have 10 minutes to look at questions
2. Students listen and answer questions
3. Give 5 minutes to tidy notes
4. Students listen again – check answers and answer questions missed
5. 5-10 minutes to tidy answers
6. Feedback answers (give out answers or go through on board)

## **Don't insist on English**

TED TALK: Patricia Ryan [Dec 2010. 10:35]

### **1.The introduction**

*'You think I've lost my way, and somebody's going to come on the stage in a minute and guide me gently back to my seat.'*

Why is this a joke?

i.

\_\_\_ / 1

### **2. True / False/ Not Given [T/F/NG]**

T / F / NG

i. She's been teaching in the Gulf for 13 years	
ii. Her talk today focuses on the losses from globalisation	
iii. Communication across generation is important	
iv. A language dies every 14 hours	
v. English is the reason for the Language death	
vi. English has changed from mutually beneficial into a profit-based b model	
vii. The best education systems are in the UK & US	
viii. English empowers all citizens through education	
ix. Everyone wants to have an English education	

\_\_\_ / 9

### **3. Yes / No Questions**

#### Level of English

Does a scientist need the same level of English as a Lawyer?	
NO	YES

\_\_\_ / 1

#### Linguistic ability

Would we stop a monolingual Dutch speaker, who had a cure for cancer, entering a British university?	
NO	YES

\_\_\_ / 1

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#### 4. Open Questions

i. What does 'we English teachers are the gatekeepers' mean?

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\_\_\_ / 1

ii. How does research connect to the 'Islamic Golden Age'?

--

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 5. Multiple choice

i. What is she against?

a	Global language
b	Using it as a barrier
c	English causing the loss of language
d	All the above

\_\_\_ / 1

ii. What's the problem with the English testing system?

a	It needs translation
b	It didn't use to include testing
c	It equates intelligence to English
d	All the above

\_\_\_ / 1

iii. The Einstein example highlights

a	That geniuses may not pass English tests
b	That geniuses could be missed if they fail an English test
c	That not everyone should be judged by an English test
d	All the above

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 6. Critical thinking

What's wrong with the Einstein example? (Help! Why shouldn't she use this example??)

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\_\_\_ / 2

## 7. Short answers

i. When was the American test TOEFL test introduced?

\_\_\_ / 1

ii. What's prohibitive about testing people?

\_\_\_ / 1

## 8. Summary – [put a suitable word in the gap – first letter of word is provided]

It brings to mind a headline I saw recently: "Education: The Great i. **d**\_\_\_\_\_." Now I get it, I understand why people would want to focus on English. They want to give their children the best ii. **c**\_\_\_\_\_ in life. And to do that, they need a iii. **w**\_\_\_\_\_ education. Because, of course, the best iv. **j**\_\_\_\_\_ go to people out of the Western Universities, that I put on earlier.

\_\_\_ / 4

## 9. Understanding terms

What does 'It's a circular thing connect to'?

\_\_\_ / 1

## 10. Matching points [ use arrows]

a. Two English scientists.	i. forelimbs and the hind limbs of animals
b. genetics	ii. two words not one
c. German scientist	iii. doing an experiment
a. daughter	i. Science topics
b. best in the class	ii. Kuwait
c. students from abroad,	iii. not enough credit for what they know

\_\_\_ / 6

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## 11. Key terms in an example

African boy

News Company:	i.
Where: name of country in Africa?	ii.
Family's job:	iii.
Award:	iv.
Problem: 1)	v.
Problem: 1)	vi.
Invention:	vii.
Solution:	viii.
Quote:	ix. The children can I _____ Africa from what it is today, a dark continent, to a I _____ continent." [ 2 points]

\_\_\_ / 10

## 12. Conclusion

What is the basic conclusion? (2 key points)

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\_\_\_ / 2

Overall Score: \_\_\_ / 44

## Don't insist on English **ANSWERS**

TED TALK: Patricia Ryan [Dec 2010. 10:35]

### 1. The introduction

Why is this a joke?

*'You think I've lost my way, and somebody's going to come on the stage in a minute and guide me gently back to my seat.'*

i. It's that she is too old to be doing a presentation

\_\_\_ / 1

### 2. True / False / Not Given [T/F/NG]

	T / F / NG
i. She's been teaching in the Gulf for 13 years [30]	<b>F</b>
ii. Her talk today focuses on the losses from globalisation [language loss & globalisation of English]	<b>T</b>
iii. Communication across generation is important	<b>T</b>
iv. A language dies every 14 hours [days]	<b>F</b>
v. English is the reason for the Language death	<b>NG</b>
vi. English has changed from mutually beneficial into a profit-based b model	<b>T</b>
vii. The best education systems are in the UK & US	<b>T</b>
viii. English empowers all citizens through education	<b>NG</b>
ix. Everyone wants to have an English education	<b>T</b>

\_\_\_ / 9

### 3. Yes / No Questions

#### Level of English

Does a scientist need the same level of English as a Lawyer?

**NO**

YES

\_\_\_ / 1

#### Linguistic ability

Would we stop a monolingual Dutch speaker, who had a cure for cancer, entering a British university?

**NO**

**YES**

\_\_\_ / 1



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#### 4. Open Questions

i. What does 'We English teachers are the gatekeepers' mean?

You have to satisfy us with your English / we check to see if your English is good enough before you can go through the gate.

\_\_\_ / 1

ii. How does research connect to the Islamic golden age?

Translation / They translated from Latin and Greek into Arabic, into Persian, and then it was translated on into the Germanic languages of Europe and the Romance languages

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 5. Multiple choice

i. What is she against?

a	Global language
b	<b><u>Using it as a barrier</u></b>
c	English causing the loss of language
d	All the above

\_\_\_ / 1

ii. What's the problem with the English testing system?

a	It needs translation
b	It didn't use to include testing
c	<b><u>It equates intelligence to English</u></b>
d	All the above

\_\_\_ / 1

iii. The Einstein example highlights

a	That geniuses may not pass English tests
b	That geniuses could be missed if they fail an English test
c	That not everyone should be judged by an English test
d	<b><u>All the above</u></b>

\_\_\_ / 1

#### 6. Critical thinking

What's wrong with the Einstein example?

It's not a good example / Einstein was one in billion / how many geniuses do you know?  
[this question tests criticality – it's not in the listening = 2 points]

\_\_\_ / 2

## 7. Short answers

i. When was the American test TOEFL test introduced?

1964

\_\_\_ / 1

ii. What's prohibitive about testing people?

but they are prohibitive to so many millions of poor people. So immediately, we're rejecting them

\_\_\_ / 1

## 8. Summary – [put a suitable word in the gap – first letter of word is provided]

It brings to mind a headline I saw recently: "Education: The Great i. **Divide**." Now I get it, I understand why people would want to focus on English. They want to give their children the best ii. **chance** in life. And to do that, they need a iii. **Western** education. Because, of course, the best iv. **jobs** go to people out of the Western Universities, that I put on earlier.

[similar words are acceptable but MUST be grammatical].

\_\_\_ / 4

## 9. Understanding terms

What does 'It's a circular thing connect to'?

Only the rich / western world have the opportunities to get the best jobs – goes in a circle

\_\_\_ / 1

## 10. Matching points [ use arrows]

a. Two English scientists.	i. forelimbs and the hind limbs of animals
b. genetics	ii. two words not one
c. German scientist	iii. doing an experiment
a. daughter	i. Science topics
b. best in the class	ii. Kuwait
c. students from abroad,	iii. not enough credit for what they know

\_\_\_ / 6

## 11. Key terms in an example

African boy

<b>News Company:</b>	i. CNN
<b>Where: name of country in Africa?</b>	ii. <i>Kenya</i>
<b>Family's job:</b>	iii. shepherd boy - shepherds
<b>Award:</b>	iv. Heroes Award
<b>Problem: 1)</b>	v. The kerosene lamp, it had smoke and it damaged his eyes
<b>Problem: 1)</b>	vi. there was never enough kerosene, because what does a dollar a day buy for you
<b>Invention:</b>	vii. a cost-free solar lamp
<b>Solution:</b>	viii. And now the children in his village get the same grades at school as the children who have electricity at home
<b>Quote:</b>	ix. The children can <b>lead</b> Africa from what it is today, a dark continent, to a <b>light</b> continent."

[ 2 points]

\_\_\_ / 10

## 12. Conclusion

What is the basic conclusion? (2 key points)

People who have no light, whether it's physical or metaphorical, cannot pass our exams<sup>1</sup>, and we can never know what they know<sup>2</sup>.

[2 points]

\_\_\_ / 2

Overall Score: \_\_\_ / 44