

LISTENING – TRANSCRIPT

Introduction: You will hear Katie Dominy, a foreign affairs researcher, talking about her job. You will hear the recording twice.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCHER

My name is Katie Dominy and I work as a foreign affairs researcher in the UK Parliament at the House of Commons. I help Members of Parliament with debates, drafting speeches, and writing opinion articles. There are hundreds of people like me working for the different political parties. It's a very exciting place to work. I started out as an intern while studying at London School of Economics for a master's in comparative politics, focusing on the developing world. After that, I was lucky to get offered a permanent contract.

As soon as I get to the office, my boss and I discuss the day ahead. A while ago, we worked on the crisis in Sudan. On that day, I advised my MPs to ask about security, the delivery of aid, and the evacuation of UK citizens and Sudanese employees working in the British embassy. I also work on long-term projects, such as Israel and the Palestinian territories, flooding in Pakistan, or post-Brexit trade statistics. I would say half of our time goes into checking sources. We must be sure that what we're writing is correct because MPs' reputations are at stake. Fake news and disinformation are a problem in today's world – no political system is immune to that.

I use reputable news sources like the BBC, France 24, *The New York Times*, and Al Jazeera. But sometimes, for example when I was researching the security situation in the Punjab, we find ourselves consulting sources that we're not familiar with, so we do a deep-dive on the sources themselves. We have a library in the Commons with world-leading researchers who produce solid factual publications.

For lunch, I eat in Parliament's restaurants and cafés with my colleagues. Afterwards, we'll grab a coffee before preparing for parliamentary proceedings, which formally begin at 2.30 p.m. We often have a Zoom call with MPs to answer questions on sessions, which could be on issues like education or health care. In cases where Foreign Office questions arise, we sometimes get requests for last-minute research.

During the rest of the afternoon, we tend to pack in the research. Let's say we have a debate on providing aid to Sri Lanka coming up. In that case, I'll try to meet with researchers, academics, or advocacy groups specialized in the field to ask their opinions, so that I can formulate our briefing material. It's an extremely intense place to work, which is why it's important to take breaks. I go home between 5 and 7 p.m. When I started, it was three weeks before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, so we were sometimes working 13-hour days. As soon as we'd circulated research briefings to MPs, they were almost instantly out of date. During that time, I had to keep on top of my other dossiers as well, which meant I was juggling lots of issues at the same time.

Source: *Spotlight* 14/23, pages 20-21

KEY

READING (1 point for each correct answer; if there are 2 words, both should be correct):

1. start-ups
2. patterns
3. scale, pace (*in either order*)
4. workforce
5. limit
6. industrial revolution
7. users' prompts
8. literacy
9. data breaches
10. emotional intelligence

10 points

VOCABULARY:

1. Pilgrimage (*accept* pilgrimage)
2. irresistible
3. neglectful
4. womaniser/womanizer
5. masterpiece
6. suspicious
7. estranged
8. insights/insight
9. rivalry
10. perceptions/perception

10 points

GRAMMAR:

1. so
2. back
3. has
4. from
5. with
6. most
7. why
8. in
9. how
10. are
11. for
12. no
13. being
14. not
15. its

15 points

LISTENING: (½ point for each correct answer, if there are 2 words, both should be correct):

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. opinion | 6. security |
| 2. comparative politics | 7. world-leading |
| 3. evacuation | 8. health care |
| 4. trade statistics | 9. advocacy |
| 5. fake, disinformation | 10. outdated |

5 points

40 points

PICTURE-STORY

Based on the image below, create a story about a successful psychologist whose life path has been quite difficult – her parents got divorced and she had to move to a new country with her mum. Later, in her professional career, she had to deal with her clients' various issues. But one client was special and different from the others: It was a young boy who came into her office to ask for advice. Since that moment, she had found a younger sibling in her life.



A Psychologist Giving Psychotherapy Session · Free Stock Photo

R O L E – P L A Y

STUDENT:

You are preparing for your school-leaving exams. It seems that you will never be able to solve some mathematical problems, so you are stressed out. What's more, your neighbours have been disturbing you, as they are noisy. You've decided to go and explain the situation to them and ask them to be more considerate. Mr Hatcher opens the door. After a short discussion, it turns out that he may be willing to help you.

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Olympiáda v anglickom jazyku, 36. ročník, celoštátne kolo 2025/26, kategória 2B- riešenia a úlohy

R O L E – P L A Y

TEACHER:

It's early evening when there's a knock on your door. You open it and see your young neighbour, who looks a bit hesitant. They explain that the noise from your flat has been disturbing them. You apologize since you hadn't been aware of how loud it was. You mention that you are a Maths teacher. Your neighbour seems relieved and admits that they have been struggling with Maths. Wanting to smooth things over, you offer to give some Maths consultations in your free time.

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