**National 5 English & Literacy Listening Assessment**

**National 5 Literacy Links**

**Text covers the set criteria**

In Literacy (National 5), learners will listen to texts which:

* contain complex ideas or sets of ideas
* contain considerable detail
* contain complex vocabulary
* use complex expression

**Questions target the key areas and give students more than one opportunity to show the skills:**

* 2.1 selecting and using relevant information;
* 2.2 explaining a range of aspects of language;
* 2.3 evaluating effectiveness.
* N.B. questions are marked with the skill being assessed.

**National 5 English – Performance: Spoken Language**

**Questions also target this aspect of performance for National 5 English:**

Demonstrates listening skills by responding to detailed spoken language

♦ can give relevant responses to the contributions of others in group discussions or in a series of discussion-based activities

OR ♦ can respond relevantly to questions which follow, for example, a presentation

**TASK:**

**You are going to watch and listen to a talk given by the DJ Akala who is a member of The Hip Hop Shakespeare Company.**

**You can watch the talk as many times as you like. You can pause it or go back to look at any part of it again if you need to. You can make notes as you watch and listen if you find this helpful.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSbtkLA3GrY>

Section 0.00-4.30

1. **Watch from 0.00-0.45** What technique does Akala use to get his audience engaged in his talk?

‘Pop Quiz’ to get them to think about which lyrics were hip hop and which were Shakespeare.

1. **Watch from 0.45-4.30** Does Akala’s opening to his talk work successfully? How do you know?

It does work, they are raising their hands and trying to guess. Also laughter.

1. Why is he comparing hip-hop to Shakespeare? What ideas is he trying to challenge? (2.2)

To show that it can use language as effectively as Shakespeare. To challenge perceptions of hip hop and suggest we should not dismiss it.

1. Do you think this is an effective way to begin a talk? **Give two clear reasons why or why not** (2.3)

Hopefully, the answer will be yes – because the audience are engaged and he is making them think about things differently by comparing two things that seem poles apart.

It must be – they are laughing.

Active involvement is always good as it encourages people to listen and think.

Section 4.30-7.20

1. **Watch 4.30-5.05.** What is the difference between a grime and a hip-hop beat? (2.1)

Grime is much faster 140bpm. Hip hop 70-80bpm

1. **Watch 5.05-7.20** . What point is Akala trying to make about rhythm and language by rapping Shakespeare’s sonnet 18?

To show that iambic pentameter is a rhythm that can fit a grime or hip-hop beat. To prove that something we see as complex and associated with Shakespeare is used in everyday life.

To show the relevance of Shakespeare and highlight parallels with modern songs/cultural art forms.

Section 7.20-8.30

1. How does he prove to the audience that the iambic (dee-dum) beat is intrinsic and important to humans? (2.2)

He asks them to feel their heartbeat and realise that it reflects the beat of the human heart.

1. How does he use humour at this point to engage his audience further?

Says that if you can’t hear your heart, consult a doctor!

1. What three things does he say the rhythm of the iambic pentameter duplicates?

‘the rhythm of life’, ‘the heartbeat of life’, ‘the sound of life’

1. What is meant by ‘tonality’ in hip hop?

The way you say it, the mood/rhythm of what you are saying.

Section 8.30-12.00

1. In your own words, explain what Akala has learnt about people’s perception (*what they think*) of Shakespeare. (2.1)

They think he is posh.

Don’t realise he wrote for the masses.

Thought he spoke Queen’s English or RP.

Don’t realise he lived in violent and tumultuous times.

When they find out he did not go to a fancy university (Oxbridge), they question his intelligence and whether he wrote his own plays.

1. Does he agree with this view? **Quote** an example of his language (a phrase or word choice) **and explain** how that shows his agreement or disagreement. (2.1, 2.2)

‘complete nonsense’

he didn’t speak RP – ‘he’d never heard what we think of today as the Queen’s English’

People then spoke ‘a bit more like a mix between people from Yorkshire and Cornwall’

‘we receive a sanitized view, colouring our view of the past’

Section 12-15.45

1. **In your own words**, explain why he focuses on the concept of ‘knowledge’ in hip-hop. (What is it he is trying to suggest about hip-hop?) (2.2)

To show that it is intellectual; it stems from a much older culture; it is important; it is a valid form of expression; it has something to offer society; it is not something created by idiots!

1. Quote an example of Akala’s language that makes it clear how he felt about the Wu-Tang Clan’s first album **and explain** how it does so. (2.1, 2.2)

‘main influence on me’

‘united people’

‘everybody was united’

‘openly proud, intelligent discourse’

‘really appealed’

‘Pulled everybody in’

He calls one of their songs a ‘poem’ and wants to ‘share’ it with the audience.

1. **Watch 15-15.45.** What does he think great art should do? (2.1)

To transmute philosophy. Question the world around us.

Section 15.45-17.20

1. Using your own words as far as possible, explain what he is trying to say about education and its purpose. (2.1, 2.2)

It is changing; we are, or should be, teaching them to think; to be the ‘custodians of knowledge’; to train people to aspire to be the best they can; to think big; to ignore what you might think is your station/place in life; to inspire people towards their own literal, cultural, artistic and intellectual pursuits and experiences. To realise we all have the right to knowledge and independent thought.

Section 17.20 – end

1. How effective are his two raps at the end in conveying the point he was trying to make about hip-hop and hip-hop artists? Try to link your explanation to his earlier comments. (2.1, 2.3)

Clever; shows his ‘knowledge’; it represents the ‘cultural unity’ he discussed earlier; shows rap and Shakespeare work together.

1. The purpose of this talk is to help the audience appreciate that hip-hop is a valid form of cultural expression and should be valued as much as Shakespeare. By making reference to the text, explain how effective you feel Akala has been in achieving this purpose. (2.3)

Lots of flexibility here.

* Proved at start that hip hop lyrics are very similar to Shakespeare.
* Linked iambic pentameter to hip hop and grime.
* Gave information about the intellectual roots of hip hop.
* Used examples of lyrics concerned with knowledge and intelligence.
* Etc…