***Task 1.*** *Listen to an architect talking about eco-homes answer the questions****. (6 points)***

**Eco-homes**

**A:** You’re currently working on a new development of eco houses. What exactly is an eco-house?

**B:** Well, we’re planning to build a group of 20 net-zero carbon homes. A net-zero carbon house is one that, over a year, doesn’t use any carbon.

**A:** But how is that possible?

**B:** Well, obviously the houses will use energy, for heating and lighting and all the usual things we use electricity for. But because of the design, they’ll be very energy efficient and will use much less energy than a traditional home. They’ll include technology to reduce energy consumption; special walls and windows which stop heat being lost, for example. But what’s more exciting is that the houses will also be able to produce their own electricity using solar panels on the roof. That’s how we reach the zero-carbon figure, because they’ll produce as much energy as they use.

**A:** That sounds very exciting. So, when will these homes be ready for people to live in?

**B:** Well, we plan to start work on the site next month and we hope to finish the first houses in about 18 months’ time.

**A:** But won’t these houses be very expensive with all that special technology? How much are they going to cost?

**B:** The prices will vary, because this is going to be a mixed development, with some three and four-bedroom family homes and also one and two-bedroom apartments. The prices will be slightly higher than an average home, but the residents will get that money back in a few years because they’ll save on their energy bills.

***Task 2.*** *Listen to a university Math professor talking about Math teaching. Complete* ***(14 points)*** *the sentences with the correct words****.***

**Math**

Teachers often tell me that students nowadays are less interested in maths. And it’s certainly true that fewer students are studying maths at university level. But why is this? Some people say that we simply don’t need to know how to do calculations in our head nowadays. It’s much quicker and easier to use the calculator function on your mobile phone. But I’d argue that the problem lies in the way we teach maths at school. The maths we teach just isn’t relevant in the modern world. Take fractions, for example. Yes, there are some common fractions that we still use in everyday life, such as a half, a third or a quarter. But why do we need a number like twelve over fifteen, when naught point eight gives the same information so much more directly? Fractions had a place in the past, when people did difficult calculations by hand, but in the digital age, they’re simply not relevant to most people. Too much time spent on fractions in maths class is of little practical use and just turns kids off maths. I think we should forget fractions and spend more time on really useful maths like decimals and percentages.

***Task 3.*** *Listen to The History of Money and match the types of money* ***1-7*** *to the time* ***(14 points)*** *periods* ***A-G.***

**The History of Money**

The first people didn’t buy goods from each other with money. They used a barter system, exchanging personal possessions for other goods that they wanted. Animals were often exchanged, and food products too, like fruit and vegetables.

The first metal currency was produced in China about 3,000 years ago. The coins had a hole in the middle so people could put them together to make a chain. In Europe, gold and silver coins first appeared in Turkey and Greece in about 500 B.C. The Romans also used gold and silver coins, and these had great value.

The Chinese were also the first to create banknotes, about 2,000 years ago. These notes were made of thin leather, usually deerskin. The first actual paper currency was used in China from the 9th to the 15th century, many years before it was used in Europe. But the Chinese had problems with inflation.

In 1816 the ‘gold standard’ was created in England as a solution to the problem of inflation. This linked the national currency, sterling, to a certain amount of gold. But the gold standard was the cause of the economic problems in the 1930s and many countries decided that the government and banks would try to control inflation and not to link currency directly to gold.

Today electronic money, or digital cash, is exchanged over the internet, and this virtual money looks like it will be with us to stay.

***Task 4.*** *Listen to an interview about exercise and complete the sentences with the correct word*

**Exercise**

**A:** So, how much exercise should we be doing to keep fit?

**B:** Well, most medical experts say that you ought to do around 30 minutes of exercise five times a week. But some research shows that 30 minutes of exercise, such as walking, three times a week still has some health benefits.

**A:** And is walking okay or do we need to do something more energetic?

**B:** Of course, what exercise is best for you depends on how old you are and how healthy you are. Some experts say that ideally you should include some exercise that raises your heart rate and makes you out of breath, such as running.

**A:** And what are the benefits of regular exercise?

**B:** Most people know that if you exercise regularly, you can reduce the risk of many illnesses such as heart disease. You’ll also have more energy. Many offices now have gyms because employees who exercise at work are happier and more productive. Exercise could even help you live longer. According to a recent study, men in their fifties who exercise at least three times a week live 2.3 years longer than those men who do no exercise at all.