



C1 Sample listening task – The impact of becoming famous

EXAMINERS RUBRIC:

You are going to listen to a talk about the impact of becoming famous when you are young. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, simply listen and get an understanding of the topic. Then, I will ask you to provide a general summary of what the speaker is discussing. Are you ready?

AUDIO SCRIPT:

The tabloids, or the Yellow Press, love to focus on the young and weak. They are easy prey to attack and devour in the limelight of their innocence. Many people can remember Justin Bieber at the age of 12 becoming a viral sensation overnight: or Tiger Woods, when he was only 18, and was the youngest amateur champion in the history of golf. However, we can all remember the highs and lows of fame in some celebrities. Most teenage superstars are groomed to be the best they can be and are guided by their parents, agents, and multinational corporations, that are always on the lookout for the next diamond in the rough. Or is it the next victim they can exploit? Their infancy suddenly disappears because they are on set, on stage, on the pitch, or performing for thousands of people. Not where they should be, in a proper school or hanging out with friends, building social skills, and letting their brain really develop correctly into maturity.

To date, 80% of adolescent actors or singers have suffered from PTSD, or mental health issues before the age of thirty. The idea of having complete freedom, and not really any responsibilities, are gone in a flash. So, do all the perks outweigh the drawbacks, in allowing children, and teens, to become a star overnight? Who is really behind the scheme, of creating the next Superstar? The amount of money that these public figures cash-in, is incredible, and everyone has their hand in the pot, which tends to lead to legal disputes between agents and parents, or guardians, and of course: the child getting lost in the middle. Obviously, if you ask most children who are actors, singers, or athletes, will tell you that they love every minute. It is literally like being in a dream world. They have access to almost everything they want and need, without realising the ramifications, that it will have in the long run. Of course, we all care about the child's well-being, or do we really? When money talks, people walk. Is there a way to actually have a happy balance between stardom and a normal infancy?

According to Backstage magazine, it is imperative, that their fame and success remain separate from how their lifestyle was before. They have to learn, how to live in two worlds, how they must behave in the industry, and then, how to be grounded, and be a kid at home. Regular playtime, school time, and family time are a must in their upbringing. Mindfulness, being silly, getting into mischief, and all that comes with it, is imperative in their cognitive growth. We all want them to be successful, but we also have the social responsibility to make sure they are guided. otherwise, they will be led down the path of drugs, alcohol, self-harm, and depression, faster than you can blink an eye.

EXAMINER:

Can you briefly summarize what the speaker talked about? Now listen to the talk again. This time, take notes as you listen if you wish. Afterward, I will ask you to summarize the challenges faced by child stars and discuss the importance, of finding a balance between stardom, and a normal infancy. Are you ready? (The audio task will be played once again)

Now, summarize the challenges faced by child stars, and discuss the importance of finding a balance, between stardom and a normal infancy. You have one minute to speak.

ANSWERS:

Main point: The speaker discusses the consequences of fame on child stars and emphasizes the need for a balance between their successful careers and a normal childhood.

Summarize the challenges faced by child stars:

- Child stars are often exploited by parents, agents, and corporations seeking profit.
- They miss out on a typical childhood, lacking proper education and social development.
- A significant percentage of child actors and singers experience mental health issues, including PTSD, at a young age.
- Legal conflicts between agents, parents, and guardians can arise, leaving the child caught in the middle.
- The allure of fame and financial gains can overshadow the negative impact on their well-being.

Discuss the importance of finding a balance between stardom and a normal childhood:

- Child stars should maintain a distinction between their public image and personal life.
- It is crucial for them to navigate both the demands of the industry and a healthy home environment.
- Regular playtime, school, and family interactions are vital for their well-being and cognitive growth.
- Society has a responsibility to guide and support child stars to prevent them from succumbing to harmful behaviors.
- Striking a balance between success and a normal childhood is attainable with mindful guidance and support.

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