

Society and Living Standards

Task: Living Standards

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the ISE 2.

You are going to hear a talk about **how the standard of living is measured**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Many people wonder how the standard of living is measured and many others wonder what it even is. Well, first let's consider what it is. The standard of living shows the degree of material comfort, well-being and wealth that is accessible to individuals or communities. Now, considering how it is measured, you must know that experts commented that it is important to measure the inflation-adjusted income of each person, as well as the poverty rate. There are a variety of aspects that are considered by experts when analyzing this.

Right, so, what are some of the measures, which experts are **keen to** observe. Well, for instance the quality of health and educational standards are two aspects that are **looked at**. What experts want to know is if the citizens **end up with** access to good health care and education or not? Are they able to travel to a location nearby or are they discommunicated because of poor public transportation? Something else that is looked at is rather if there is income growth inequality or not?

So to continue, if we focus on rural towns, there is no doubt that many are charming and have something special to them, but this is also where we may see some failing in aspects such as health care, education, transportation and employment. There are also many **run down** houses and buildings. The truth is that many rural towns have increased unemployment rates and often have lower salaries than you might find in the city. If you were looking for a job, you would probably have more luck to find one in the city. Although, there are other living standards that **work in** its favour.

For instance, social scientists say that people that live in rural towns may not be as wealthy as those in big towns or cities, but the same scientists say that they have been seeing that people are generally happier. Part of the thanks ought to be given to having a better natural environment, clean of heavy contamination in the air and feeling safe because of the low crime rate, with very few serious and dangerous crimes. Not only that, but many locals feel that they could never leave because they would miss their family and friends too much. Furthermore, in the past people used to have less access to things that they wanted. However, these days when people **run out** of something, with available technology, they are able to have what they want as quickly as the mail will deliver it. People had lived without certain things that made their life more comfortable when the internet and online ordering became available and changed everything. **To be honest,** this is a huge improvement on a



community's living standards. In spite of this, many people flock to the cities for employment and education reasons but if they had had these options available in their towns, many individuals would have remained in their hometowns.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me which living standards are negative and positive in a town.

Now tell me which living standards are negative and positive in a town. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Negative living standards in the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● income growth inequality● quality of health / health care● education● public transportation● Unemployment rates● Run down houses and buildings
Positive living standards in the town	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Natural environment - clean of heavy contamination in the air● Low crime rate - feeling safe● Family and Friends● Internet - technology

Marks: +_ / +10

Activity 2: Reading

Find grammar in the audio script and highlight it, writing behind the grammar: For example:
You must know that... = You **must [modal verb: must]** know that

Grammar list:

- Second conditional
- Simple passive
- Used to
- Relative clauses
- Modal verb: Must
- Modal verb: Should / Ought to
- Modal verb: May / Might
- Third conditional
- Present perfect continuous
- Past Perfect Simple
- Reported speech / Reported Verb
- Linking expressions: Although
- Linking expressions: In spite of / despite of
- Cohesive devices: So to continue,

Once you have found all the grammar, write down some vocabulary and ideas in the audioscript.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Activity 3: Writing

Write an essay for your teacher (150 to 180 words) about the advantages and disadvantages of the standards when living in a town.

Piensa en qué tipo de ensayo

- Argumentative Essay → decir las ventajas y desventajas
- Discursive Essay → pide que informan sobre algo, con datos o información
- Descriptive essay → memoria, recuerdo, o experiencia

- >> Say what are some good standards of living
- >> Explain what are some negative standards of living
- >> Tell rather you believe that it is better to live in a town or city and why

Plan your writing with the grammar, writing format, and ideas from the writing prompt before starting.



Activity 4: Speaking

Now, think about having a two minute conversation about: How is the standard of living where you live? You can use ideas from the listening activity and/or add your own ideas.

What ideas can you use?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

What questions can you ask?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.