

## LISTENING TEST and ANSWERS (1 point)

### SLEEPING ROUGH

#### Introduction

In this recording you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

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*sleep rough* – durmir na rúa / dormir en la calle

*mortgage* – hipoteca / hipoteca

*tenants* – inquilinos, inquilinas / inquilinos, inquilinas

*squat* – casa ocupada / casa ocupada  
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Here is the beginning of the recording.

**Presenter:** On the *In Europe* programme this week, we look at the situation of homeless teenagers across the continent. We also speak to two Members of the European Parliament for their opinions on what Europe can do about the problem.

Every night, as many as 100 teenagers are sleeping rough across the United Kingdom. In the Ukraine, some teenagers have spent between seven and eight years living on the streets, and in St Petersburg in Russia there are 5,000 homeless young people.

Here is an example of a question:

**What did a study by the University of York show about Britain?**

The correct answer is: 'The study showed that in Britain there has been an increase in the number of homeless people in recent years.'

**Ready? Now read the rest of the questions before listening to the recording. Now write the correct answers. Remember to write complete sentences.**

## Questions

1. What does the radio presenter say about the life expectancy of a homeless person in Britain?

The presenter says that a homeless person's life expectancy is only 42 years compared to 80 for people who have their own accommodation.

That it is only 42 years compared to 80 for people who have their own accommodation/houses.

That it is shorter than a person/people with their own accommodation/house.

2. Complete the following sentence from the recording.

Every night, hundreds of youngsters across the continent sleep on their friends' sofas or share a crowded bedroom in an old flat.

3. According to the Swedish MEP, what problem do parents face if they are unemployed or badly paid?

They have problems paying the mortgage or the rent.

Paying the mortgage or the rent.

4. What do some young people experience when they try to work and study?

They experience tiredness and stress.

Tiredness and stress.

5. Complete the following sentence from the recording.

In some extreme cases, when older children can't help out with the bills, the parents finally ask them to leave.

6. Does the Swedish MEP think that young people take advantage of social services?

No, he doesn't think that anybody would go through such a difficult experience if they didn't have to.

7. According to the Swedish MEP, what is happening to spending on social services across the continent?

Governments across the continent are cutting spending on social services.

They are cutting spending on social services.

8. Complete the following sentence from the recording.

Parents have to take responsibility for their children and can't just let them walk out of the door and expect the state to look after them.

9. What does the British MEP say that some teenagers do when they have arguments with their parents?

She says that some teenagers run away for a night or two.

That they run away for a night or two.

That they leave home for a night or two.

10. According to the British MEP, what should older children do if the family is having financial problems?

The older children should try and find work if the family is having financial problems.

They should try and find work if the family is having financial problems.

**Presenter:** On the *In Europe* programme this week, we look at the situation of homeless teenagers across the continent. We also speak to two Members of the European Parliament for their opinions on what Europe can do about the problem.

Every night, as many as 100 teenagers are sleeping rough across the United Kingdom. In the Ukraine, some teenagers have spent between seven and eight years living on the streets, and in St Petersburg in Russia there are 5,000 homeless young people.

And the numbers are rising. A recent study by the University of York showed that countries such as Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, Poland and Hungary have all seen increases in recent years. Life on the streets is hard. Life expectancy for a homeless person in Britain is only 42 years compared to 80 for people who have their own accommodation. However, homelessness doesn't just refer to people sleeping rough on park benches. Every night, hundreds of youngsters across the continent sleep on their friends' sofas or share a crowded bedroom in an old flat. Of course, the big question is, why do more and more young people find themselves in this situation? This is what Anders Lorensen, a Swedish Member of the European Parliament, had to say:

**Swedish MEP:** Obviously, economic problems at home create pressures. If the parents – and very often it is a single parent – are unemployed or are in a poorly paid job, then they will obviously have problems paying the mortgage or the rent. They then look to their older children to make a contribution. This usually means having to make a choice between continuing in full-time education or leaving school and looking for a job. Some do try to work and study, but tiredness and stress often mean that they do neither very well and this only adds to the bad atmosphere at home. In some extreme cases, when older children can't help out with the bills, the parents finally ask them to leave. Some politicians suggest that young people take advantage of social services, but I don't think anybody would go through such a difficult experience if they didn't have to. Furthermore, governments across the continent are cutting spending on social services and the result is that more youngsters are sleeping rough. In the past, in a lot of European countries, social services would place these kids in hostels and pay them benefits so that they could at least finish their education, but that happens less and less now.

**Presenter:** However, not all European politicians share Anders Lorensen's view of the situation. The British Member of the European Parliament Eleanor Powell had this to say:

**British MEP:** Economic problems do create difficulties, but I think we have to stop expecting our governments to solve all our problems. Parents have to take responsibility for their children and can't just let them walk out of the door and expect the state to look after them. All teenagers have arguments with their parents and some even run away for a night or two; I did! But, nowadays, if life at home isn't exactly as teenagers want, they expect to be able to move out and the government to pay for them to be tenants of a comfortable flat! And if they can't have that, then they think they've got the right to go into someone's private property and set up a squat and live for free! I really believe that families have got to look after their children, even when things aren't going as well as everyone would like. And teenagers must help out at home, too. I agree that we want our young people to be well educated, but if the family is having financial

problems then older children should try and find work. They've got their whole lives ahead of them and there will be better times in the future when they can try to get into university. Young people mustn't abandon their families just because things aren't going as they hoped.