**Test2 Part2**

Part 2. You will hear a man called David talking on the radio about his work as a lifeboat volunteer. First, you have some time to look at questions 11 to 16. Now listen carefully and answer questions 11 to 16.

Then I found that the Lifeboat Institution was looking for volunteers, so I decided to apply. The Lifeboat Institution building here in North Sea is hard to miss. It's one of the largest in the country.

It was built 15 years ago, with funds provided by a generous member of the public who'd lived here all her life. As the Lifeboat Institution is a charity that relies on that kind of donation, rather than funding provided by the public.

the government, that was a huge help to us. When I applied, I had to have a health assessment. The doctors were particularly interested in my vision. I used to be short sighted, so I'd had to wear glasses, but I'd had laser eye surgery two years earlier, so that was okay.

They gave me tests for colour blindness, and they thought I might have a problem there, but it turned out I was okay. When the Coast Guard gets an alert, all the volunteers are contacted and rushed to the lifeboat station.

Our targets to get there in five minutes. Then we try to get the boat off the dock and out to sea in another six to eight minutes. Our team's proud that we usually achieve that. The average time across the country is eight and a half minutes.

I've recently qualified as what's called a helmsman, which means I have the ultimate responsibility for the lifeboat. I have to check that the equipment we use is in working order. The crew have special life jackets that can support up to four people in the water, and it's ultimately my decision whether it's safe to launch the boat.

But it's very rare not to launch it, even in the worst weather. As well as going out on the lifeboat, my work involves other things too. A lot of people underestimate how quickly conditions can change at sea, so I speak to youth groups and sailing clubs in the area about the sorts of problems that sailors and swimmers can have if the weather suddenly gets bad.

We also have a lot of volunteers who organise activities to raise money for us, and we couldn't manage without them. Thank you. Thank you. Now, listen and answer questions 17 to 20. The training we get is a continuous process, focusing on technical competence and safe handling techniques.

And it's given me the confidence to deal with extreme situations without panicking. I was glad I'd done a first aid course before I started, as that's a big help with the casualty care activities we do.

We've done a lot on how to deal with ropes and tie knots, that's an essential skill. After a year, I did a one week residential course, led by specialists. They had a wave tank. where they could create extreme weather conditions so we could get experience at what to do if the boat turned over in a storm at night for example.

Since I started I've had to deal with a range of emergency situations but the works hugely motivating. It's not just about saving lives. I've learned a lot about the technology involved. My background in IT has been useful here and I can use my expertise to help other volunteers.

They're a great group. We're like a family really which helps when you're dragging yourself out of bed on a cold stormy night. But actually it's the colder months that can be the most rewarding time.

That's when the incidents tend to be more serious and you realize that you can make a huge difference to the outcome. So if any of you listeners are interested why don't you give us a call. That is the end of part two.

You now have 30 seconds to check your answers to part two.