

The Podcast – Alex

Listen to an interview with Alex, an Austrian professional living and working in the UK.

- 1** Are the sentences true or false?
- a) Alex is a qualified solicitor.
 - b) Alex studied Law at the University of Oxford.
 - c) He occasionally has to stay at work through the night.
 - d) In 2008 he is going to work in Asia for half a year.
 - e) Alex believes that solicitors in the UK should be native English speakers.

Listen again. Choose the best answers.

- 2** Before Alex went to Oxford
- a) he was living in Vienna with his parents.
 - b) he was studying English in London.
 - c) his parents had taken him to live in Australia.
- 3** Alex decided on his course of study because
- a) he wanted to study at the best university in England.
 - b) he hoped it would help him in his future career.
 - c) he wanted to become a scientist.
- 4** Lawyers in England
- a) only have to study for two years.
 - b) can qualify after taking a conversion course.
 - c) don't need to study as long as lawyers in Austria.
- 5** Sometimes Alex works on
- a) matters that are featured in the news.
 - b) environmental matters.
 - c) matters affecting young people.
- 6** Alex thinks London is
- a) a difficult place to work in.
 - b) a difficult city to socialise in.
 - c) an expensive city with little to do of interest.
- 7** Alex says that if he weren't doing this job, he would like to be a lion tamer, because it requires a lot of similar skills. Work in pairs. If you weren't doing this job, what would you like to do that required similar skills? Why?



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Teacher's Notes

- 1 a) False – he is currently qualifying as a lawyer.
b) False – he studied philosophy.
c) True.
d) True.
e) False – he believes they need to have a good grasp of English.
- 2 c – He moved to Australia with his parents when he was 16.
- 3 b – He thought doing philosophy (and law) would help him get a job with an international organisation.
- 4 c – In Austria it can take up to ten years before you're a qualified lawyer, whereas in the UK you can do a two-year conversion course followed by two years in a law firm to get qualified.
- 5 a – Sometimes he works on matters that are in the newspapers.
- 6 b – He thinks it is quite difficult to meet his friends because the city is very big.
- 7 Elicit some answers from the students. Encourage them to say why they would do the job. What skills would they need?

Note on the transcript:

A few words in the transcript of the podcast are highlighted. These are either **grammatical errors** or else a **misuse** of a word or phrase. With stronger students, you may consider eliciting a corrected transcript.

Suggested corrections:

... I train to be a solicitor	<i>I'm training to be a solicitor</i>
... deal with clients immediately .	<i>in the first instance, face to face</i>
... inofficially I can be called upon	<i>unofficially</i>
... In the two years that I'm working	<i>I've been working</i>
... this law firm I going to work for	<i>I will work for</i>
... to find a work	<i>to find work</i>
... and make a move, make a switch	<i>move to</i>

