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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Text</th>
<th>Suggested Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>... I train to be a solicitor</td>
<td>I'm training to be a solicitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... deal with clients immediately</td>
<td>in the first instance, face to face</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... unofficially I can be called upon</td>
<td>unofficially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... In the two years that I'm working</td>
<td>I've been working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... this law firm I going to work for</td>
<td>I will work for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... to find a work</td>
<td>to find work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>... and make a move, make a switch</td>
<td>move to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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