My name is Gordon Martin and I am a TV critic. As a critic, I spend a lot of time watching TV. I have to watch all kinds of programmes so that I can comment on them and make my preferences accordingly.

First let me start with soap operas. I simply cannot understand why a story like 'Dallas' or 'Young and Restless' interests people, especially women, for more than a month or two but these programmes have been running for years. Their stories are not interesting at all. Moreover, they only show the lives of people from the upper class, living in luxury. Many of the American detective series do not interest me, either. Sometimes they are quite entertaining and a few have good stories but generally they are rather repetitive. In most detective series you can easily guess who the murderer is. I also cannot stand quiz shows or panel games or chat shows. The quiz shows, in particular, make me angry. The prizes are not as good as they seem. In the past, the prizes were much better. The host and hostesses in those quiz shows often make the participants more nervous.

When I was younger, I liked sports programmes but now I'm getting too old for that sort of thing so I prefer more restful programmes. In my opinion, most of the plays on TV are quite good. People who do not have time to go to the theater can spend an enjoyable evening watching those plays. I also like the films shown on TV. Actually, people do not have a chance to watch the recent films such as Armageddon but still the old films shown on TV give people a deeper understanding of life. I enjoy documentaries, too. I sometimes don't understand them completely because they may require more background knowledge than I have, but still, it is interesting to learn about nature and the life underwater. Current affairs programmes are also excellent. They are often better than the news. In current affairs programmes, there are detailed interviews and discussions. News bulletins, however, are generally too short to give the audience an idea about the truth.

Well, these are my preferences and prejudices. Why not write me and tell me yours?
My parents have got a small house in the country. Their house has got a large garden. My mother loves gardening so she spends most of her time in the garden. My father likes animals. He has got a dog and two cats. They say life in the country is better than life in the city.
SECTION I. LISTENING
You are going to hear Gordon Martin, a TV critic, talking about the programmes on TV. Listen and do the following.

PART A-
Put a tick (B) for the programmes Gordon Martin likes and put a cross (X) for the ones he dislikes. If the programme is NOT mentioned, leave the box empty.

films  detective stories
religious programmes  documentaries
soap operas  comedies
quiz shows  chat shows
plays  current affairs programmes

PART B- Mark the following as TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

T  F 1. Gordon Martin does not watch all kinds of programmes on TV.
T  F 2. 'Young and Restless' is an example of a soap opera.
T  F 3. The hosts and hostesses in the quiz shows help people relax.
T  F 5. People can watch new films on TV.
T  F 6. Gordon Martin sometimes has difficulty understanding the documentaries.
T  F 7. News bulletins are not long enough to give an idea about the truth.

SECTION II. DICTATION
Your teacher is going to read a paragraph twice; first with pauses and then at normal speed. While taking dictation, don't forget to put in the necessary punctuation marks.