

IELTS Real Exam Series

IELTS Listening Part 4 Collection

MOHAMMAD JAVAD ALI BEIGI

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Mohammad Javad Ali Beigi

PART 4

Questions 31-40

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** for each answer

The New Zealand artist Will Burton

General information

- makes art from pieces of rubbish
- started this technique in the 1950s when the art was traditional

Childhood in Moa Point, Wellington

- started with 31..... but found it too limited
- began to experiment with using rubbish
- made sculptures from waste found in the home, e.g. glass and 32.....
- used 'natural' waste materials such as 33.....
- collected things from the dump, especially 34..... items
- his 35..... of old light bulbs are in the Wellington Museum today

At Art School

- developed his formal skills, e.g. learning how to use a 36.....
- making 37..... could have been his alternative career
- began a lifelong interest in 38.....

Other Themes of his Work

- interested in how appearances are affected by light
- a critical observer of modern society
- uses written words to express his 39.....
- his work gets depth from the feeling of 40..... he expresses

I'll listen carefully and answer questions 31 to 40. Good morning everyone and welcome back to this series of lectures on contemporary New Zealand artists. Today, Will Burton.

Will Burton stands out from the other artists we've considered in these lectures because of his choice of materials. From a young age, Burton has enjoyed making art from rubbish and waste. Now today this might not be thought particularly unusual.

Today, lots of artists are doing this sort of thing. But at the time when Burton started using this approach, the 1950s, the art world in this country was traditional, to put it politely, and his ideas were highly original. It's for this reason that I want to focus today's lecture on Will Burton's early years when he formed his pioneering approach to art.

Burton grew up in the Wellington seaside suburb of Mower Point in the years after the Second World War and both the place and the time were important influences. He initially spent a lot of time painting but eventually gave this up because it placed too many limits on his imagination. It was then that he started to explore new materials and in particular the idea of using rubbish for creative purposes.

Some of his first pieces were made from waste he found in the domestic environment. So, for example, he did a series of sculptures using glass bottles but he was also attracted to anything made from plastic which was then relatively new and exotic. Another feature of Mower Point was the beach and this became an important influence on his work.

Here he found examples of what he considered to be natural waste, things which nature had discarded, if you like, things like shells, for example, which he often used in his art. Of course, those of you who are familiar with Mower Point will know that the suburb has one other prominent feature, the large rubbish dump and it was here, perhaps more than anywhere else, that Burton liked to hunt for materials to use in his art. He collected all sorts of things from the dump as you might imagine but in particular he was inspired by any sort of electrical equipment which in the 1950s was just beginning to be introduced to many homes.

Now, it's perhaps not surprising that most of the artwork he produced during this period has not survived but the Wellington Museum has managed to hold on to a number of pieces. One of the things he often found at the dump were old light bulbs and on display in the museum today is a wonderful series of photographs Burton took of these bulbs. When he left his parents' home Will Burton studied at the Canterbury School of Fine Arts.

Here he developed those more formal skills normally associated with students of fine art. For example, the ability to draw in pencil and in fact produced many wonderful portraits of his friends often on a very large scale. But of course, he also pursued his own ideas.

In particular, we can see in his student years the beginnings of Burton's interest in movement and motion. Indeed, I believe that had he wanted to Burton might easily have found success creating movies such as his skill in working with movement. Another of his great interests in life also began when Burton was at art school.

Like many students in those days, he spent the summer holidays going around the country and then ventured further afield to Australia and Southeast Asia and this passion for travel has stayed with him throughout his life. Returning to his art, what other themes are of importance? So much of Burton's output explores the way in which ordinary objects can seem to change. One thing in particular that drives his work is the way appearances change depending on how much light is available.

Another point is that throughout his career Burton has been an astute observer of modern society and often a highly critical one. And there is often a wonderfully light and playful character to Burton's work. For example, he often uses sections of text in his photographs or sculptures to express his sense of humour.

However, this alone would not be enough to secure his importance among our contemporary artists. Ultimately, what gives his work its depth is the way the artist so often expresses his sense of loss for those people and places which he will not see again. Well now, if there are any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

That is the end of part four. You now have one minute to check your answers to part four.

