

English oral comprehension

Video 3 – You are going to listen to a CNN Business news report ‘Virgin Galactic may (finally) make space tourism reality’ (4’17”).

Listen carefully. Take notes if you wish. You will then have to answer **10 multiple choice questions**.

Time available at the end of the speech: **10 min**.

You will then listen to the speech a **second time** and have **5 minutes** at the end to check and, if necessary, correct your answers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kS1J-ZSaecw>

1. Which analogy is given for the launching of the craft?

- a. Like being fired from a catapult
- b. Like a fighter plane taking off from a carrier
- c. Like having an elephant sit on your chest
- d. Like being a bullet fired from a gun

2. The race to provide space tourism is:

- a. Just beginning
- b. In its early days
- c. In full swing
- d. A wild goose chase

3. Tick what seems to fit the best (1 answer):

- a. Richard Branson is fully confident in his space line
- b. Richard Branson is aware of the risks involved with space flight
- c. Richard Branson tried space flight himself and wanted everyone to experience it
- d. Richard Branson thinks that a commercial launch is still a few years off

4. George Whitesides believes:

- a. That the project is even more expensive than the price suggests
- b. That the price should go down very quickly
- c. That people will use this vessel to travel quickly between continents
- d. That people should be happy with their feet on the ground

5. Commercial space flights are coming to the fore now because:

- a. They think they can do better than national space agencies
- b. There is a void left by national space agencies changing priorities
- c. They recently received authorisation from the International Space Agency
- d. They think it's only now financially viable

6. The current service that is offered could be considered:

- a. Flying into orbit
- b. A high altitude flight
- c. A trip to a space station
- d. A space walk

7. Tick the correct statement:

- a. Since the crash in 2014 the program has been deemed too risky
- b. The crash in 2014 only furthered the team's resolve
- c. They believe they have eliminated all risks that led to the 2014 crash
- d. The type of crash in 2014 is an inherent risk to their endeavour

8. Virgin believes that (multiple answers possible):

- a. This program is going to be a financial success
- b. This program will help solve some of our planet's greatest challenges
- c. This program changes people
- d. This is what the future of travel will be

9. Richard Branson sees this program as:

- a. A first chance for his company to prove itself
- b. A business space that Virgin has a historical presence in
- c. A way to settle a score
- d. A new challenge for the company

10. Virgin states it is:

- a. The only company shooting for commercial space flight
- b. The leading company in the field of commercial space flight
- c. The best value commercial space flight company
- d. The safest commercial space flight company