

## B LEVEL SAMPLE SCRIPT

**You will listen to an interview with Shannon Grace, a journalist. As you listen, choose the correct answer. You will hear the interview twice with a fifteen-second interval. Now, you have one minute to read the questions before listening.**

**Interviewer:** Hello everyone. Today I am talking to Shannon Grace who works as a journalist. Hi Shannon, thank you for joining me today.

**Shannon:** You're welcome. Thanks for having me.

**Interviewer:** So, Shannon, how did you start your career?

**Shannon:** Well, when I was a university student, I joined a press club. And in this club we sold stories to newspapers in New York and also in several New Jersey cities. After university, thanks to the father of a roommate, a local newspaper in New York City hired me and I lived in New York City for the next two years. From there, I went to *Newsweek*, and then to the *New York Herald Tribune*, which went out of business three years later. It was a really hard time for me because I loved working for the company. Finally, *Newsday*, a big newspaper on Long Island, invited me for a job interview and I started to work for them.

**Interviewer:** I see. I know that you've had a very successful career. What has been your personal key to success?

**Shannon:** Ah, I think it is mostly luck. Journalism has always been a risky career choice, and lately it's been getting worse because it is more difficult to find a job nowadays. But I was so lucky that whenever I quit or got fired, there was always another job waiting for me.

**Interviewer:** Have you ever received any awards or prizes for your success?

**Shannon:** I haven't won many awards, and I can't remember ever hanging one on my wall, but certainly the best award that I received was a Jefferson Fellowship. It provided a couple of months studying and reporting at the University of Hawaii's East-West Center and a month touring Japan and several countries in Southeast Asia.

**Interviewer:** Do you think a formal journalism education is necessary to succeed in the field?

**Shannon:** I've known a few extremely talented reporters who never finished college, but college education is pretty important these days. Many reporters have formal education. Usually, working on a college paper will give you a chance to find out how interested you really are in a journalistic career. However, I believe that journalism is best learned by doing, perhaps starting with a high school or college paper. Of course some formal training is a good idea, but not in a journalism school. If you are interested in working as a journalist, study political science, economics, or history instead of journalism, and after you graduate from university, take a couple of journalism classes.

**Interviewer:** And, finally, does working for a prestigious organization make a difference?

**Shannon:** It is true that when you work for a prestigious organization, you may have a better chance of doing the better jobs at the organization. But don't sit down and wait for success to come to you. Organizations get to be prestigious by hiring good people in the first place. Concentrate on doing good work even when it is hard to do so.

**Interviewer:** Thanks, Shannon, for sharing your great experience with us.