



Sample Listening *Table Completion*

Recording Transcript

You will hear part of a talk about research into ‘learner persistence’ given by a university lecturer to her colleagues.

The second section of my questionnaire looked at learner persistence under three main headings: social and environmental factors, other factors, and intrinsic or personal characteristics. I identified three levels of importance for each of these. At the first level – those points identified by participants as most important in learner persistence – for social factors, many respondents said how crucial it had been to have good support, though there was no one specific source; it could be family or friends. As regards other factors, students are heartened not so much by high grades but by what they regard as success in study. And for personal characteristics, many respondents reported that they took pleasure in challenge and that this was regarded as very significant.

At the second level of importance, in the first category, a sizeable percentage talked about the fact that they had enjoyed themselves in school as an important social factor. In the second column, other factors, a number of people said that what was of most importance was decent health – this had a fairly strong influence on their persistence in their studies. And then under the heading of personal characteristics, there were quite a large percentage of respondents who mentioned they felt it was important to have lots of interests in their everyday lives. This gave them a depth and sense of perspective which less persistent learners might lack.

And then onto the third level. Under social factors, several respondents talked about good relationships with their tutors. For other factors, they mentioned lack or absence of any problems in their families. And finally under column three, they identified an ability to juggle several roles – what we might call their capacity for multi-tasking.