Listening Comprehension

You will hear a short extract from an interview in which a scientist talks about how stars in space may have been responsible for a number of environmental catastrophes on Earth. Look at the question below and the multiple-choice options which follow it. Listen carefully and decide which option is correct.

What do many scientists believe caused the dinosaurs to disappear?

1. Large amounts of iridium in the Earth’s crust
2. A meteorite crashing into the Earth
3. An asteroid which passed very close to the Earth
4. Changes in the Earth’s climate

Now listen to the complete interview and choose the best answer. Before listening to the interview, read the questions first and notice any differences between the options.

1. What convinced Arnon Dar that collapsing neutron stars have been the cause of the mass extinction of life on Earth?
2. nothing else would be powerful enough
3. there is no evidence for volcanic activity
4. supernova explosions are far too rare
5. the two events happen with the same frequency
6. According to Dar, muon particles cause
7. much heavier rain than normal
8. cosmic rays to be created
9. the death of animals and plants
10. showers of high energy particles
11. Why does Dar consider the evidence about marine life to be significant?
12. it shows how rich marine life was at the time
13. it suggests his theory is correct
14. it produced a valuable fossil record for scientists
15. scientists have always ignored it
16. How does Dar explain the survival of many insects?
17. radiation does not affect insects
18. they can survive any environmental disaster
19. the environment was ideal for insects 251 million years ago
20. they are more resistant to radiation than large animals
21. When Dar talks about the possibility of another large mass extinction happening, his attitude is
22. optimistic
23. sarcastic
24. indifferent
25. slightly concerned