



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B1 Practice Test 1

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Page 3

Students' own answers

Speaking Part 2 Page 3

Voicemail 1 sample answer

Hello, this is Anna Roberto. It's about my English lesson today at 2pm. Unfortunately, my car has broken down so I'm sorry, but I can't come to the lesson. I could get the bus, but then I would be too late. Do you think we could meet tomorrow if possible? I have some time between 11am and 3pm. Please could you call me? Thanks.

Voicemail 2 sample answer

Hi, Anna. Welcome to the college! I think you'll have a really great time here. For clubs, I think you should join a sports club because it's important to keep fit. I think the tennis club is really good, or you could join the gym. I know you like music, so you could join the choir or the orchestra. I'd love to meet up with you at the weekend. Do you know the café on the High Street? We could meet there at 1pm and talk about the clubs. Let me know if this is OK.

Speaking Part 3 Page 4

Sample answer

I am going to talk about travelling and joining a club, and what young people can learn from doing these activities. If you travel on your own, you will become more independent. You have to solve any problems on your own. Young people can learn about other countries and cultures, they can also talk to other people to improve their English. However, travelling can be very expensive.

Joining a club is much cheaper and a lot of young people join clubs in their school. Here they can learn to play different sports and learn about working as a team. But young people might only join the same clubs as their friends, so they won't meet many new people.

I think people can learn more from travelling.

Speaking Part 4 Page 4

1 Sample answer

In my free time I like spending time with my friends. We often go to the cinema together, or sometimes we go to a restaurant. I also love swimming. I go to the swimming pool three times a week.

2 Sample answer

It seems to me that hobbies like shopping or going to the theatre can be very expensive. However, there are a lot of hobbies that are cheap or free, such as walking or playing sports with friends.

3 Sample answer

The advantages of being in a club are that you get to meet people and learn some interesting new skills. The disadvantages are that some clubs are expensive and they take up a lot of time.

4 Sample answer

I like spending my free time with my friend Theresa. I've known her for ten years, she's my best friend. We don't do anything special when we spend time together, but she's very funny, so I always like seeing her.

5 Sample answer

In my opinion, spending time alone is boring. I don't like staying at home, so I prefer to spend my free time with my friends. If I have to spend time alone, I try to do something useful like studying or cleaning.

6 Sample answer

If I had more free time, I would learn to play the piano. When I was a child I had piano lessons, but now I'm too busy and I've forgotten everything. I would also go travelling because there are a lot of interesting places in the world that I would like to see.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 1 A

In the man's first turn, he says 'I was thinking of getting Sophie some perfume for her birthday'. The woman suggests 'an indoor plant' or a vase, but then she says 'you're right – let's do what you suggested', meaning she agrees with the man's suggestion of perfume.

2 A

The girl says 'Annie's agreed to give me a lift', i.e. to take her in her car. She says she will get the bus back **from** the party, but not **to** the party, and she doesn't want to take the train because she hasn't got her student discount card yet.

3 B

Picture A is incorrect because the girl says 'she had steak and chips the last time she was here'. The father then says 'I'm not sure what we've got apart from some bread and cheese', meaning bread and cheese is the only food they've got. The girl suggests beef burgers (C), but her father says 'Tom finished them the other night'.

4 B

The man refers to 'when you go and take their order', suggesting the woman's a waitress, but she replies, 'I'm down in the kitchen', so picture A is incorrect. The man talks about her cooking, but she says she cooks at home, i.e. not at the restaurant, so picture C is incorrect. In her final sentence she says she doesn't want to wash up 'forever'.

5 C

The man says he's taking Hallam to play football, so he's not playing football himself (A). He gives some reasons why he needs to meet early and suggests booking a tennis court (to play tennis). He talks about watching rugby, not taking part in it.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 B

The agent says, 'she can have somewhere at the back away from the traffic because I know what she's like about noise', which suggests the hotel will provide a quiet room for Mrs Wilson. Option A is not correct because she says 'They haven't got any special offers', and option C is not correct because the vegetarian food is on the normal menu and the hotel isn't providing anything special.

2 B

The agent says 'because it's a public holiday, so there will be lots more people (i.e. lots of traffic) on the road'. She says 'It's not because they're digging up the motorway', so the roadworks won't mean she needs extra time. She also mentions 'queues at check-in', but these don't happen on the way to the airport.

3 C

Option A is incorrect because the flight is 'via Reykjavik', so not direct. The agent says 'it does cost a bit more than the one that comes straight to London', which shows there is a cheaper flight, so option B is incorrect. She talks about how long Mrs Wilson will have to wait at the airport, and says the Icelandic Air flight gives her three hours to change planes, 'which is perfect', suggesting this is the most convenient flight.

4 B

The agent suggests a restaurant, an excursion and a hotel, but after suggesting the trip (excursion) to the Blue Lagoon, she says 'that is something I would really recommend', meaning she thinks this is the best thing to do.

5 A

The agent mentions 'the Berlin conference', a business trip, and that they got a discount on the tickets, but she's going to send these tickets to Mrs Wilson and doesn't need to talk about them, so options B and C are incorrect. She says 'we can also chat about the ideas for the weekend off she was planning in Paris', which is the short break she wants to talk about.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 both

The woman mentions English and says 'If you come out of school and you can't read and write, it's hopeless'. The man then says 'It's so important', which shows that he agrees.

2 woman

The woman says 'it does seem a bit unfair. Just one little mistake ...', which shows she agrees with the statement. But the man says 'you can see why they're like that' and then says sending out letters with mistakes looks really bad, so he disagrees with the opinion that employers are unfair.

3 woman

The woman says 'That's something that schools should concentrate on, basic maths', which shows she agrees with the statement. But the man says 'you can do all that sort of stuff on a calculator', which shows he disagrees.

4 woman

The woman says 'it's very dangerous to rely so much on technology', so you can't depend on it. The man starts talking about when 'it's better to use technology', which shows he doesn't agree with the woman.

5 man

The woman initially says 'not as useful as learning to read a map', and the man mentions teaching map-reading in school and says it's useful because you can walk for days and 'never get lost'. The woman, however, says 'there are more important things they should be focusing on', so she ends up not supporting the opinion.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 A

The woman says 'in that case, you have to see Alonissos', which suggests that Alonissos is more beautiful than the man's choice of Paxos. Option B is incorrect because the 'five hours on the car ferry ... came as a bit of a shock'. Option C is incorrect because although the woman says the village was 'quite lively at night', she specifies it wasn't because of nightclubs.

2 A

The woman says the boots are 'no good, even with really thick socks', which suggests that when she wears thick socks, the boots are still too big. Option B is incorrect because she says the boots are 'what I ordered'. Option C is incorrect because she says she 'can see they'd be perfect for hiking'.

3 B

The man asks about getting new tyres and then says 'perhaps you could give me a figure for that, too before we go ahead with anything', meaning he wants the information about the cost of the tyres before he makes an appointment (so option A is incorrect). Option C is incorrect because he's talking about getting 'a service and check-up', so he doesn't have a specific problem with his bike.

4 A

The woman says that Andrew 'seemed absolutely fine yesterday', which suggests that she doesn't believe that he was really ill, so option B is incorrect. She also says 'That's the last time I'm inviting him around for anything', which shows she's angry with him. Option C is incorrect because she's saved the food in the freezer and she will eat it 'some other time' with her friend.

5 C

The man says that, in the TV programme, 'the mother could be her next victim', meaning the main character is probably going to hurt someone. This suggests it is a 'thriller'.

Reading Part 1 Page 9–10

1 C

'Learning long lists of vocabulary isn't a very good idea' – Mr Stevens thinks you should not try to do this (option C). Option A is incorrect because although he says watching films 'sounds a lot more fun', he doesn't say fun is important when learning vocabulary. Option B is incorrect because he says it's difficult to remember new vocabulary if you learn too much, but it's not 'always difficult'.

2 A

Tom says 'it was very kind of you ... I'm very grateful', which shows he's thanking Jane (option A). He mentions the sort of car he's looking for, 'a five-door model', but doesn't describe the sort of car he likes, so option B is incorrect. 'I think I'll keep looking for a five-door model', suggests he is looking for the car for himself, so option C is incorrect.

3 C

Thomas says, 'I'll definitely try a few of those recipes', so he was interested in some (option C). He says he 'can't quite see why every cookery programme ... has to be a competition', so option A is incorrect as he didn't find it exciting. Option B is incorrect because he says 'I suppose they think that's what viewers want', which suggests he is uncertain that audiences will find it popular.

4 A

Laura is turning down the invitation to the party on Friday, but accepting another – 'that other weekend you mentioned would be fine' (option A). Option B is incorrect because 'that other weekend you mentioned' isn't a new date. Option C is incorrect because Laura and Jan are going to meet, so Laura isn't cancelling the plans.

5 A

The note describes the benefits – a 'free 5ml bottle of *Sensation*' – of using the offer of a 20% discount, so option A is correct. Option B is incorrect because there are no details of how to apply for the free gift. Option C is incorrect because the customer has 30 days to use the voucher so does not need to place an order immediately.

6 B

Annie says 'it would be great if everyone could actually read it this time'. This suggests that at the last meeting, nobody had read the book. Option A is incorrect as she is only reminding them about the meeting, not persuading them to come. Option C is incorrect because 8:30 is not mentioned as a new time.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 A

Middle Market (A) meets all Bella's requirements. It's got a flower shop (for roses), a shop selling 'designer clothes for kids' (for a new dress), and 'Georgina's – everyone's favourite café' (for a cup of tea). The Old Factory (C) sells children's clothes and has a café, (Polly's), but it hasn't got a flower shop.

2 B

Westway Walk (B) meets all Dieter's requirements. It's got 'Cool Gear', a clothes shop which 'teenagers love' (for a T-shirt), 'two discount sports stores' (for tennis balls), and a phone shop (for a mobile battery). Middle Market (A) is behind 'the Marathon Sports Superstore' and sells 'designer clothes for kids' (although that implies young children, rather than teenagers), but only sells covers for mobile phones, not batteries.

3 A

Middle Market (A) has got everything Hasan needs – a café where he can get a quick lunch, a jeweller's (for a necklace), and a greengrocer's (for fruit and salad). He could get jewellery and lunch at The Old Factory (C), but no fruit or salad, or on Pettifer Street (D) he could get jewellery and fruit/salad, but no lunch.

4 C

Jana could go to a café and get jewellery at Middle Market (A), or she could get jewellery and furniture on Pettifer Street (D), but only The Old Factory (C) sells old 'antique rings', and 'old books or tables and chairs'. It's also got a café.

5 D

Middle Market (A) sells 'fine footwear for adults', but nothing else that Ken needs. Westway Walk (B) has a travel agent and he could maybe take food away from the burger bar, but it hasn't got anywhere to buy boots. Pettifer Street (D) has a shoe shop (for boots), a travel agent (for holiday information), and 'a famous night market selling Asian food to take away' (for food he doesn't have to cook).

6 B

Marie Claire could have a quick lunch at either Middle Market (A) or The Old Factory (C), but only Westway Walk (B) has a clothes shop for older people (for a smart jumper for her dad), and a bookshop (for something to read). It's also got a burger bar (for a quick and easy lunch).

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 D

Before the gap, the writer mentions her connection to both Australia and Cambodia. In the sentence after the gap, she talks about her connection to Australia and uses the reference word 'too'. This means the missing sentence will be about her connection to Cambodia, which is mentioned in sentence D, 'Cambodian traditions and the Khmer language'.

2 A

Before the gap, the writer says 'we weren't rich but we didn't need anything'. This contrasts with sentence A where she says her family in Cambodia 'were poor and had very little'. Sentence A also links to the sentence after the gap which uses the word 'nevertheless' to show the contrast between the family being poor, but also being really happy.

3 C

The sentences before and after the gap talk about the writer's first job. Sentence C mentions learning about business and 'my time working there'.

4 B

Before the gap, the writer mentions Cambodia and this connects to 'visit and live there' in sentence B. 'So that is what I did' in the sentence after the gap connects to her decision to go back to Cambodia.

5 E

Before the gap, the writer is talking about jewellers and designers and this connects to 'a lot of them' in sentence E. Sentence E also says the jewellers and designers 'all know each other', which connects to the following sentence where she talks about being 'connected with a whole network of talented jewellers'.

6 G

Before the gap, the writer mentions the 'beautiful products' she sells. This connects with 'the people who buy them' in sentence G. 'The people' are the customers, who are mentioned after the gap.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 B

Option C is incorrect because the writer had seen the building before, but 'like most teenagers ... not paid much attention'. Option B is correct because he says 'from then on I started appreciating the architecture I saw'. Option A is incorrect because when he saw the building, he didn't know who the architect was.

2 A

The writer says Mackintosh's buildings 'still seem so beautiful today', meaning they were beautiful when they were built and are still attractive. Option B is incorrect because although the buildings were described as 'full of light', the writer doesn't mention how they were painted. Option C is incorrect because Mackintosh's buildings were designed to be different to 'the dark, dull buildings of the time', but not to replace them.

3 C

The writer says Mackintosh 'turned his attention to absolutely everything'. This doesn't say that everything had to be perfect, so option B is incorrect, but it does mean Mackintosh wanted to be in control. Option A is incorrect because although the text mentions what Mackintosh designed inside the house, it doesn't say he preferred designing the inside to the outside.

4 B

Mackintosh retired because there was 'little demand for his services', meaning nobody wanted to employ him as an architect. Option A is incorrect because it is not mentioned in the text that he didn't want to design buildings. Option C is incorrect because he didn't become ill until he was already living in France. His 'poor health forced him to return to London'.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

1 Sample answer

From: Jo

Subject: Trip to London

Hi Sam

Thanks for your email.

I think that's a great idea. It will be better to stay in a hotel than travel in the middle of the night.

I had a look at the hotel websites. I'd rather stay at the Air North Hotel because it's in the airport. The Runway Park is 10km away and it's more expensive.

What about how to get there? Why don't we take the bus? It's really easy and we won't have to park the car.

Call me later.

Jo

[90 words]

Writing Part 2 Page 15

Part 2 essay model answer

These days almost all young people play video games. We need to think about whether these games are good for them or not.

Parents often worry about video games for two reasons. Firstly, some video games are very violent and there is a lot of shooting and killing. Secondly, some children play video games for hours and hours and do not do their school work.

On the other hand, there are lots of video games that are not violent. They are games where you have to look after animals or a family. These are fun and are fine for young children.

In conclusion, video games are not bad for children, but it is probably better if younger children don't play games that are violent.

[124 words]

Part 2 review model answer

I'd like to tell you about a great new website that I have found – it is called fashionistas.co.uk.

It sells all sorts of really nice clothes for teenagers and there are things for older people too.

I like it because there is a very wide choice. For example, when you go to the shirts section there are more than 200 different shirts. The other thing I like is that they have low prices, and when there's a special offer, the clothes are even cheaper.

The only thing I don't like is that there is sometimes a small delivery charge, but if you spend more than £20, delivery is free, so it's not a big problem.

So why not give it a try? I'm sure you'll love it.

[127 words]