



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B1 Practice Test 2

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Page 3

Students' own answers

Speaking Part 2 Page 3

Voicemail 1 sample answer

Good afternoon. My name is Andrea Miller and I'm staying in the accommodation at your college. I'm afraid that I have some problems with my room and I would like you to help me. The thing is, my room is next to the kitchen. In the evening, some students sit in there and talk very loudly, so I can't sleep. In the morning, some other students make breakfast very early and this wakes me up. Please could you find another room for me that is quieter, so that I can sleep better? Thank you.

Voicemail 2 sample answer

Hi, Jack! I'd love to go to the cinema this week. I don't know that film, though. What's it about? Do you know which actors are in it? I think Thursday is the best time to go, because there are cheap tickets for students on that day. Before the film, we could go to that new pizza restaurant and have some dinner. My friend went there last week and he said it was very good. Let me know if this is OK. Bye!

Speaking Part 3 Page 4

Sample answer

In my opinion, the best thing to spend the money on would be a trip to England. The students will get a lot of practice speaking English and they will learn about England and the culture there. They will hear how people speak in England and they will improve their listening and speaking. The disadvantage is that only a small group of students could go on this trip.

The second thing I think the school should buy is English magazines and newspapers. Students can improve their English by reading about subjects that are interesting for them. The articles are in more natural English than the articles in textbooks. Also the magazines and newspapers would be available for everyone to read. However, students can already find some articles on the internet if they want, so they might not be interested in these magazines.

Speaking Part 4 Page 4

1 Sample answer

I started learning English when I was six. I've studied English for ten years. In my country it's important to have good English, so we learn it at school.

2 Sample answer

In my opinion it's important to learn languages when you're young. This is because I think children are better at learning languages than adults because they don't worry so much about making mistakes.

3 Sample answer

Yes, I agree that some languages are easier to learn. I have studied English and French and I think French is much easier for me to learn. I know some languages like Chinese are very difficult because their writing is very hard to learn.

4 Sample answer

Some people learn languages for their work. If you work for an international company, you might need to speak some foreign languages. People also like to learn other languages so that they can go travelling and talk to everyone they meet.

5 Sample answer

I suppose it could be useful if everyone spoke the same language. But I don't think people will want to stop speaking their own language because it's a part of their culture.

6 Sample answer

I think technology will make language learning easier in the future. There are several apps for learning or for translation and these are very useful. However, some translators are not very accurate, so I think people will still need to learn foreign languages.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 B

The girl says that she needs to take 'all the camera stuff' to do some work on her art project and her father tells her she can take her laptop separately, not leave it behind, so pictures A and C are incorrect. Picture B is correct because her father says towels are provided, so she can leave them behind.

2 A

The man didn't get the medicine because 'the pharmacy was closed' and he 'didn't even bother going to the bookshop', so pictures B and C are incorrect. Picture A is correct because the man says that 'the bakery was open' and that he 'spent everything I (he) had there'.

3 A

The student says 'the central heating's amazing' and therefore he is warm enough, so picture C is incorrect. He says 'we've got our own dishwasher', so he doesn't need any 'cleaning stuff', so picture B is also incorrect. Picture A is correct because 'They haven't even got the basics', meaning they don't have any kitchen equipment.

4 B

The woman says that the house is 'freezing'. The dress in picture B has long sleeves, so is warmer than the top in picture C, therefore, picture B is correct. The woman says the dress 'doesn't really go with my boots with the heels' so picture A is not correct.

5 A

They decide not to watch the news, as the man says that it is 'almost finished'. The man also says that the programme with the orchestra is 'not exactly exciting to watch', so they decide to 'go back' to where they were, which was the documentary (picture A).

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 A

Parker Building is 'a long way from the main road, so there's no noise from traffic', so it is quiet (option A). 'Like most of the other places you can stay, it's brand new and the rooms are a good size', this suggests that other buildings are also modern and big, so options B and C are incorrect.

2 B

The student says the 'French department is just around the corner', so option A is incorrect. She says 'Parker is a long way from the Maths Department', but this is a disadvantage for her, not for the person she's calling. She says 'the Sports Centre is miles away', which is a disadvantage for her friend, so option B is correct.

3 B

The rooms do not have kitchens, but the student says 'that's not too bad as you get all your meals provided', so this is not really a problem. She says the food is 'mainly simple things', but doesn't say it's bad. Wilson Building 'costs a huge amount more than anywhere else', meaning it is expensive, so option B is correct.

4 C

At Wilson Building 'you get some first years and some older ones', so the students are different ages, so option C is correct. The students study 'things like maths, French, medicine', so are not mainly scientists, so option A is not correct. She says 'you'll have the chance to meet lots of interesting people', but doesn't mention whether the students are friendly.

5 C

Palladian House is cold as the student says 'everyone I've ever met who's lived there complains the central heating never works'. Option B is incorrect because she says that 'it *ought* to be cheaper', not that it *is* cheaper. She says it's 'in the nicest part of town ... with lots of lovely places round it', but she doesn't say that Palladian House is attractive, so option A is incorrect.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 man

The man suggests you should spend time with friends who are not from work, 'I do think you should still see your old friends'. The woman questions this, 'Is that the best way to do well in a big company?' which suggests she disagrees.

2 both

The woman mentions 'when I was at the bank, the people who got to the top were the ones who knew all the important people', suggesting you need to make the right contacts at work to succeed. The man says he thinks 'that's rather sad', but agrees, 'that's just the way things are, I suppose'.

3 both

The man says 'at least the salaries for new graduates are good in these big companies', and the woman agrees when she says, 'To begin with they are', although she goes on to say that she doesn't think they are good later on in people's careers.

4 woman

The woman suggests that working for a large company can be unsatisfying by saying, 'you're just a very small part in a big machine'. The man disagrees as he says that for some people this 'must be quite relaxing' and therefore not unsatisfying.

5 woman

The woman says 'in a small organization ... it's much easier to move up', the man disagrees, saying his school isn't small, but he got promoted because he was 'the right person for the job', meaning he thinks it's easy to get promoted in a large organization.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 A

The woman says 'I never arrange appointments for the morning', which suggests that the trains are unreliable (option A) because they are never on time. The woman does not say that she thinks the trains are too expensive now, but predicts that 'The tickets will go up' in the future (so option B is incorrect).

2 B

The woman says that in the last play 'everyone forgot their words', but that the 'new drama teacher has made an amazing difference', suggesting this performance was of a high quality (option B). The woman does not mention a new actress, so option C is incorrect.

3 B

The man says that he had 'a good time' at university and 'needed a degree', but his brother 'wasn't interested' in university, which suggests university suits some people more than others (option B). The man also mentions that his brother 'got to the top without anything', suggesting university is not necessary for a successful career, so option A is incorrect.

4 C

The woman says that Hilltop Garage doesn't 'cost quite as much as Worthing Garage', suggesting that they are cheaper, but not surprisingly cheaper, so option B is incorrect. She says that Worthing 'take so long. Hilltop only need it for an afternoon', this suggests that she thinks the staff at Hilltop Garage work quickly, so option C is correct.

5 A

The man says that 'they've changed the menu', but doesn't show surprise, so B is incorrect. He also says that the 'service was a lot better', but 'that didn't really make up for it', in this comment 'it' refers to the food, suggesting that the service was good, but he wasn't pleased by it (so option C is incorrect) because he was disappointed by the food (option A).

Reading Part 1 Page 9–10

1 B

In the email Tom writes, 'As you know, I've booked a room at the airport hotel', so Joe already knows about the plan, so A is not correct. At the end of the email Tom offers to do something for Joe, 'so let me know if you want me to book you one, too', so B is correct.

2 B

The advert says 'our popular tooth-whitening *special offer* is still open', informing patients of a discount (option B).

3 A

The notice informs guests that 'Friday's trip to the ancient city of Petra is cancelled', not postponed, so option C is not correct. B is also incorrect as the plan has not been changed. 'Unfortunately, the floods mean that the road is closed'. This explains the reason for the decision, therefore option A is correct.

4 C

The writer says that when he went to the motor race he 'had a good seat at the front, but unfortunately when you're there you have no idea of who's winning', suggesting he was disappointed he couldn't see the cars very well, so option C is correct. He states that it is 'simpler when it's on TV', but not more exciting, so option A is incorrect.

5 B

'Apparently it should be possible to check by video link rather than getting a taxi to the airport', here the passenger is asking if they have to come in and see the suitcase or if they can check it by using a video link, so option B is correct.

6 A

The note states that Anna 'now requires a higher quality instrument', so option B is correct. Option A is incorrect because the note says 'Anna is doing well', and option C is incorrect because 'she is playing for an hour a day'.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 B

Agia Paola (B) meets all of Amy's requirements. You can 'sign up for lessons' in sailing, there are clubs and 'single and double rooms are the same low price'. At Kostakis Hotel (D) you can do sailing classes, but it is not the correct answer because there are no discos and it does not mention whether or not you have to pay more for travelling alone.

2 C

Campofiore Hotel (C) meets all of Christina's requirements. There are 'beginners' language lessons', a shop where you 'can hire bikes', and it is 'minutes from the historic town of Palazzo'. At Zamsky National Park (A) there are 'beginner's language classes', but it does not mention anywhere to go cycling or visit old buildings, only learn about ancient monuments.

3 C

Campofiore Hotel (C) meets all of George's requirements. You can 'discover the secrets of making great Italian food', go to 'the historic town of Palazzo and its famous international arts and music festival', and eat at 'some of the area's top restaurants'. At Zamsky National Park (A) you can do classes on 'local cookery', but there is only one restaurant.

4 B

Agia Paola (B) meets all of Heinrich's requirements. There is 'a great value 'Recover your health' package with a personal trainer', 'a full range of water sports' and 'rock bands'. At Kostakis Hotel (D) there is live music, but there is no windsurfing available.

5 A

Zamsky National Park (A) meets all of Joanna's requirements. There are walks 'across the hills and through the forests', it is 'a region that only very few tourists have discovered', and 'in the evening you can relax in the warm waters of Lake Vlad'. At Campofiore Hotel (C) you can walk, but it does not offer swimming.

6 D

Kostakis Hotel (D) meets all of Tomas' requirements. You can 'watch traditional Greek musicians', it is 'family-run', they 'offer you a warm welcome', and 'breakfasts and simple evening meals included in the price'. At Agia Paola (B) there is live music and it is friendly, but not small and it does not mention whether or not you have to pay extra for the food, so option B is not correct.

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 C

The sentence before the gap mentions that learning 'doesn't just happen between our first day at school and our last day at university'. In option C 'earlier' means before 'our first day at school' and 'continues for much longer than that' means after 'our last day at university'.

2 F

In option F 'this' refers to interviewing students which is mentioned in the sentence before the gap. 'The reason' for the research project (to 'discover some useful tips') is given in the sentence after the gap.

3 G

'Marking text like this' in option G refers to writing notes on the page or underlining things, which is mentioned in the sentence before the gap. The use of 'however' in option G introduces the idea that it 'does not help', the sentence after the gap explains why.

4 D

In option D 'it' refers to re-reading, which is mentioned in the sentence before the gap. The following sentence states 'it works best if you re-read something after about four days', supporting the idea that 'it depends on how soon you do it'.

5 E

'Both of these techniques' in option E refers to 'answering questions at the back of a book and checking answers' and to 'asking and answering questions with a friend', which are mentioned in the sentence before the gap. The following sentence supports the idea that the techniques work well – 'self-testing is one of the best ways of remembering'.

6 A

'This advice' in option A refers to the advice given in the sentence before the gap, 'they say it is much better to try and learn less at any one time ...'. The sentence after the gap gives details of how the teacher could follow the advice, 'giving students lots of small exercises or quizzes ...'.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 B

'They believed that chimpanzees ... were cleverer than dolphins ... However, studies of dolphins of several different types have suggested that it could be the other way round'. In the past they believed that chimpanzees were more intelligent than dolphins, but now they think dolphins may be more intelligent than chimpanzees (option B).

2 B

'She (Candy Havholm) is seeing if she can teach them (dolphins) a range of hand signals'. Therefore, she is seeing what signs ('hand signals') dolphins can be taught to understand (option B). Option A is not correct because it does not say anything about recognizing **humans**, only to recognize 'she has trained them to recognize and come to her boat'. Option C is also incorrect as it is too general.

3 A

The main point of the paragraph is to show how dolphins are social creatures because they communicate and help and warn each other (option A). The writer says dolphins work together to catch food ('dolphins help each other when they are hunting'), but this is not the main point of the paragraph. Dolphins also have a language we cannot understand ('although we cannot understand dolphin sounds') but this is not the main point.

4 C

Option B is not correct because the text says that 'they can 'see' something up to 50 metres away', but does not say that they can work out how far away the objects are. Option A is also incorrect as the text mentions that dolphins 'help each other when they are hunting for fish' and 'they warn each other of danger' but does not talk about finding things that are safe to eat. The text says 'dolphin sounds ... are used to communicate thoughts and feelings', suggesting their ability to communicate with each other, so option C is correct.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

Model answer

Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for your message.

I am writing to confirm that we would like to make a booking. We would like to come at 10:00 on Friday 18th April. There will be about 25 students in our group.

Thank you for your offer of lunch at the restaurant. However, the group will not require a meal because they will bring their own lunch with them.

Please could you tell me the best way to get to the museum from the station? Would it be best to come by tube, or would the bus be more convenient?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Karl Moore

[114 words]

Writing Part 2 Page 15

Part 2A Essay model answer

These days many people use public transport, but there are also many who do not. We need to think about the advantages and disadvantages of using it.

Trains can be great for long journeys because they are comfortable. Buses are good in cities, and it's often easier and faster to travel by bus. Public transport is good for young people because they don't need a car or a driving licence.

On the other hand, public transport does have some disadvantages. Sometimes it is very expensive, and it is often cheaper for a family to travel by car. Another problem is that public transport is often very bad in the countryside.

If people use public transport, it's better for the environment, but buses and trains must be good and cheap or people will use their cars.

[134 words]

Part 2B Article model answer

There are always lots of exciting things to do at different times of the year, but my favourite time is December, just before Christmas.

I love it because the days are short and the nights are long. It's cold outside, and sometimes there is snow, but you can stay inside and keep warm by the fire.

In the weeks just before Christmas, it's fun to go shopping. There are lots of exciting things to buy and people always look happy. I love being with my family, and there are always lots of parties, so I can see all my friends too.

I know lots of people like the summer, but December is the best time for me.

[116 words]