



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH *for Schools*

B2 Practice Test 1

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

I'm always on my phone talking to my friends through messaging or social media. I don't own a camera, though – I just use my phone when I want to take a picture.

4 **Sample answer**

We don't have individual computers in the classroom, but the teachers use the projector to show things like videos and presentations. Students can use the computers in the library for homework or research.

5 **Sample answer**

A while ago, I had to research a famous politician for a school project. I didn't just copy and paste, though – I used the information to write my own text.

6 **Sample answer**

Both my parents cook, so it depends on the day – whoever gets home first. I do like my mother's food better, though.

7 **Sample answer**

I'm the only one who eats my food, so I only cook when I'm on my own. I made a good omelette some time ago. I quite like my pizza, too, but that's about it.

8 **Sample answer**

My mum makes a delicious lasagne, and I think that's something I could make if she taught me. I'm going to hang around in the kitchen and watch her making it next time.

Speaking Part 2A Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Debbie – Sandra here. Thank you so much for inviting me yesterday. I had such a great time. The only thing is that I forgot my jacket at your place! I must have left it in the kitchen because we were chatting there before I left, remember? Could you possibly bring it with you to school, so I can get it from you in the history lesson? Let me know.

Speaking Part 2B Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Josh! That's brilliant news. I'm thrilled for you! Not that I'm surprised – you've always written great stuff. I was absolutely sure one day your talent would be recognized. Was it for one of your poems or short stories? So, why don't we celebrate at the movies? There's a great film about Terens, who wrote *The Queen of Lost World*. Maybe you can get some inspiration for your next book!

Speaking Part 3 Page 4

Sample answer

Good morning, everyone. I'm going to be talking about a camping trip and a beach holiday. They are nothing like each other, but both can be really enjoyable. If you're feeling stressed, I'd say a weekend at the seaside is the best choice because you can really wind down. The problem is you might get a little bored after a while. Camping is usually great fun, especially if you are with your friends. The only issue with this type of holiday is when the weather doesn't help, like if it rains a lot or it's very cold, for instance. I think I'd rather go to the beach right now because giving a presentation like this is quite stressful!

Speaking Part 4 Page 4

1 Sample answer

A couple of weeks ago, I went on a road trip with my family. It absolutely poured down, but the scenery was so breathtaking that we didn't really mind.

2 Sample answer

I guess people enjoy visiting different places, eating exotic food, that kind of thing. They also want to get away from all the everyday problems. I don't think staying at home works for most people; they really need to get away from it all.

3 Sample answer

That depends on where I'm going. If it's somewhere like a resort or a cruise, I'd much rather be around a lot of people, so I can make new friends. On the other hand, when I'm somewhere more natural, I prefer it to be quieter, so I can enjoy the peace of it.

4 Sample answer

It's better to avoid the peak seasons if you can. It'll be boiling and also packed. If you're going somewhere like a beach, it might be better to travel in spring or autumn, when the weather is milder and it isn't so crowded.

5 Sample answer

In most cases, the cost of living is much higher, especially in terms of entertainment and eating out. Another downside is that the town can be absolutely packed in the high season. On the other hand, the transport system tends to be much better.

6 Sample answer

The cost of long-distance trips is bound to go down, and they'll be a lot faster, too. I reckon capital cities will invest more in technology to offer tourists a better experience. Museums, for instance, will be offering virtual tours and interactive exhibitions.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 B

The boy says 'It's just that I promised Mum I'd get the garage sorted out.'

2 B

The girl says the group selfie is 'Not bad, eh?' meaning that she likes it, and the boy replies 'Not at all. Send that one to me, will you?'

3 C

The radio presenter says the activity 'leading for the second year in a row' is 'getting in shape'.

4 A

In her final turn, the girl says 'What I had in mind was somewhere more remote and much less tropical!' This means that she doesn't want to go to the beach. Because she says she's 'a bit fed up with going to the same places', we also know that she doesn't want to go to the river.

5 C

The teacher says 'Have you considered a career in education?' meaning she thinks Thomas would be a good teacher.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 C

Millie says 'I was always in touch with my classmates', suggesting that that's how she kept up with her school studies.

2 A

Millie says 'I got a phone call from my uncle saying that the main actress in a play was too unwell to perform', suggesting that this is the reason why she took her big role.

3 B

Millie says 'I usually go for the classical tragedies', so she prefers acting in dramas.

4 A

Millie says 'I've had a few invitations to try out for some movie roles, but I want to put that off until I get my degree. College doesn't start for a few months', so she's going back to her studies in the near future.

5 B

Millie says 'even if you've got one line, make sure you work hard in the rehearsals', so her advice to students is to work hard and prepare well.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 boy

The boy says 'The main problem for me is that they don't just ruin it for themselves – it also affects people around them ... On my last holiday, for instance, there were so many people taking photos at a museum I went to, I had to wait for hours just to get a good look at some paintings.' However, the girl disagrees and says 'Famous museums have always been crowded. You can't really blame that on social media.'

2 boy

The boy says 'I really like photos, and they're the best way to have a record of the places you visited, too.' However, the girl disagrees and says 'Maybe that was the case in the old days ... Nowadays, people take so many photos, but hardly ever go back to look at them.'

3 girl

The girl says 'You can get great ideas of places to visit by looking at other people's profiles', but the boy isn't convinced because he says 'That's exactly what I used to do, until I went to this beach and saw it was completely different from the photos I had seen online. Pictures can be edited so heavily these days.'

4 girl

The girl says 'Let's not forget a lot of people depend on tourism. Numbers of visitors must shoot up when a place becomes popular online. Imagine how many jobs it creates.' However, the boy disagrees and says 'Just for a short time... Even then, I'm not convinced they spend much money either.'

5 both

The girl says 'There's another issue with this social media trend that I had forgotten: nowadays, people just go about taking photos of everything and everyone, without even asking for permission. It's so rude!' The boy agrees as he says 'More than that, there's a privacy principle involved. I mean, what if those people don't want their faces all over the Internet?'

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 A

The boy says 'There isn't a chat room or anything like that, though. It's important to have the chance to discuss the content with others', suggesting that he thinks there's a lack of opportunities for communication.

2 B

The boy says 'I think I'll pass this time', meaning that he won't go to see the movie next week. He adds 'let me know if there's anything else you'd like to see. I'd be happy to go along', but he doesn't actually reschedule the arrangement.

3 B

The girl says 'there was a late surprise that I never saw coming', meaning that the ending was unexpected.

4 C

The girl says 'I'm not thrilled with my performance, but it could have been way worse', meaning that she was neither delighted nor disappointed with her performance, just satisfied.

5 A

The girl says 'But you aren't collecting the coins as you go along, so our score is going to be much lower than the other team's', suggesting that you have to collect the most points to win.

Reading Part 1 Page 9

1 C

The writer says 'In most cases' photographers should try to keep the background 'neutral', but suggests that they should 'ask any people in the shot to move slightly to the side' if 'the background itself is interesting'. He is not suggesting that either of these approaches would necessarily be new to photographers.

2 C

Eliana says that her friends 'said [she'd] be able to guess the right answers but that really wasn't the case.' This means they gave her bad advice.

3 B

The text says 'please spread the word in the community and encourage people to give generously. You must raise at least £50 in order to join in on the day.' This means that the steps the parents need to take are letting people know about the sponsored cycle, and encouraging them to donate money so they can raise the £50 they need to participate in the cycle ride.

4 A

The text says 'The monthly fee, however, is considerably higher than other products on the market, and as great as the app is, I'm not sure there's enough to justify the investment.' 'Not sure' shows that the writer is unconvinced that the app offers good value for money.

5 C

The text says 'As such, when using the computers, please take sensible precautions and avoid...' and then lists a number of safety measures. However, it does not say the rules are new and students are only required to limit their personal computer usage if other people want to use the computers 'for educational research purposes.'

6 A

The text begins 'We are delighted to have you in our flat', showing that the main purpose of the note is to welcome the guests. It also says 'please email me with any questions you have', but this is not the main purpose of the notice. Finally, it says 'the Wi-Fi password is AnaClara1973, by the way', but this information isn't the main purpose of the note because it is in brackets, and the phrase *by the way* means this is something that has just been thought of.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 C

Kelsey says 'I studied literature at college, and I think having that background gives you confidence about the quality of what you've written.'

2 C

Kelsey says 'Life is complicated, and so fiction should be, too. All my heroes have faults, and my villains have soft spots.'

3 B

Declan says 'In some ways, I'd say it's a lot more difficult to write for them than for adults', meaning that he thinks children are more demanding readers than adults.

4 A

Emily says 'Before my big hit, I had published several books [...] but none of them got much attention from critics or fellow authors.' This suggests that other writers only gave her their approval after her big hit.

5 B

Declan says 'I've started to experiment with alternative formats [...] My latest novel was published online, in weekly episodes.' This means he has tried a different approach with his latest novel.

6 A

Emily says 'For me, writing is all about how much I grow with each and every one of my books.'

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 C

The sentence that comes before the gap talks about 'whatever the world could throw at him.' The pronoun 'what' in Sentence C refers back to the idea in the sentence before and also links to the pronoun 'it' in the sentence following the gap.

2 G

The sentence that comes before the gap talks about whether Dean 'should take her with him.' The pronoun 'it' in Sentence G refers back to the idea in the sentence before and is also linked with 'however' in the sentence following the gap.

3 A

The sentence that comes before the gap talks about the kitten riding in Dean's basket. The pronoun 'she' in Sentence A refers back to the kitten. The pronoun 'they' in the sentence following the gap links back to Dean riding his bike with the kitten on his shoulders.

4 F

The sentence before the gap talks about 'a heavy rainstorm' and the sentence after the gap talks about how Dean took the kitten 'back to the vet.' This suggests the cat was unwell, which links to the 'chest infection' in Sentence F.

5 B

The sentence after the gap talks about something that was 'a great success.' This links back to the 'website where people could donate money' that is mentioned in Sentence B.

6 D

The pronoun 'he' in Sentence D refers back to 'the puppy' in the sentence before the gap. We know that the puppy is male because of the pronoun 'him' in the sentence after the gap.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 B

The text says that emotion AI is 'capable of reading our expressions and comparing them to a database of basic emotions in order to understand our mood', meaning that it can assess feelings by analysing faces.

2 A

The text says 'Your personal devices will identify how you react to commercials and new products, which companies claim would allow them to display more relevant content', suggesting that businesses will be able to measure more accurately the effects of advertisements.

3 A

The text says 'social media sites already have the means to recognize our faces in photos', meaning they already have methods which allow them to recognize our faces. Although you could say that social media sites already have the finances to 'recognize our faces in photos', it is technology rather than just money which allows them to do this, so this is incorrect. 'Means' can be used to mean 'averages', but this does not fit with the meaning of the paragraph.

4 C

The text says 'there will be advantages and disadvantages. One thing is for sure, there needs to be a thorough debate in society about how it will be regulated', suggesting that the writer feels cautious because emotion AI could be misused in the future. It also says 'it seems a matter of time before emotion AI is present in other areas of our lives, whether we like it or not', which suggests that the writer has accepted that emotion AI will become a reality, and 'there will be advantages and disadvantages', suggesting that the writer is willing to consider a positive side to emotion AI.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

Sample answer

Dear Mrs Townsend,

Thank you for your email.

I had loads of fun on the trip to London. The weather was lovely and the places we visited were amazing. The only thing I would suggest is to have a little longer to go shopping. By the time I had had something to eat, it was already time to go back to the coach.

I'm afraid I'm not available that weekend: I'm going to a football match with my family! I would be thrilled to join any other trip, though.

In terms of suggestions, I would love to visit Oxford. One of my friends who went there said it was absolutely gorgeous. It isn't very far either.

Please let me know if you change the date.

All the best,

Sam

[145 words]

Writing Part 2 Page 15

Sample answer – essay

Parents often wonder if their children are leaving school fully prepared for life. Some believe that, apart from the traditional subjects, it is essential for them to be taught more practical skills such as cooking or managing finances. I agree that students would really benefit from this.

Some students have a very narrow view that most of what they learn in the classroom is useless. They don't realize that we study history, for instance, so that the same mistakes are not repeated. Nevertheless, schools do tend to emphasize knowledge over skills.

In addition to academic learning, students also need to know the basics of everyday life, such as cooking meals or managing their first salary, for when they leave home. However, these skills don't have to be taught separately. They can be combined with existing subjects.

To sum up, it is essential that schools teach life skills, but in addition to, not instead of, more formal academic knowledge.

[158 words]

Sample answer – review

About two months ago, I was visiting London when I came across this shop called Movie Store: it's the perfect place for fans of movies like me.

I had never seen so many products related to films in one place. Toys, video games, clothes, books, posters, stationery – the list continues. The decoration was amazing: there was even a spaceship you could have your photo taken with.

The staff were really friendly and they were even dressed as characters from movies! They were also experts on different movies, so I could have a good chat with them.

Everything comes at a price, so I wasn't surprised to see that the prices were quite high. I didn't buy much stuff because I didn't have much money on me, but I had so much fun for a couple of hours.

I would recommend Movie Store to anyone who's in London and loves movies!

[150 words]