



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B2 PRACTICE TEST 1



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Speaking

Parts 1 & 2

Part 1 Interview

01.01 You are going to answer eight questions. You have 10 seconds per question for questions 1 and 2, and 20 seconds per question for questions 3–8. Start speaking when you hear this tone.

Part 2 Voicemail 1

01.02 You are going to leave a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

You recently took your car to a garage to have a problem fixed. You are not satisfied with the work that was carried out. Leave a voicemail message for the garage manager. In your message, you should:

- say who you are
- explain why you are not satisfied
- say what you want the garage owner to do.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Part 2 Voicemail 2

01.03 You are going to reply to a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listen to the message from your friend about a party. Then, leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- thank your friend for the suggestion
- tell your friend why you don't like the suggestion
- say which place you prefer for the party and why.

Now listen to the message.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Part 3

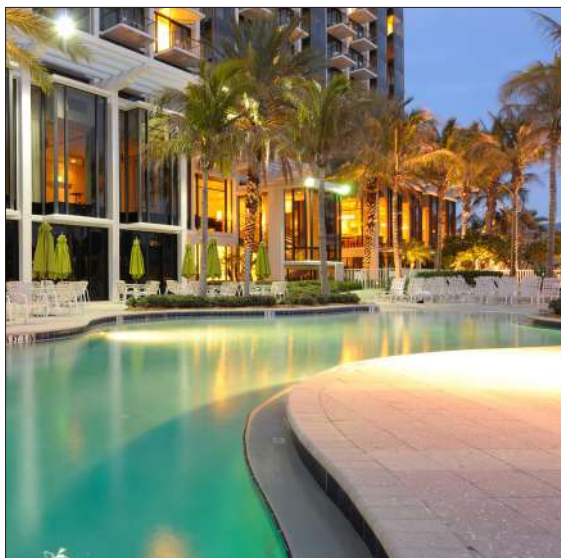
01.04 You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task, and start speaking when you hear the tone.

The town where you live has a large empty building and the town's residents need to decide what the best use for the building would be. You are going to give a talk to your English class about different ways of using the building.

Choose **two** photographs. Tell your class about how these two ideas might be a good use for the building.

You now have 30 seconds to think about what you want to say.

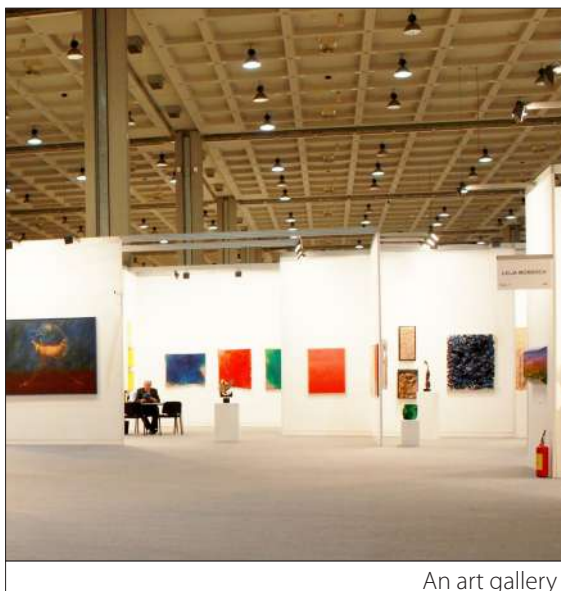
You now have one minute to give your talk.



A hotel



A sports centre



An art gallery



A shopping centre

Part 4

01.05 You are going to answer six questions about your talk. You have 30 seconds to answer each question. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listening

Part 1

11.06 Listen and choose the correct picture (A, B, or C).

1 A young woman is leaving a voicemail message for her mother. How does the woman plan to travel?



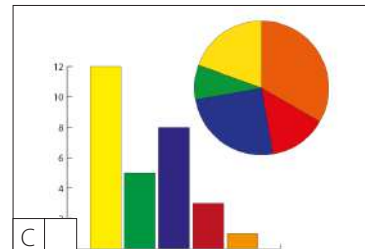
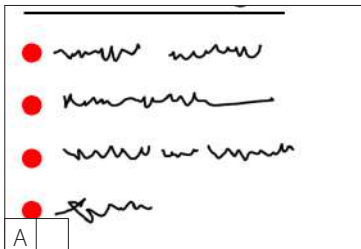
2 A husband and wife are making plans for their day. What do they agree should be done first?



3 Two colleagues are discussing a conference they have just attended. What did they both particularly like about the conference venue?



4 A student and a lecturer are discussing the student's presentation. Which area of the presentation does the student need to work on?



5 A shop assistant is leaving a voicemail message for a customer. Which item is the shop unable to deliver to the customer?



Part 2

1.07 Listen to a holiday camp representative give a talk to some new guests. Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) for each gap (1–5). The first one (0) has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

Sparky's Holiday Camp

- 0 Kris will be available for a furtherC.....
A 14 days
B 7 days
C 2 days

Facilities

- 1 Only the Brown Zone of the holiday camp has a
A free telephone
B map of the site
C full-time staff member
- 2 The pool's still needs attention before it can be officially opened.
A diving zone
B cleaning system
C surrounding area

Activities

- 3 The golf instructor is currently unavailable due to
A illness
B family commitments
C other work responsibilities
- 4 Sailing classes are now being offered to
A all guests
B adults only
C adults and teenagers

Services

- 5 Guests can see the at any time of the day or night.
A nurse
B doctor
C first-aid team




Part 3

1.08 Listen to a man and a woman talking about planning a school show. Match the people (woman, man, or both) to the opinions below. The first one (0) has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.




0 Getting the show ready on time may prove challenging.

		
woman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> man	both




1 There is no need to increase the length of the show.

		
woman	man	both




2 It would be a good idea to have a comic act this year.

		
woman	man	both




3 A dance act would prove popular with the audience.

		
woman	man	both

4 Student involvement in organizing last year's show was a success.

		
woman	man	both

5 Convenience should be the priority from this point forward.

		
woman	man	both

Part 4

1.09 Listen and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

- 1 A husband and wife are talking about an art exhibition they have visited. What is the woman's opinion of the exhibition?
 - A She felt it was poorly organized.
 - B She found the paintings uninspiring.
 - C She regrets paying the admission fee.

- 2 A man is leaving a voicemail message for his colleague. Why is he leaving the message?
 - A to inform his colleague that he is running late
 - B to let his colleague know that he is feeling unwell
 - C to complain to his colleague about how long a job is taking

- 3 A husband and wife are discussing a history documentary. What is the topic of tonight's programme?
 - A animal shelters
 - B farming tools
 - C cooking methods

- 4 A woman is leaving a message for a member of a professional organization. The organization is mainly concerned with ...
 - A illustrating family trees.
 - B researching family history.
 - C organizing family parties.

- 5 A brother and sister are talking about the sister's wedding. How does the woman feel about her friend?
 - A frustrated that her friend has not been in touch with her
 - B irritated that there has been no offer of help from her friend
 - C disappointed that her friend is unable to attend the wedding

Reading

Part 1

1 Read the email and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

FROM: TXN Downloads

TO: Emma Francis

Your ID was used at 10:05 today to download a podcast from a computer not previously associated with your account. If you recognize this activity on your account, you can disregard this email. However, if you were not responsible, you should click on My Details in the top right-hand corner of the homepage. You must then change your password as soon as possible.

What does the email advise Emma to do?

- A check when she last made a download
- B use only one computer for making downloads
- C send confirmation she's using a different computer

2 Read the notice and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Members of basketball team

As of today, any future changes concerning the basketball team will be displayed on the noticeboard in the reception area.

You must refer to the match fixtures and accompanying player list regularly to see if the position you play has changed and whether there have been any updates to the match schedule.

This notice is to ensure players are aware of a change to:

- A the selection of players for matches
- B the dates on which matches will take place
- C the location of information about the matches

3 Read the text message and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Amy. Have you decided about that last remaining flat on the website for next weekend? I sent you the link to it, remember? There's a strict cancellation policy, so we won't get anything back if we change our minds. Tell me if you want to go ahead and I'll do the rest. Also, is Sarah still stopping over? The flat owner needs all our details. Lucy

What would Lucy like Amy to do?

- A read through the details of the flat's cancellation policy
- B make a booking for the flat she has seen on the website
- C provide information about who will be staying at the flat

4 Read the advert and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Good news! You can try an introductory pack of Globe coffee for the special price of £1. We choose beans from our carefully selected range, grind them according to your brewing method, and deliver to your home for the price quoted – with postage and packaging included.

Offer available for a limited period only.

What does the advert say about Globe coffee?

- A The kind of coffee you choose should be a matter of personal taste.
- B The date you place your order affects when your coffee will be delivered.
- C The sample you receive will be suitable for the way in which you prepare coffee.

5 Read the note and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Jem,

Someone from Park College rang. Because of a cancellation, a place is now available on the computer course you asked about. If you're still interested, get in touch by the end of the week – the number's 568830. Otherwise, they'll offer it to somebody on the reserve list. The start date's now a week earlier than when you originally called.

What does Jem need to do?

- A confirm whether he is able to make the change of course date
- B avoid any delay in responding since the demand for places is high
- C inform the college if he is going to turn down his place on the course

6 Read the text message and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Hi Claire – it's Patrick. A letter from the university has just arrived for Tom – he rang last night to say he wouldn't be back from holiday until the weekend, but you were going to pick it up and sort everything out. I'm going to work now, but Ed is home till lunchtime. I've left the letter on the kitchen table. Ed knows where it is.

Why has Patrick written this text message?

- A to inform Claire that she can pick the letter up this morning
- B to tell Claire to check with Ed before calling round for the letter
- C to remind Claire that Tom wants her to collect the letter at the weekend

Part 2

The people below are looking for a suitable music website. Read the information about the people and the music websites, and choose the best music website (A, B, C, or D) for each person.

Music websites – Daniel Guard reviews the best online music sites

A Buzz

This site has a huge library of music from the last 75 years and is definitely the place to visit if you're hunting down a track that's difficult to get. There's more to this site, however, than its extensive library. In a number of online interviews, you can hear artists respond to a range of questions about themselves, their work and the inspiration for their music, as well as watch clips from the most talked about music videos of recent months. There are regular updates on the lucky winners of the latest awards and predictions about who'll be the next big thing. In terms of sheer range, few other sites can compete.

B What music?







This recently relaunched site is great for discovering new releases and reading about industry events. The cost of downloads is competitive and there's a wide variety of recently released, non-mainstream music, including an unparalleled selection of world music. Add to that coverage of what's trending, predictions for major music prizes, sections on upcoming tours and links to ticket and merchandise sellers, and you can see why the site's a success. If you're looking for new release reviews, many members have blogs – or you can write your own. There's a small fee to join, but if you're interested in music lessons, or have an instrument to sell, you get access to a wide community of musicians.

C Zac music

The original intention behind this website was to bring together the opinions of like-minded pop, rock and jazz fans in one place, but it has grown to be more than that. In addition to the blogs posted by site members, there are regular reviews of new releases and fascinating online interviews with both new and established musical talents. These range from promotional clips to in-depth interviews about an artist's background and musical inspiration. Accounts are free of charge and allow you to download music from the sizeable library and print music you want to learn to play. Check out the noticeboard if you want to post an ad to sell a second-hand instrument.

D Listen in

This site started life as a music magazine but is now an interesting experiment in digital publishing. In addition to a wide variety of musical genres to download – as well as a small library of tracks available without charge, journalists review a selection of new releases each week, and rate a selection of trending tracks. The articles are certainly worth a read, too – especially if you're considering paying for a particular download. There's also a section with news on who's playing live around the world and links to sites selling tickets – invaluable if you always find out about concerts once they've already sold out!

- 1  Ella is interested in finding a music website where she can read recommendations about the latest albums. She also wants to find out when her favourite bands are performing, and be able to make a number of downloads from the site for free.
- 2  Tim is looking for a site where he can read the views of other music lovers as well as get information about the lives of musicians that interest him. He plays the piano, and wants to download sheet music as well as audio tracks.
- 3  Zoe enjoys listening to music from a range of countries and would like a website where she can share her views with other people. She is also interested in keeping up to date with nominations for the latest music awards.
- 4  Simon is looking for a website that makes recommendations about the best albums to buy, and allows you to download some tracks for free. He is also a keen musician, and is interested in adding to his collection of guitars.
- 5  Monica is particularly interested in early jazz and she would like a website where she can download rarer tracks. She would also like to learn more about a range of artists and their lives, and find out whose work has recently received an award.
- 6  Alex would like to find a website where he can find out what other people think of his favourite bands' latest albums and receive information about their concert dates. He is also interested in replacing his drum set which was recently damaged.

Part 3

Six sentences are missing from this text. Choose the correct sentence (A–G) for each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Growing vegetables in space

Journalist Alan Yuhas describes how astronauts enjoyed eating a vegetable they grew themselves.

For the first time in the history of space exploration, astronauts on board the International Space Station (ISS) have eaten a fresh vegetable they have grown themselves. The aim of the experiment, which was promoted by America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), was to make spacecraft on longer missions more self-sustaining. The three American crew members of *Expedition 44* harvested their space-grown romaine lettuces several days ago.¹ The verdict of astronaut Scott Kelly was that they 'tasted good – kind of like arugula.'

The intention behind the experiment, officially called *Veg-01*, but nicknamed *Veggie*, was to improve the methods needed to grow plants in orbit.²

The ability to grow food is regarded as critical to future long-duration spaceflight. According to NASA scientist Tabatha Thompson, '... this is an important experiment not just for life on the space station, but also for future deep-space missions on our journey to Mars.'

NASA performed an earlier version of the *Veggie* experiment last year.³ According to NASA spokesperson Stephanie Schierholz, the plants were 'as clean, if not cleaner' than grocery store fare. This encouraged NASA scientists to conduct a further experiment. They therefore included on board *Expedition 44* a selection of seeds and germination equipment.

Schierholz believes this latest experiment will help NASA break free from the resupply flights which, although essential, impose a number of restrictions.⁴

Astronauts on the ISS usually have about six months' worth of food at a given time. Gardens, however, could make a spacecraft relatively self-sustaining. 'The more independent we can get from the need to resupply, the greater we can explore,' she says.

A further advantage is that fresh foods provide valuable nutritional benefits for astronauts who otherwise rely on packaged goods that are designed to endure the stressful conditions of space.⁵ According to Ray Wheeler, a NASA researcher, having fresh food like this available could even help to protect astronauts against radiation.

There is also a psychological benefit. Astronauts do not have a grocery store they can call into to get fresh food, and the vegetables grown on board are a welcome reminder of unpackaged food from home.⁶ This benefit was confirmed in a recent statement by NASA: 'The farther and longer humans travel into space, the greater the need to be able to grow plants for food and psychological benefits.'

- A In space, however, people's sense of taste tends to change, at least for the first few days.
- B On this occasion, astronauts didn't eat the plants but froze them and brought them back to Earth for analysis.
- C The antioxidants provided by tomatoes and red lettuce, for example, could keep astronauts healthier.
- D They become increasingly difficult – if not impossible – as missions venture farther from Earth.
- E Before eating them, they cleaned them with sanitizing wipes, and dressed them with extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar.
- F Astronauts have reported that simply having plants around is comforting and makes them feel less out of touch with Earth.
- G To achieve this, it is necessary to find out how they respond to a micro-gravity environment.

Part 4

Read the article about a young sailor. For questions 1–4, choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Promising young sailor

Thirty-two-year-old British sailor Hannah White is trying to become the fastest woman on water by breaking the women's speed record, over one nautical mile, in a new state-of-the-art dinghy. She admits it won't be easy, but says she's more interested in encouraging people to give sailing a go
 5 than becoming the new record holder. It's not difficult to see why. Sailing has long had a reputation as an elitist sport, mainly due to the high costs involved, but White believes you can sail on a manageable budget. Her own, for example, is £250,000 a year, which she earns through sponsors.

White entered the world of sailing at 15 when a school friend invited her on a family holiday to the Isle of Wight's Cowes Week, a famous annual sailing competition. 'It was a great social event,' she
 10 says. 'That got me hooked, rather than actually sailing. Being cold and wet on a boat didn't seem so glamorous really.' She knew she always wanted to go back, she says, but it took a few months to realize she wanted to go as a competitor rather than a spectator.

At 19, she entered her own boat into Cowes. She then spent a year sailing around Australia, and when she was 21, she entered a race to cross the Atlantic solo. The venture, though, didn't go
 15 according to plan. 'I only got halfway across', she says. 'It was a disaster. I had tons of confidence but lacked experience. There was lots of hype about me, as the young kid on the block, and I'd started to think it was all true. But alone out in the Atlantic the cracks soon appear'.

She didn't let this stop her, and set about becoming a better sailor, spending every hour she could improving her skills. She also started a career in television broadcasting, working at various sailing
 20 events. She's aware of the negative press about her chances of breaking the speed record, but brushes this aside. 'I know I'm a good sailor, and to be honest, I'm too busy right now staying focused'.

- 1 In the first paragraph, what do we learn about White's plan to break the world record?
 - A She believes it will attract new sponsors.
 - B She considers it to be her greatest challenge.
 - C She hopes it will make sailing more accessible.
- 2 What does the writer suggest is the reason for White's failure in the transatlantic race?
 - A She needed greater self-belief.
 - B She should have waited until she was older.
 - C She was influenced by other people's opinions of her.
- 3 In line 17, what does 'it' refer to?
 - A hype
 - B experience
 - C confidence
- 4 What is suggested about White in the last paragraph?
 - A She finds it hard to adapt to change.
 - B She has failed to learn certain lessons.
 - C She is not easily distracted from her goals.

Writing

Part 1

You have 20 minutes to write an email. Write 80–130 words.

The college you go to has been open for 25 years. First read the email below from Mr Gilbert, the Principal. Then write an email to Mr Gilbert, including the three notes you have made.

FROM: Mr Gilbert
SUBJECT: College's 25th birthday

Dear Student,

Next month the college will have been open for 25 years. At a recent staff meeting it was suggested that the college hold some events to celebrate this.

Great!

I am writing to ask students for their ideas for suitable events to celebrate the college's 25th birthday. Do you have any?

Suggest ...

I would also like to ask any students who are interested in helping at these events to contact me. Would you like to help?

offer to ...

Best wishes,

Mr Gilbert
Principal

Part 2

For Writing Part 2, choose one question, the essay **OR** the article.

Part 2 Essay

You have 25 minutes to write an essay. Write 100–160 words.

You have had a class discussion about the importance of good neighbours. Your teacher now wants you to write an essay.

The title of the essay is:

Is it important to have good neighbours?

Write your **essay**.

Part 2 Article

You have 25 minutes to write an article. Write 100–160 words.

You have seen the following advert in an online magazine for English language students.

My summer holiday

Where did you go on holiday? What did you do there? Did you enjoy it?

Write an article and tell us.

We will publish the best articles in next month's issue of our magazine.

Write your **article**.

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