



OXFORD
TEST OF ENGLISH
for Schools

B1 PRACTICE TEST 2



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Test 2

Speaking

Part 1 Interview

1.01 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 the tone. Try to speak for the full amount of time.

Part 2 Voice message 1

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

You were going to take part in a school concert tomorrow, but now you cannot. Leave a voice message for the school secretary. In your message, you should:

- say who you are
- explain why you cannot take part in the concert
- tell the secretary what you want them to do.

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

Part 2 Voice message 2

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

Listen to the message from your friend about a sports team. Then, leave a voice message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- respond to your friend's news
- ask some questions about the team
- say what you think your friend should do.

Now listen to the message.

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

Part 3 Talk

1.04 You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task. You have 60 seconds to give your talk. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

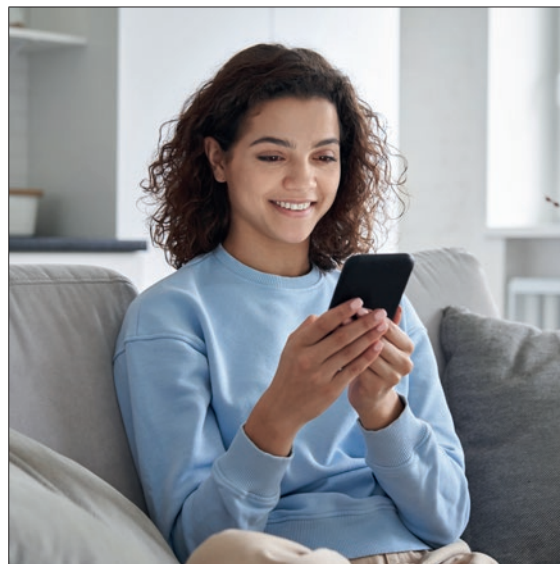
You are going to give a talk to your English class about ways of communicating with friends.

Choose **two** photographs. Tell your class about the advantages and disadvantages of communicating in these two different ways.

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



Phone call



Social media



Face-to-face



Online video games

Part 4 Follow-up questions

1.05 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

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

1 A brother and sister are in a clothes shop. Which T-shirt do they decide to buy for their cousin?



2 A woman is talking about recycling in a podcast. Which type of waste is she discussing in this episode?



3 Two classmates are talking about school clubs. Which school club does the boy find most useful now?



4 A boy is leaving a voice message for his friend. Where does he suggest they spend the afternoon?



5 Two classmates are talking about summer jobs. Where is the boy going to work?



Part 2

2.02 Listen to a teacher talking about a school project. Choose the correct answers to complete the notes. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.




End-of-term history project

- 0 The project is about ...**C**.....
- A a historic building.
 - B an important event.
 - C the students' town.
- 1 The students should do the project
- A alone.
 - B in pairs.
 - C in small groups.
- 2 Students have to write at least words.
- A 1,000
 - B 1,200
 - C 1,500
- 3 For the class presentation, students should avoid
- A reading out their essays.
 - B showing a lot of photographs.
 - C using complicated technology.
- 4 The teacher says the best source of information is
- A official documents.
 - B the Internet.
 - C older people.
- 5 All the projects will be shown
- A in the library.
 - B on the school blog.
 - C at the town hall.




Part 3

2.03 Listen to a boy and a girl talking about a video game event. Match the people (the **girl**, the **boy**, or **both**) to the opinions below. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.




0 The event was very crowded.

		
✓ girl	boy	both




1 The entrance price was fair.

		
girl	boy	both




2 The talks were very interesting.

		
girl	boy	both




3 The costumes were more original than in previous years.

		
girl	boy	both

4 There was a wide range of games to play.

		
girl	boy	both

5 The organizers should improve the food services.

		
girl	boy	both

Part 4

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

- 1 A tennis player is discussing a competition with her coach. What does the coach want her to do?**
 - A to trust her abilities more
 - B to focus on winning
 - C to try to relax

- 2 A boy is leaving a voice message for his friend. Why is the boy leaving the message?**
 - A to invite his friend to a celebration
 - B to remind his friend to keep a secret
 - C to inform his friend of a change in location

- 3 Two classmates are talking about a boy in their class. They both think that the boy should ...**
 - A apologize for his mistakes.
 - B avoid hurting other people's feelings.
 - C manage his emotions better.

- 4 A teacher is talking about a writing competition. What do students have to write for the competition?**
 - A a short story
 - B a play
 - C an article

- 5 Two friends are talking about a film version of a book. What do they agree about?**
 - A The excitement was missing.
 - B The acting was weak.
 - C The book was much better.

Reading

Part 1

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



Ed, it's your sister's play this evening, remember? I'm going straight from work, so your uncle Ben is coming to pick you up and take you to meet us there. Make sure you're ready so you're both here on time, OK?

Love, Mum

Why did Ed's mother leave him the note?

- A to inform him of arrangements for an event
- B to remind him when an event starts
- C to request that he attends an event

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

Hi Emma!

I've already checked the text for mistakes. Something we forgot is to find some images to make it look professional. Is there any way you could take care of that? I'd ask Louise, but she's already working on adding the list of books we used for reference. Filip

What does Filip want Emma to do?

- A to include the sources of the essay
- B to add photos to the essay
- C to correct errors in the essay

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

More English

A new language-learning app.

My friend recommended this app to learn English. It takes a while to work out how the app is designed, but once you get used to it, you see there's an impressive range of resources for study. The price is slightly above average, but well worth it.

What is the writer pleased with?

- A how cheap the app is
- B how easy the app is to use
- C how much content the app has

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

TO: Coach Ferguson
 FROM: Ellie Parker
 SUBJECT: This weekend

We've got that big game on Sunday, but on Saturday I've got this family wedding, which means I'm afraid I won't be able to make the training session. I'll be available on Sunday, but I completely understand if you'd prefer to replace me. We're sure to win whatever happens! Go Team! Best, Ellie

Why is Ellie writing to her coach?

- A** to suggest another player takes her place for the game
- B** to wish her teammates luck for the game
- C** to explain why she needs to skip the practice for the game

5 Read the notice and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).**Chess club**

Are you looking to meet new people in a sociable environment? Then why not join us every Tuesday night for a game or two?! Students of various abilities are welcome and you can bring a classmate, too. And once you're good enough – there are national competitions waiting for you!

The Chess Club is for players who ...

- A** have experience of playing at a certain level.
- B** are interested in growing their friendship circles.
- C** want to take it much more seriously.

6 Read the notice and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).**Come and shop at the Farmer's Market!**

Fresh ingredients including meat, cheese and vegetables – everything you need to cook delicious recipes for your family. All our producers live near the market, so you know your food didn't begin its journey on the other side of the world! Everything is chemical-free, and because you're buying locally, you'll find cheap prices, too!

The main purpose of the notice is ...

- A** to help people save money and time.
- B** to promote environmentally-friendly shopping.
- C** to encourage people to prepare dishes at home.

Part 2

Art at school

Three students talk about studying art



Ajay

Studying art is definitely not a waste of time. It benefits our whole education because it makes us more creative and better thinkers. That helps in all the other lessons we have at school. I don't think anyone can argue with how important art is. At my school though, we've only got one hour of art a week, and that's sort of sad. I understand most people are not thinking about working with art. However, you become a better individual studying it. For example, it has taught me not only to concentrate better, but also that you need to work hard to get results. And there's something else, too: through art, we get to learn a lot about other cultures. By understanding others better, we're helping to make our planet a more peaceful place – which is something we really need right now!



Louise

I've got one art class, once a week, and that's already too much, to be honest. It's not that I don't appreciate art, I just don't think we should be studying it. The problem isn't because we're painting a vase of flowers or something like that – I wouldn't like to have other sorts of art lessons at school either. I just think we should focus on other things I consider more important, like English or maths. As I said, I really like art, but the way I see it, it's more of a hobby. I know not everyone shares that point of view, but that's what I think. For example, I love drawing, but I do it in my own time – it really helps me relax after I finish my homework. I even think that for some people art can help them grow as individuals.



Yasemin

At our school, art classes are optional. So the way our school works is that we have to study some subjects and we can choose others – all within study hours. I think that's the best way because if you're not into art, you can just do something else instead. Some of my friends prefer to use that time to do more sport or computer science. I myself am thinking of making a living as a painter. So I participate in everything related to art that I can at school: painting, drawing, sculpture. The good thing about this system is that all the students in the art classes really want to be there, so the classes are much more interesting. But maybe schools should make every student have art classes. Art is a global language: people from all across the planet can look at a painting and feel the same thing.

Read the questions (1–6) and match them to the correct text about art at school (A–C).

- 1 Who believes art classes are a poor use of school hours?
A Ajay B Louise C Yasemin
- 2 Who is considering a career related to art?
A Ajay B Louise C Yasemin
- 3 Who believes studying art improves their performance in other subjects?
A Ajay B Louise C Yasemin
- 4 Who studies more than one form of art at school?
A Ajay B Louise C Yasemin
- 5 Who says they have achieved personal improvement because of art?
A Ajay B Louise C Yasemin
- 6 Who admits some people might disagree with their opinion on the role of art?
A Ajay B Louise C Yasemin

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.

Do whales have cultures?

Experts argue whether these giant animals have a social organization like humans

Scientists have been discussing for a long time now if only humans can have culture, or whether animals also have cultural features. One of the animal families that seems to show culture the most are whales. Their amazing skills and behaviour put them at the centre of this academic discussion.

Proving that animals have culture has been a very hard task.¹ Some experts believe culture requires mainly social learning – how animals teach behaviours to the younger members of their group. Others claim that a more complex set of skills is necessary to prove there is culture.

Those who argue for animal culture point to whales for a number of reasons.² In fact, they have the biggest brain in the natural world. It is true that culture is not just about intelligence, but whales also show a range of other incredible social skills.

A clear way to measure cultural influence on animals is to study differences between very similar groups. For example, scientists have researched two groups of whales in Canada.³ However, there is a strong contrast in their behaviour, including the way they hunt, eat and play.

Apart from how they act, these two groups of whales also communicate very differently. One group sings using longer sounds, while the other sounds more like monkeys or birds.⁴ According to some researchers, the only explanation for so many differences is that they have culture.

Whales are also excellent examples of social learning in the animal world. Most groups of whales are guided by the more experienced female animals, who show the younger ones what to do.⁵ They not only take care of their own children, but of all the young whales in their group, teaching them and even feeding them milk. When the adults go hunting, one whale will often stay behind, taking care of the younger ones.

Even with so much evidence, many experts still refuse to accept the idea that whales, or any other animal, can have culture.⁶ Admitting that animals show cultural features brings them uncomfortably close to ourselves. That makes it much more difficult for us to destroy where they live and put them in cages.

- A They are the exact same animal family, living close to each other and in very similar conditions.
- B One of the possible reasons for that might be the consequences that would bring.
- C You might think that learning and teaching information is a human characteristic.
- D One of the main challenges is to define exactly what it is.
- E Many other animals do the same, but there is a key difference with whales.
- F The main one is that they are among the smartest animals on the planet.
- G It's like two human villages next to each other in which separate languages are spoken.

Part 4

Read the article about being creative. For each question (1–4), choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

I've always liked to be creative: as a child, I used to love writing songs. When I first started working, I used my pay to buy a second-hand camera and took up photography. I tried to create beautiful, artistic images, but I wasn't much good at it! My real ambition was to produce a novel; it was then that I realized I'd have to become much better at coming up with original ideas, so I decided to look into ways of becoming more creative.

I discovered that there are actually a lot of false beliefs about this topic. One of them is that we are either born creative or not, so it's a quality that some people have and others don't. The truth is that we all have in our possession the same tool – our wonderful brain! With a bit of hard work and focus, every one of us can put **it** to use to have brilliant – and original – ideas.

One of the most common difficulties that people have is that they just don't know where to start. There are so many different topics, kinds, and styles of writing that it can actually block the creative process! Many beginner writers just feel totally lost! So having some limits can actually be quite useful. Take the haiku for example. This is a type of Japanese poem. It has a very specific length – three lines, the first with five syllables, then seven syllables, then five again. You may think that would make them harder to write, but for most people, it's the other way round.

- 1 The writer began his research into this topic because he wanted ...
 - A a more creative job.
 - B his writing to be more creative.
 - C to take more creative photos.
- 2 What does the writer say about being creative in the second paragraph?
 - A Anyone can be creative if they really want to.
 - B Most people have a good idea of what being creative means.
 - C Some people have a more creative mind than others.
- 3 In the second paragraph, what does '**it**' refer to in the last sentence?
 - A a belief
 - B the brain
 - C hard work
- 4 What would be the best title for this text?
 - A Creative thinking from a young age
 - B A step-by-step guide to being creative
 - C You can be creative, too!

Writing

Part 1

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

You attended a meeting of the school's Environment Club. First, read the email below from Mrs Goodward, the teacher who is organizing the club. Then write an email to Mrs Goodward, including the three notes you have made.

FROM: Mrs Goodward
SUBJECT: Environmental Club

Hello,

Thanks for taking part in the Environment Club last Thursday. I'm writing to ask you if you have any ideas on how to improve our meetings.

Tell her

Our next meeting is after school on Tuesday. Can you attend?

No, because...

Before we meet, we have to decide about our next project. We could help clean up the town centre or help plant trees in the park. What do you think?

Say which and why

Best wishes,

Mrs Goodward

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 on the importance of homework. Your teacher now wants you to write an essay.

The title of the essay is:

Should students have homework every day?

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.

Write an article for the magazine.

Write for *A–Z English* online magazine

Write an article about a public holiday in your country. When is it?
What activities do people do? What's the best part of it?

We will publish the best articles in the next issue of *A-Z English*!

Write your article.

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