



**OXFORD**  
**TEST OF ENGLISH**  
*for Schools*

**B2** 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.

Every Saturday you help clean the local park with your neighbour. You are unable to help this week. Leave a voice message for your neighbour. In your message, you should:

- say who you are
- explain why you cannot help this week
- suggest another time to help.

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 book club. Then, leave a voice message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- respond to your friend's news
- ask some questions about the club
- 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 different types of jobs.

Choose **two** photographs. Tell your class what the advantages and disadvantages would be of doing these different types of jobs.

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



Being famous



Working outdoors



Working in an office



Having your own business

## 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

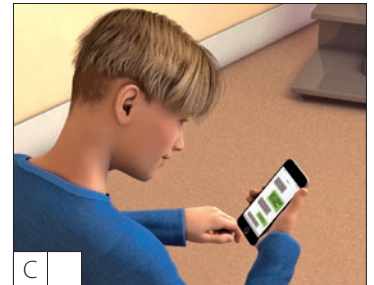
## Part 1

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

1 Two students are discussing what sports to have at their school. Which activity is unsuitable for the new sports timetable?



2 A teacher is talking about how to improve your English. Which method is best for extending your vocabulary?



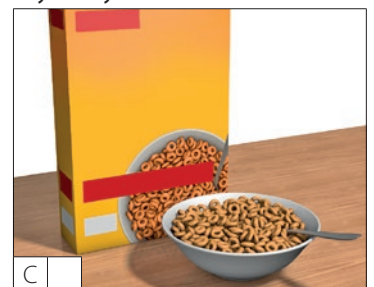
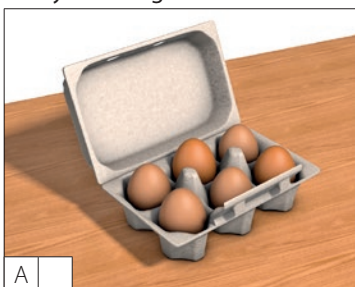
3 Two friends are talking about a party. Why didn't the woman go to the party?



4 A woman is talking about mental health. What does she suggest is the best way to overcome anxiety?



5 A boy is talking to his mother on the phone. What is his mother going to buy today?



## Part 2

**B2.02** Listen to a young author talking about a writing competition. 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.

### Young Writer Competition




#### Talk by Anita Vasquez

- 0 Because of Anita's participation in the Young Writers Competition, ..... **A** .....
- A she is better known as a writer today.
  - B she is able to teach people how to write.
  - C she is on the judging panel for this year.
- 1 The kind of story Anita enjoys writing most is .....
- A horror.
  - B comedy.
  - C fantasy.
- 2 All entries for the writing competition must .....
- A be the writer's own work.
  - B be based on a true story.
  - C deal with serious issues.
- 3 According to Anita, to improve your writing, you should .....
- A enter a lot of writing competitions.
  - B read the work of writers you admire.
  - C practise writing on a regular basis.
- 4 The most important thing for students entering competitions is to .....
- A set realistic targets.
  - B express themselves.
  - C enjoy taking part.
- 5 The prize-giving ceremony is .....
- A open to all participants.
  - B by invitation only.
  - C paid for by the organizers.




## Part 3

**B2.03** Listen to two classmates talking about fashion and the environment. 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 There is a lot of inaccurate information on clothing company websites.

		
girl	boy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both




- 1 Online content ought to be better regulated by the authorities.

		
girl	boy	both




- 2 Few people understand the impact of fashion on the environment.

		
girl	boy	both




- 3 Clothes should be more expensive.

		
girl	boy	both

- 4 People have too many items of clothing.

		
girl	boy	both

- 5 You should get rid of unwanted clothes by donating them to charity.

		
girl	boy	both

## Part 4

**B2.04** Listen and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

- 1 A boy and a girl are talking about an app. What does the girl think of the app?**
  - A She finds it easier to navigate.
  - B She prefers the new design.
  - C She worries about her personal information.
  
- 2 A boy is giving a class presentation about a book. What is his main criticism of the book?**
  - A The characters were dull.
  - B The ending was predictable.
  - C The story was unconvincing.
  
- 3 A girl has left a voice message for her friend. How is the girl feeling?**
  - A surprised
  - B embarrassed
  - C angry
  
- 4 A school administrator is leaving a voice message for a student. Why is he leaving the message?**
  - A to offer academic support
  - B to wish him a quick recovery
  - C to try and resolve a problem
  
- 5 A boy and a girl are talking about his job. Why is the boy going to leave?**
  - A He doesn't get on with his colleague.
  - B He isn't paid well enough.
  - C He can't work the new shift.

# Reading

## Part 1

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



Ajay,

It's yoga night, so I won't be back till later. The fridge is full, so there's plenty of options for you to choose from. There's some change in the drawer if you fancy anything else, but don't spend it all on a takeaway! No need to fix me anything – going out with the girls for dinner! Enjoy your evening and please sleep early as usual!

Mum

#### Why did Ajay's mother leave him a note?

- A to inform him of a change in her plans
- B to suggest him to consume available food
- C to urge him to follow his daily routine

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

FROM: Zak O'Neil  
TO: Claire Reid  
SUBJECT: History project

*We still need some more historical evidence to support our argument. This new online article should be just what we're looking for. The link's here. Picking out some key points is our priority at this point. You're skilful at that so I'll leave that to you. Once we've wrapped that up, the grammar and spelling will need to be reviewed – I guess we can put that off for now.*

Zak

#### What does Zak want Claire to do?

- A to select parts of a text to use
- B to check their work for accuracy
- C to find new sources of information

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

Hi Max! Have you got a present for Filip? I don't have much cash, so I thought we could go halves. I would have asked you for some, but I still owe you money from last time! Anyway, if we did that, we could spend a bit more and get something really nice. I did think of knitting him one of my famous scarves, but I gave him one last year! Emma

#### What is Emma suggesting to Max?

- A that he lends her some money for a gift
- B that she makes a gift for their friend
- C that they share the cost of a gift

**4 Read the notice and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).****Earth Day Celebrations**

Although participation in Earth Day is not compulsory, we urge you to attend. In any case, all classes are cancelled. We need students to welcome visitors and provide refreshments. Send a text to enrol – check first that your presentation won't be affected by volunteering duties. If you are involved in a talk or workshop, please report to the organizer at least 20 minutes beforehand. The timetable is on the website.

**Students are required to ...**

- A** help with organizational activities.
- B** arrive early for any content delivery.
- C** attend all events on the day.

**5 Read the blog entry and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).**

[www.greenteen.oup.uk](http://www.greenteen.oup.uk)

Thanks for all your wonderful comments on my post about choosing sustainable brands. If you haven't read that one, check it out below. Here I'm looking at upcycling tired clothes. While donating, swapping and reselling are fantastic ways to reduce your environmental impact, why get rid of clothes when you can perfectly well make a change here and there and give them a unique, brand-new look? It's easier than you think!

**What is the main purpose of this blog entry?**

- A** to teach readers to alter clothes to avoid waste
- B** to help readers throw away their clothes responsibly
- C** to suggest eco-friendly clothes companies to readers

**6 Read the advert and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).****Looking for a summer job?**

We're hiring enthusiastic, young team members for our chain of stores. Full hours over the summer season, with the possibility of extending your contract into the school term with weekend shifts only. Full training for work in our shops is provided but we will give priority to candidates who have good communication skills. Complete the online form on our website or pop in with your CV for a chat.

**What does the advert say about the position?**

- A** All applications should be sent online.
- B** Staff are expected to work part-time.
- C** Retail experience is not required.

## Part 2

### Does school prepare students for the real world?

Three students give their opinion on the importance of studies for real life



**Mariam**

I think we are being prepared for adulthood – to some extent. For example, I'm in my last year at school, and this week we're doing work experience. It's a short period, but it does give you a taste of adult life. Some things do need to change though – for example, our teachers are always telling us what to do and when to do it. That doesn't even prepare us for further education, where the teachers won't keep checking on us. In the past, students went to school to acquire knowledge. Nowadays, when everything is online, schools should be more concerned with teaching us what to do with this information. At the same time, I think we sometimes ask too much of schools – a lot of things like emotional control and self-management are best learned from our close relatives. And we can learn a lot ourselves, too. I don't see why people say we need to have classes about how to cook or do taxes. I can watch online tutorials for that! There's also a lot of criticism about testing; we will be constantly monitored in our working lives, so it's important to get used to that.



**Zak**

The way I see it, education works by getting us through each stage of the process. So if you're at primary school, they are trying to get you into secondary school, and then into university, and so on. Instead of focusing so much on theory, a better approach would be to learn vocational skills that will help us get a job when we finish school. There's also the issue of soft skills like teamwork. We do a lot of project work at school – the trouble is that I almost always end up doing all the work! So it's important to look at how something is implemented. People also say some life skills should be acquired outside school, but we can't just assume that everybody has an ideal home environment, so school is really important for those kinds of things. But you end up learning things one way or the other: I started working at a shop at weekends, and in the last few weeks, I have picked up stuff like managing finances, for instance. If I end up becoming an educator, as I'm planning to, I hope to show my students that school can be useful. Hopefully things will be different by then.



**Yasemin**

What we mustn't forget is that school is primarily a social environment, where we learn how to interact with each other and exchange opinions. People often say we learn a lot of useless stuff at school, when in fact a lot of it has real-life applications. I just think that it needs to be a bit more focused. In my school, we don't just have maths and English lessons. We also learn things like how to manage our money, which is obviously a very relevant ability for any adult. I'm not saying schools are perfect though. We do learn a lot of unnecessary things there. For example, schools now are more focused on teaching us how to use technology, but that's something we could and do learn on our own. Then there's the way we do tests, with clear right and wrong answers for everything: the problems that come up in work situations just aren't that black and white. Another thing: our home environment is important, too. My mum and dad are both teachers, and they're always showing me how to apply school knowledge in real life. They even want me to follow in their footsteps – I actually think I'd be a good teacher, but I've got other plans!

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

- 1 Who believes that school teaches students to work well in a group?  
A Mariam      B Zak      C Yasemin
- 2 Who says the main purpose of school is academic success?  
A Mariam      B Zak      C Yasemin
- 3 Who is receiving ongoing professional training while in full-time education?  
A Mariam      B Zak      C Yasemin
- 4 Who says they are acquiring practical skills within their school classes?  
A Mariam      B Zak      C Yasemin
- 5 Who thinks schools ought to change their focus due to advances in technology?  
A Mariam      B Zak      C Yasemin
- 6 Who is considering a career in teaching?  
A Mariam      B Zak      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.

### Parasocial relationships

*Are some social media users becoming unhealthily obsessed with celebrities?*

A parasocial relationship is a one-sided relationship in which an ordinary person believes that they have a connection to someone famous; it is, in other words, an imaginary friendship. Now, we all have our favourite online celebrities and influencers that we follow on social media, but some people take this a step further: they actually come to believe they have a true friendship with that person.

In the past, you could watch your favourite celebrities on TV and possibly read more about them in magazines.

.....<sup>1</sup> As much as we know that any influencer has a team of people in charge of their social media, we really want to believe they themselves liked our post on their feed. This online closeness has led to a recent growth in the number and strength of parasocial relationships.

It's important to say that not all such relationships are negative. ....<sup>2</sup> These connections with our favourite celebrities often bring much-needed feelings of friendship, support, kindness and motivation. Some studies even show that parasocial relationships, rather than restricting your social networks, can even expand them by allowing you to meet other like-minded fans.

There are, however, some signs that you should keep an eye out for if you suspect you're in a harmful parasocial relationship. ....<sup>3</sup> For instance, if you have been

abandoning your own tasks and responsibilities to show continuous support for your celebrity, or if your relationship with them impacts on your social circle.

Another clue that there might be a problem is your reaction to how others treat the celebrity in question. ....<sup>4</sup> Try to consider what is causing this, and why you feel so invested in someone you have never actually encountered. Ask yourself whether you might be trying to hide problems in your own life by projecting a relationship onto a celebrity.

So what should you do if you find yourself in a similar situation? The best thing is to put your phone away for a bit and assess the situation. ....<sup>5</sup> Parasocial relationships can be a welcome addition to your social life, but they can never replace real social interactions and true friendships.

Other than that, it's always good to remember celebrities have millions of followers, but, just like us, are also trying to navigate life. ....<sup>6</sup> For this reason, sometimes a simple comment from a fan can have a much bigger impact than you might think. So don't be too hard on your favourite celebrity if they ignore you or don't react as you would expect them to.

- A** The main one is how it is affecting your personal life.
- B** Try to strengthen relationships with people you have regular contact with.
- C** They have a public image to maintain, but their reality does not necessarily reflect it.
- D** However, the Internet has now brought them much closer, and created the illusion that they are constantly available.
- E** The truth is that the Internet often has an unpleasant effect on both fans and celebrities alike.
- F** Even though they are always one-sided, it is possible to gain something from them.
- G** If you get really upset when they're criticized, take a step back and reflect.

## Part 4

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

### Paper books or e-readers?

*Josh Walton discusses different angles when choosing to read on paper or electronically*

As a teenager, I'm very much expected to be all for technology, but I've always been a bit different on that side. So when I was asked to write an article for the school blog on eWord – the latest model of electronic reader – I realized the time had come to finally try one out, even though secretly what I really wanted was to be able to talk from experience when defending paper books. Having said that, I must admit that they are massively popular with the majority of my classmates. Anyway, here's what I found out in my little experiment.

One of the main arguments of those who prefer to read electronically is convenience. After a few weeks using an e-reader, I have to admit there's definitely something very appealing about being able to carry all your books in your back pocket and read any of them anywhere, even in the dark. Even the most passionate book lovers can't possibly dismiss that type of easy-to-use access.

Then there's the issue of impact on the environment, which fortunately an increasing number of readers are concerned about. On that side though, those that jump to the conclusion that e-readers are naturally greener than paper books are in for a surprise. Yes, saving trees and reducing carbon footprint in the transport of books goes a long way, but research suggests that unless you're reading up to a hundred titles on the same gadget before replacing it, you might be polluting even more.

So even if ebooks could be more practical and the environmental side is questionable, there is a last aspect which, for me, **settles** the matter once and for all: the emotional and sensory connection with a book, which you just can't get from a gadget. For me, it's about enjoying the path, not just the destination. Compare it to travelling: flying might be easier and faster, but I prefer travelling by train and enjoying the scenery. In the same way, you may be able to reach information more easily with an e-reader, but for me the journey to knowledge is much more enjoyable on paper.

- 1 What does the writer hope to learn from researching e-readers?
  - A how to do research for his writing
  - B how to argue his point better
  - C how to fit in with others in his age range
  
- 2 How does the writer compare electronic and paper books in terms of their environmental impact?
  - A E-readers are considered to be the more environmentally friendly alternative.
  - B Few people consider the environment when choosing their form of reading.
  - C There is some confusion around the possible environmental benefits of e-readers.
  
- 3 In the fourth paragraph, what is the meaning of '**settles**'?
  - A to put an end to a disagreement
  - B to arrange something finally
  - C to make yourself comfortable
  
- 4 Why does the writer give the example of travelling by plane and train?
  - A to highlight the convenience of electronic readers
  - B to emphasize the educational benefits of paper books
  - C to stress the importance of the experience of reading

# Writing

## Part 1

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

It's your cousin Jude's birthday next week. First, read the email below from your cousin's friend Sam about arranging the party. Then write an email to Sam, including the three notes you have made.

FROM: Sam  
SUBJECT: Jude's birthday

---

Hi,

As you know, it's Jude's birthday next Wednesday, and I need your help to organize a party for him. I'm thinking about Wednesday or Saturday. Which do you prefer?

*Say which and why*

Then we have to think about where to take him. I know Jude likes good food, so I want to book a restaurant for the evening.

*Great!*

Finally, I'm not sure what to get Jude for a present. What do you think?

*Suggest...*

All the best,

Sam

## 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 society. Your teacher now wants you to write an essay.

The title of the essay is:

*Some people think modern life is impossible without the Internet. Do you agree?*

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.

#### A dream holiday

Write about your dream holiday. Where would you like to go? Why would you like to go there? What activities would you like to do there?

Write your **article**.

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