



# OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH *for Schools*

## B1 Practice Test 2

### Answer key

#### Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

I haven't been to a real shop for three or four months. I bought a nice top for a party. When I got home and tried it on, I found it didn't fit, so I had to take it back and get a smaller one.

4 **Sample answer**

I like to go shopping with my best friend Kasia. She knows a lot about fashion and she wears stylish clothes, so I take her advice about what looks nice on me and what doesn't.

5 **Sample answer**

The most expensive thing I've ever bought was a dress for my prom. I couldn't really afford it, but my friend Kasia said it was perfect for me. And she was right - I absolutely love it.

6 **Sample answer**

The last time I did sport at school was on Friday afternoon. It was football, and I was the goalkeeper. Actually, I enjoyed it a lot - I played pretty well and didn't let any goals in.

7 **Sample answer**

I think the best part is hanging out with my friends before and after a match. That's why I prefer team sports. I mean, things you do on your own like skiing or running are OK, but they're not as much fun.

8 **Sample answer**

I'd choose gymnastics. It looks like fun, and one of our teachers, Mr Bell, used to be in the Olympics, so he would be an amazing coach. Maybe we could win lots of tournaments - that'd be nice.

#### Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

**Sample answer**

Hello, this is Jason Brown from Form 5B. I'm ringing about the school concert tomorrow. I was going to play the violin in the orchestra, but unfortunately I hurt my arm in a football match this afternoon, so I'm afraid I'm not going to be able to make it. Could you please let Miss Wilkins know as soon as possible? She will probably want to find someone instead of me. Thanks, bye.

#### Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

**Sample answer**

Hey, Aisha, that's amazing news! Well done. You're going to be awesome! I can't wait to hear all about it. Are you going to be in attack or defence? Who is the captain? Don't worry about getting to school for training. I'm in the volleyball team, and we have practice the same time as you. Mum says you can come with us and she'll drop you home after.

---

## Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

### Sample answer

I'm going to talk about talking with someone face to face and social media. Talking with someone face to face is the best form of communication, although it isn't always possible unless you live near each other. When you sit and talk to someone, you can really understand how they are feeling. And you know, sometimes you don't even have to speak. If someone's upset, you can just sit near them and be with them, and that's enough to make them feel better. Social media is also a brilliant form of communication, even if some people don't really approve of it. But it is absolutely amazing when you think about it. You can share photos with friends when they are away on holiday and you can have video chats with them, and it costs almost nothing.

## Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

### 1 Sample answer

Definitely. You know you sometimes see maybe two or three people, and they're sitting at a table in a restaurant, and they are all on their phones texting other people instead of talking to each other. That's crazy, isn't it? When I'm with my friends, I make sure to put my phone away and enjoy their company.

### 2 Sample answer

Well, you know we have virtual reality nowadays. I mean, it's OK, and it's getting better all the time. I think in a hundred years, you will be able to meet someone anywhere in the world, and it will be exactly like being there with them face to face. You will both see and hear exactly the same things, and you won't be able to tell the difference between that life and real life.

### 3 Sample answer

In my opinion, being on social media is a bit like being in the playground at school. It's a place to hang out with your friends and talk about anything. And the other great thing is that you can do it any time and any place – for instance, you can be at home after finishing your homework, chatting to friends. You don't have to actually go round to their house to talk to them so it's very convenient.

### 4 Sample answer

Oh, wow, where do I begin? There are lots of reasons. For a start, if you text or send an email, it gets sent straight away and you can get a reply in seconds. If you send a letter, it can take ages to get there and ages to get a reply. Besides, what does a letter cost nowadays? A pound, maybe? That's not exactly good value, is it, when you think that mails and texts are practically free.

### 5 Sample answer

Sometimes it does and sometimes it doesn't. I think the Internet is great if someone is away on holiday or if they have moved to a different school, maybe. It's a great way of keeping in touch with friends. On the other hand, people are spending more and more time alone, like shopping online instead of going to a shop. It's great if that's what you want to do, but I worry that some people feel more lonely.

### 6 Sample answer

If someone asked me for advice about the best way to meet new people, I'd say join a club, something like a tennis club, for example. Get to know a few people, and if you like them, invite them home or go and visit them. Remember that you will probably meet their friends as well, so do the same thing with them – get to know them and so on. It may take a bit of time, but in the end you will know lots of people.

## Listening Part 1 Page 5

### 1 B

The girl suggests the plain T-shirt because their cousin Emma can match it with anything, and the boy agrees that that is a sensible choice. The girl thinks anything with flowers would be 'a bit of a risk'. They discuss one with stripes, but the boy admits he has never seen Emma wearing anything with stripes.

### 2 A

The girl says that she has switched the subject of today's podcast to 'different ways of dressing smartly without destroying the planet'. She had originally said today's podcast would be about recycling plastic, but she made the change 'in response to requests' from listeners. The previous podcast was about making 'healthy meals that avoid waste'.

### 3 B

The boy says that the chess club is 'even more valuable' than the computer club because it has helped him concentrate. The computer club is quite valuable because it has improved his confidence, and the cooking club will be valuable in the future, when he lives on his own.

4 C

The boy's first suggestion is the shopping centre, and he comes back to this 'original suggestion' after thinking about the other two options. He mentions the cafe, but there could be a problem getting a table. He also considers the park, but the problem is he can't be sure about the weather.

5 A

The boy says he was hired by a shop that 'needed someone to deliver orders', which he can do on his bike. He didn't get the job at the flower shop because 'they'd already found someone'. He says he is going to take his bike to the bike shop to get it repaired.

## Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 B

The teacher wants each student to 'join up with a partner'. He wants to avoid anyone 'working on their own' which would happen if there were three groups of 5 students and 1 extra (because there are 16 students in all).

2 B

The teacher wants them to write 'no fewer than 1,200 words'. This is more than usual projects, which require 1,000 words, and they must not write more than 1,500 words.

3 A

The teacher says they should not 'stand up and repeat their written work' or they will lose marks. He says that they can create 'a colourful poster with lots of images' if they want, and he thought it was a great idea when a student in a different class used their computer to give a presentation.

4 C

He recommends getting 'first-hand knowledge' from grandparents because 'that's what this project is all about' – in other words, that's the purpose of the project. Records in the city library are quite useful, but he says some students won't be able to get there. He does not want the students to just copy paragraphs from websites because that 'does not count as original research'.

5 B

He says all projects will 'go on the school blog' this year. This will be more convenient than putting them up in the library, which is what they usually do. There will be only one project in the town hall, and that will be the project that gets top marks.

## Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 boy

The girl says that the price was 'a bit high' and she was expecting more. The boy disagrees and says he thinks the price was fair and the ticket 'was worth the cost'.

2 both

The boy says he went to some of the talks and 'they were fascinating'. The girl agrees and says she wasn't disappointed by them.

3 girl

The boy says that in other years when he has been to the event, the costumes 'were a lot more creative'. The girl disagrees. She says she has seen photos of past events where the costumes 'weren't that impressive', but the costumes were impressive this year.

4 girl

The girl says there were lots of games and she 'loved that there was such a wealth of options'. The boy disagrees and complains there were just 'the same few games available throughout the whole event'.

5 both

The girl complains she had to queue for 45 minutes and only got a 'pretty tasteless sandwich'. The boy says the food service is always like that, and wonders why they can't have 'a few more options on the menu and some more people serving'.

---

## Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 A

The coach tells her to 'go out there and be confident on the court'. He says that even if she can't relax and calm herself down, she can use her nervousness to her advantage. He tells her it's a good idea not to concentrate too much on winning.

2 B

The boy is leaving the message to remind Ravi that if Alex asks anything about the weekend, he should 'just make something up' because it is a surprise party. Ravi knows that the location has changed because Zak has already told him. He is not inviting Ravi in this message because Ravi has already been invited.

3 C

They both agree that Ajay should control his emotions. The girl says that he 'absolutely has to control his anger' and the boy agrees that he 'should calm down a bit'. The girl thinks Ajay should apologize to Jenny, but the boy thinks Jenny should apologize. The boy seems to think that Jenny hurt Ajay's feelings, but the girl says Jenny was 'just joking'.

4 B

The teacher tells the students to 'pay particular attention to the dialogue', so speaking is important for this piece of writing. It becomes clear that the teacher is talking about a play because she talks about 'the audience' who 'should believe that these are real people'. She is not talking about a story because she says 'we're not writing a narrative'. She is not talking about an article because an article wouldn't have lots of dialogue and an audience.

5 A

They agree that the excitement was missing. The girl implies she has read the book, so she knew what was going to happen, so the ending was disappointing. The boy agrees it was disappointing because he knew what happened in the story, and that 'the hero wasn't really dead'. They both think that the acting was good, and they both think the film surprisingly worked well, so was almost as good as the book.

## Reading Part 1 Pages 9–10

1 A

Ed's mother has left the note to inform him that she has arranged for his uncle to come and pick him up and take him to the play. She does not say when the event starts, and she does not make a request that he attends, she just reminds him about the play.

2 B

Filip wants Emma to 'find some images' to add to the essay to 'make it look professional'. Louise is working on 'the list of books we used for reference', so she is dealing with the sources. Filip says he has 'already checked the text for mistakes', so he has corrected the errors.

3 C

The writer is pleased with how much content the app has because it has 'an impressive range of resources for study'. The writer says the price of the app is 'slightly above average' and 'it takes a while to work out how the app is designed', so it is not cheap or easy to use.

4 C

Ellie is writing to explain that she can't come to the training session on Saturday because she has to go to a family wedding. She says she would 'completely understand' if the coach replaced her for the game, but she doesn't suggest anyone. She wishes her teammates luck when she says 'Go Team!', but that is not the main reason for her email.

5 B

The notice focuses on making new friends because it begins by asking if the student is 'looking to meet new people in a sociable environment'. The student's level isn't important because it says that 'students of various abilities are welcome'. Some members who are good enough may take chess more seriously and go in for the national championships in the future, but the club is open to everyone.

6 B

The notice is promoting the farm shop, which is environmentally friendly because all the producers are local and 'live near the market', and none of the food comes from 'the other side of the world'. The notice says that people can save money because 'the prices are cheap', but it does not say anything about saving time, and the cost is not the main point of the notice. The notice informs people that they can find everything they need to prepare dishes at home, but it does not encourage them to cook at home.

## Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 B

Louise thinks art classes are a poor use of school hours. She does one class a week and thinks 'that's already too much.' Ajay says 'studying art is definitely not a waste of time', and he is sad they only have one hour of art a week at his school.

2 C

Yasemin says that she is thinking of 'making a living as a painter'. Ajay doesn't think the idea of an art-related career is popular and says that 'most people are not thinking about working with art.'

3 A

Ajay says that studying art 'helps in all the other lessons' at school. Yasemin says that art is a kind of 'global language' that can help everyone communicate, but this 'global language' is not a school subject.

4 C

Yasemin does several forms of art at school including painting, drawing and sculpture. Louise mentions 'other sorts of art lessons' but says she doesn't do them and wouldn't want to.

5 A

Ajay says he has 'become a better individual' by studying art and he explains that it has helped him to concentrate better and work hard. Louise says that 'for some people, art can help them grow as individuals', but she doesn't say that she is one of those people.

6 B

Louise says she sees art as 'more of a hobby' rather than an important subject like English or maths. She admits that 'not everyone shares that point of view'. Ajay thinks art is important, and he doesn't think anyone can argue with how important art is'.

## Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 D

The sentence before the gap introduces the idea of 'a hard task'. The sentences after the gap talk about different experts' views on culture. Option D gives more information about the task. The word 'it' refers back to the word 'task'. The sentences after the gap give more information about the challenges.

2 F

The sentence before the gap talks about the reasons why whales have culture. In option F, the phrase 'the main one' refers back to these reasons. Option F mentions how smart whales are, and the sentences after the gap give examples of this and talk about whales' big brains, intelligence and social skills.

3 A

The paragraph is about differences between similar groups of whales. The sentence after the gap begins with 'However, there is a strong contrast in their behaviour', so the option in the gap must comment on something where there is not a contrast. This is option A, which talks about the strong similarities between the groups.

4 G

The paragraph is about differences in the way whales communicate. The sentence before the gap explains how different the two groups are. Option G fits the gap because it compares the communication differences between the two groups of whales to the language differences between two groups of humans. The sentence after the gap talks about 'so many differences', and this links back to the idea of 'two separate languages'.

5 E

The paragraph is about the way that adult female whales take care of younger whales. Option E fits here because it begins by saying that 'many other animals do the same'; this refers back to females taking care of their young. The second part of option E talks about a contrast and says 'there is a key difference with whales'. The sentences after the gap explain what these key differences are – the adult females look after all the whales in their group, not just their own children.

6 B

The paragraph introduces the observation that some experts refuse to accept the idea that whales have culture. In option B, the word 'that' refers back to this refusal. The 'consequences' mentioned in option B are discussed in the sentences that come after the gap – whales would seem more similar to humans, and we would need to treat them differently.

## Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 B

The writer says he 'decided to look into ways of being more creative' because he wanted to produce a novel and needed way of coming up with original ideas. He doesn't say what his job is, and he gave up photography because he wasn't very good at it.

2 A

He feels that anyone can be creative if they want to because 'every one of us' can use their brain to come up with original ideas. He disagrees with the idea that some people are more creative than others and says it is not true that 'we are either born creative or not.' He disagrees that most people have a good idea of what creativity is, and says instead that there are 'a lot of false beliefs' about it.

3 B

The word 'it' refers back to something that everyone can use to have brilliant ideas – and that is 'our wonderful brain'. The word 'it' does not refer back to 'hard work' or 'belief'.

4 C

Option C is the best title because the writer is saying that everyone can be creative, including the reader. Option B is not correct because there is no step-by-step advice, and the creativity he is talking about is not connected with age.

## Writing Part 1 Page 14

### Sample answer

Hi Mrs Goodward

Thank you for your email. You asked for suggestions about how to improve our meetings. I think it might be a good idea to send everyone a list of the things we are going to talk about in the meeting. Then everyone would have the chance to think about the issues and get prepared.

Thanks for letting me know about next Tuesday. Unfortunately I'm afraid I can't make it that day because I've got a football match.

For our next project, I'd prefer to help plant trees in the park. The trees will help the environment for many years in the future, so I think that would be a better choice.

Best wishes

Jason

[117 words]

## Writing Part 2 Page 15

### Sample answer – essay

Homework has always been a part of school life – but is it important to do it every day?

There are a few reasons why it's good to have homework every day. Firstly, our school day stops at 3.15, so we have lots of free time. Secondly, there are so many new things to learn, and doing homework every day can help. Finally, homework can help us remember – if we do something in the day and then again in the evening, it is easier to remember.

On the other hand, some students do a lot of sports, clubs, and other activities, so they don't have lots of free time. Also, if you have too much homework, it can make you feel bad and stop liking a subject. And lastly, having a break is important – it's a bad idea to study all the time without stopping.

In conclusion, homework is important, but there's no need to do it every day.

[158 words]

---

**Sample answer – article**

In my country, my favourite public holiday is Christmas. It's always on the same day, and it's in the middle of the school holidays. At our school, these start in December and end in the first week of January. It's a special day for my family.

In the morning, we give each other presents. Usually the presents are small but sometimes they're big, and everyone's always happy. After that, we have an amazing lunch in the afternoon. We have turkey, potatoes and vegetables, and have a delicious cake afterwards. Once everyone's finished eating, we play games or sometimes watch a movie.

For me, the best part is waking up early on Christmas. My brother and I have lots of little presents to open, and it's really exciting.

[127 words]