



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH *for Schools*

B2 Practice Test 2

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

The last thing I bought was a pack of 20 pens. My dad was ordering something online and he said I could add it to his basket if I wanted. We ordered it a couple of days ago and they delivered it yesterday, which meant that I didn't even have to leave the house.

4 **Sample answer**

When it comes to food shopping, I suppose that the majority of people go to the supermarkets we have. One of them is quite upmarket and expensive, and the other one is incredibly good value but has a limited range. But it does mean that people have a choice, and there's also the Wednesday market, which is great for fruit and veg.

5 **Sample answer**

I think it depends what you're talking about. If it's food, then I'd always go to a market or supermarket because it's good to be able to see what you're buying. On the other hand, if it's something like a laptop, then it's better to do it online because you can compare prices and features and get exactly what you want.

6 **Sample answer**

The last time I used public transport was a few weeks ago when we got back from holiday. We got the coach from the airport and then my cousin came to pick us up. My dad decided it would be easier than leaving our car in the airport car park, and the coach journey was very comfortable and stress-free.

7 **Sample answer**

I prefer the train. The trouble with buses is that there are so many interruptions, they keep stopping to let people on and off, and it takes ages to get where you want to go. Trains are a lot faster, and you can also get up and walk about a bit if you want. If the train is crowded, though, and you can't get a seat, it can be a pretty unpleasant experience.

8 **Sample answer**

When I'm on a long car journey, I sometimes listen to music or podcasts on my phone, but I don't tend to read anything because it makes me feel ill. If my sister's with me, there are some games we play involving the different kinds of cars we see, and that can be quite good fun.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Karina, Mark here. I'm just calling about our next session cleaning the park. I'm afraid something's come up, which means I won't be able to help out. My cousin Jake has just got engaged and he's having a big get-together with friends and family in Wales this weekend, so it's something I can't really miss. I hope that's OK. I don't know how you want to leave it. I suppose we could just skip a week – after all, it's only one session – but I'm guessing you'd rather not. I'm not very keen on the idea of you doing it all on your own, because that doesn't seem fair. So how about postponing it a bit? I'm free on Tuesday evening, so maybe we could do it then? Cheers.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Jake. Thanks for your message – congratulations on getting your book club started! I know it's something you've been wanting to do for ages, so well done. I'd love to know more about your plans. How many members have you got at the moment, and what is your ideal number? How are you going to select the books you read? Are you going to specialize in one kind of book, I mean something like crime and detective stories, or are you going to play it by ear? I think you've made the right decision to meet face to face. How about asking Mrs Sanderson if you can use the library after school? I'm sure she'd want to encourage more people to read. It's just a pity I've left school, or I'd come and join you! Anyway, best of luck, and let me know if the library idea works out.

Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

Sample answer

I am going to talk about the advantages and disadvantages of two different kinds of job – working in an office and having your own business. I don't have any experience of either of these, but I have learned quite a lot about them from one of my brother's friends and from my cousin, and they are both in their twenties.

Let's start with my brother's friend, who works in an office in London for an insurance company. The main reason he went for the job was that it would give him the opportunity to live in London, which is something he really wanted. The other advantage is that his salary is pretty high, so he can afford a nice flat. The disadvantage is that the work isn't very interesting, and he only gets a few weeks' holiday a year.

My cousin is in a different position. He has his own business making and selling ice cream. He says the advantage of running your own business is that it's much more exciting and it's great to be your own boss, too. On the other hand, there are some disadvantages. Running your own business is risky, and things could go wrong. But I think the biggest disadvantage is that he works really long hours. He hardly ever has a weekend free because that's when he's out with his ice-cream van selling at festivals and village events.

Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Sample answer

Young people here typically work in bars or restaurants. That's probably because there's more demand for waiters and waitresses in the evenings and at weekends, and that's when most students tend to be free. Sometimes younger people deliver newspapers, and they usually fit that in early in the morning, before they go to school.

2 Sample answer

I'm really interested in films and TV, but I'm not talking about acting or directing. My ideal job would be writing something like a crime series or detective series. I would be my own boss, but I would also be part of the team making a programme, and I think that would be fun.

3 Sample answer

I'm not sure it's always that important, though, you know, maybe it depends on the job. I mean, let's say you want to be a doctor, then you need to know that early on, so you can study science and then do medicine at university. But for most people, I think you can wait till later and just see what happens.

4 Sample answer

I think working in shop might be OK. I suppose the advantages are that you get to meet lots of people and chat to them. The hours aren't too bad, unlike something like babysitting, when you might have to work till one in the morning. I suppose the biggest disadvantage is that the work probably isn't terribly interesting. I'd imagine it's quite repetitive.

5 Sample answer

I think it's very important to love what you do. If you've got a job that's exciting or interesting, you will be motivated to work hard and you'll probably succeed. I know some people, like some of my brother's friends, who earn lots of money but don't enjoy the work. To be honest, I can't see the point of that. You spend a huge part of your life working, so you need to find something you enjoy.

6 Sample answer

I suppose there are some people who believe that being famous means being rich and having a nice lifestyle. If you believe that, you've probably been spending too much time on social media. To be honest, I can't imagine anything worse. Every time you came out of your house, photographers would be waiting for you, and they'd follow you everywhere, and never leave you alone. What a nightmare!

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 A

The boy suggests an activity with an element of risk such as gymnastics, but the girl rejects the idea as impractical because 'the teachers have to consider our safety above all'. They agree that long-distance running might be suitable, and girl does not want to get rid of or 'do away with' traditional sports like football.

2 B

The teacher says you can improve your vocabulary or 'build up particular word sets' by watching different programmes with subtitles. Texting and messaging another classmate means you will 'end up using a lot of text speak and emojis', which won't improve your vocabulary much. The teacher suggests that listening to podcasts will mainly help with pronunciation because you will 'learn what sounds right and what doesn't'.

3 B

The woman says she did try to go to the party, but she missed the bus because it left early. She said she had a lot of revision to do for the exam, but still tried to get to the party anyway. She says her friend is upset with her now because she missed the party.

4 C

She suggests talking because it puts problems into perspective. She says talking may enable you to 'provide emotional support as well as receive it', which can reduce stress. The problem with taking up exercise like jogging is that, although it's 'a great way to deal with' anxiety, it's 'difficult to stick to an exercise routine in the long term'. The disadvantage of mindfulness is that it can 'cause us to focus too keenly on our problems'.

5 C

When the boy asks about the cereal, his mother remembers that it is something she must buy and says 'Oh yes, you did put that on the list, didn't you?'. The boy realizes his mother has bought the crisps, as he asks 'Did you get my cereal, too?', implying that the crisps have been bought as well. The boy says there are just under a dozen eggs, so there is no need to buy any more for the omelette the mother is planning to make for breakfast tomorrow.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 C

Anita says she 'created a whole world with its own society and language' so she writes fantasy novels, which have 'brought a lot of pleasure' to her readers and to herself. Previously she used to write 'scary stuff' but found that horror wasn't getting her many readers. In the future she may turn to comedy, because she has been considering the idea of writing about 'the amusing things that have happened to me'.

2 A

Anita stresses that anything submitted must be original or 'the work will not be considered'. She says it may be a work of fiction or a true story. She says participants can choose to deal with serious issues like climate change or could write something funny or sad.

3 C

Anita says that students should 'write something every day' because 'little by little you'll start to see progress'. She says entering competitions is good for motivation, and that reading about great authors will make students realize how hard they had to work.

4 B

Anita says students must not worry about not being good enough and stresses that everyone 'has value and the right to find your voice and use it'. She does not say realistic targets are important – on the contrary, she says there is 'nothing wrong with being ambitious'. She says that 'just participating' will be beneficial, but she doesn't stress that they should enjoy it.

5 A

Anita says that everyone is 'welcome to attend' whether they are potential prize winners or not. Students who are potential prize winners will receive an invitation to attend, but other people can come, too. Anita does not say who is going to pay for the ceremony, but says that the organizers may be able to help potential prize winners who can't afford to attend.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 girl

The girl thinks that there should be 'stricter laws' controlling what companies can say online, but the boy disagrees and says 'it's up us' to persuade companies to be more honest, not the government.

2 girl

The girl says that 'the majority of people aren't really aware of how bad the clothes' industry actually is for the environment'. The boy disagrees and says that because there has been so much media coverage, 'the lack of awareness is not an issue'.

3 boy

The boy thinks clothes are currently so cheap that people can afford to throw them away, so fashion brands should make better, longer lasting clothes that would be more expensive. The girl disagrees because young people wouldn't be able to afford new clothes.

4 both

The girl says people own so many clothes that they don't even know what they have or haven't got; the boy agrees and says he has a cupboard full of clothes he can't remember wearing.

5 girl

The girl says she sometimes gives her old clothes away to a 'good cause' so that she can help other people. The boy says he exchanges items with friends or via an app.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 A

The girl says the menu has improved and it's now easier to switch between checklists, diagrams and notes. She is not bothered about personal information and says she 'wouldn't be bothered' if someone stole her notes. She says the design with the new colours and icons is different, but she doesn't say whether she prefers it to the old one or not.

2 A

His main criticism is that the characters in the story 'had really flat personalities and that spoiled the whole thing'. He does say that the ending was predictable but feels that this was better than 'something horrible' happening. He gives the example of finding the rope in the jungle to show that the book is sometimes unrealistic, but he feels this is 'slightly silly', not a major problem.

3 B

The girl says she made a fool of herself and is now feeling stupid, so she feels embarrassed. She says she was angry at the time of the incident she is talking about, but she doesn't feel angry now. She says she 'wasn't expecting news like that', so she was surprised at the time, but is not surprised now.

4 C

The administrator is trying to solve the problem that Jack has missed an exam, so will have to do it some other time or he won't be able to get his end-of-term report. Jack has already had the academic support in the form of the revision classes he attended. The administrator says he hopes Jack starts 'feeling a bit better soon', but that is not the reason for the call.

5 C

The reason the boy is going to leave is that he can't work the new shift. The shop wants him to start doing afternoons instead of mornings, but that's when he has revision classes. He doesn't particularly like the other boy who works at the shop but says he rarely sees him, so it's 'not a big deal'. He says the pay is not particularly high, but is more or less what he expected, so that was not a reason for leaving.

Reading Part 1 Pages 9–10

1 B

Ajay's mother suggests that he eats the food in the fridge, and says there are plenty of options to choose from. We know her plans have not changed because she says 'it's yoga night', so this is something she does regularly. She does tell him to follow his routine and go to bed early 'as usual', but that is not the main purpose of the note.

2 A

Zak says they need to pick out some key points from the online article he has found, and says he will leave it to Claire to do because she is skilful at it. He says the work does need to be checked for grammar and spelling, but says they can 'put that off for now.' Zak has found the new source of information, the online article, and he says it is 'just what we are looking for,' so Claire doesn't need to find anything else.

3 C

Emma suggests 'going halves', which means sharing the cost of the gift. She says she 'would have asked' him for the money, but she still owes him money from before. She does not suggest making a gift because she did that last year.

4 B

The notice says that if students are involved in any content delivery – such as giving a talk or taking part in a workshop – they should arrive 'at least 20 minutes beforehand'. The note asks students to help out with welcoming visitors and providing refreshments, but this is voluntary, not compulsory. The note does not mention attending all the events on the day.

5 A

The blog entry teaches readers how to 'make a change here and there' and upcycle their old clothes to 'give them a unique, brand-new look'. The author says this is a better alternative to getting rid of clothes and throwing them away. The author also mentions an earlier post about 'choosing sustainable brands' and provides a link for anyone who hasn't read it, but that is not the main purpose of this text.

6 C

The advert says 'full training' is provided, so applicants do not have to have experience of working in a shop. Applications can be sent in online, but applicants can also come in with their CV and have a chat. Staff are not expected to work part-time – they are expected to work full-time in the summer and may be able to work part-time when term starts.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 C

Yasemin says that at her school, they 'learn how to interact with each other and exchange opinions'. Zak says teamwork is important and that they do a lot of project work; however, the students are not taught to function well as a group because he says he seems to 'always end up doing all the work'.

2 B

Zak says that schools focus on getting you from primary school to secondary school and then from secondary school to university; he regrets this focus and feels there should be more vocational training. Mariam says that non-academic things like emotional control and self-management are best learned outside school, but she does not stress the importance of academic success.

3 B

Zak says he is working in a shop at weekends and is getting to understand things like managing finances. Mariam is doing 'work experience', so she is currently being trained in an office or other work environment, but this is only for one week and is therefore not 'ongoing'.

4 C

Yasemin says she is having lessons in school about 'how to manage our money'. Mariam doesn't think that school is the place to learn practical skills like cooking or doing taxes.

5 A

Mariam thinks schools should shift their focus from acquiring knowledge because 'everything is online' and should focus instead on 'teaching us what to do with this information'. Yasemin thinks there is no need for schools to teach students how to use technology as this is something students can learn on their own, but she is not talking about 'advances in technology'.

6 B

Zak says he is planning to end up as an educator, so he is considering a career as a teacher. Yasemin says she thinks she would be a good teacher, which is something her parents would like, but she says she has 'other plans'.

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 D

The first sentence talks about the past. The sentence after the gap talks about the present so the gap needs to talk about this change. Sentence D talks about the change that the Internet has brought. The words 'them' and 'they' refer back to 'celebrities'. The topic of the Internet is continued in the sentence after the gap, which talks about social media.

2 F

The sentence before the gap says that the relationships are not all negative, so the gap may say something positive about them. This is Sentence F, which says that 'it is possible to gain something from them'. The phrase 'these connections' in the sentence after the gap refers back to the word 'them' in Sentence F and to 'relationships' in the first sentence of the paragraph.

3 A

The sentence before the gap talks about the signs of being in a harmful relationships, so the gap may say something about this. This is Sentence A – having your personal life affected is a warning sign. The phrase 'the main one' refers back to 'signs'. The sentence after the gap gives examples of one's personal life being affected – e.g. abandoning responsibilities and losing friends.

4 G

The sentence before the gap talks about other people's reactions to the celebrity, so the gap may mention something about this. This is Sentence G. The phrase 'they are criticized' refers back to 'the celebrity in question'. The plural form 'they' refers to a single noun 'celebrity' because it is gender neutral. The option also uses the imperative to give advice: 'take a step back and reflect'. The sentence after the gap continues with more advice and another imperative 'Try to consider what is causing this...'. The word 'this' in the sentence after the gap refers back to being upset when a favourite celebrity is criticized.

5 B

The paragraph is talking about possible solutions when you are in a harmful relationship. The sentence before the gap gives some advice about not using the phone, so the gap may offer more advice or a solution. This is Sentence B, which says you should 'strengthen relationships with people you have regular contact with.' The sentence after the gap refers back to these when it talks about 'true friendships'.

6 C

The first sentence makes the point that celebrities are ordinary human beings, so the gap may comment on this. This is Sentence C, which explains that there may be a difference between a celebrity's public image and reality. The words 'they' and 'their' in Sentence C refer back to 'celebrities' in the sentence before the gap. The sentence after the gap talks about a consequence of Sentence C: because celebrities are normal people, they are also affected by hurtful or negative comments.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 B

The writer says he was hoping that his arguments in favour of paper books would be more convincing if he could 'talk from experience' after having tried an e-reader. He does not suggest that researching e-readers would help him with any other research. He is different to others in his age range because he does not normally use an e-reader, but he does not mention any wish to be more like them.

2 C

He says there is some confusion about the environmental impact of e-readers. On the plus side, by replacing books, they save trees and reduce one's carbon footprint. However, because e-readers also cause pollution (presumably when they are manufactured and disposed of) you need to read at least 100 ebooks on the same e-reader before replacing it for the positive environmental effects to outweigh the negative ones. It is therefore difficult to say for sure that e-readers are 'the more environmentally friendly alternative'. He mentions people who consider the environmental impact of reading, but he says that 'an increasing number of readers' think about this.

3 A

Here 'settles' means 'to put an end to a disagreement'. In this case the disagreement is about whether e-readers are better than books or not. He feels that because you get an 'emotional and sensory connection with a book', this means that books are better than e-readers and there is no need for further discussion.

4 C

He makes the comparison to highlight the experience of reading. He compares an e-reader to flying because it is faster and easier. However, just as a train journey is slower and more enjoyable than going by plane, the experience of reading a book is slower and more enjoyable than using an e-reader.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

Sample answer

Hi Sam,

Thanks for your email about Jude's birthday. I always think it's much better to celebrate a birthday on the day itself. Putting it off just makes it feel a bit less special, even if it might be more convenient. So I'd say Wednesday, definitely.

I really like the idea of going out for a meal. I don't know if you have anywhere in mind, but he has mentioned that Korean restaurant in town a few times. It has a good reputation, so it might be worth booking there.

As for a present, I know he needs a bicycle helmet, so how about getting one for him? I think if you got a standard size that would be fine because they are pretty simple to adjust.

Chat soon,

Joe

[130 words]

Writing Part 2 Page 15

Sample answer – essay

Life would be very different without the Internet: while some things might improve, other things would be much harder.

On the one hand, you could argue that modern life might be better. With no social media, people would go out more and meet each other. We would have conversations instead of sending text messages. Our focus would also improve because we wouldn't get distracted by other people's posts all the time.

On the other hand, the Internet is essential for all sorts of businesses. If you want to book a flight or find somewhere to stay on holiday, you now need the Internet. If you want to buy things and have them delivered to your house or check your bank balance, all you need is your phone and you can do it online.

In conclusion, modern life without the Internet might be better in some respects. However, it would be much more difficult to carry out lots of everyday tasks.

[160 words]

Sample answer – article

The place I would most like to visit would be a Greek island. It would be a quiet one, with only a handful of tourists, and it would be covered in olive trees and pine forests. I would be staying in a small house with a garden full of orange and lemon trees.

The reason why I would like to go there is because it would remind me of all the happy holidays I've had. Days would be warm and bright, and at night a gentle breeze would bring the scent of flowers.

As for activities, in the mornings I'd go for a walk or climb a mountain to visit a castle at the top. Other days could be spent lying on the beach or swimming in the sea. In the evenings there'd be meals at a taverna, with music, singing and dancing.

It would be my very favourite holiday – I hope someday I get a chance to do it.

[160 words]