



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH *Advanced*

C1 Practice Test 2

Audioscript (Please access the audio files [here](#))

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1.01 You are going to answer six questions. You have 10 seconds per question for questions 1 and 2, and 30 seconds per question for questions 3–6. Start speaking when you hear the tone. Try to speak for the full amount of time.

- 1 What's your name?
- 2 Which country do you come from?
- 3 Thinking about daily life, do you prefer spending time by yourself or with other people?
- 4 Tell me about an interesting place that you have visited.
- 5 How important is sport to you?
- 6 Finally, if you had to live without a mobile phone or a computer, which would you choose to live without?

Speaking Part 2 Voice message Page 3

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 need to be diplomatic in your response. You have 40 seconds to leave your voice message. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

You study at college. Another student's laptop has broken, and he has asked to borrow your laptop for a few days to complete an important assignment. You do not want this student to borrow your laptop. Leave a voice message for the student and:

- say why you are calling
- explain why you do not want to lend your laptop
- make a suggestion about what he could do.

You now have 10 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Speaking Part 3 Summary Page 3

1.03 You are going to give a summary. First read and listen to the task. You can make notes while you listen.

You will then have some time to think about what you want to say. You have 50 seconds to give your summary. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Your tutor has asked you to summarize some research for your tutor group.

Listen to two experts talking about stress. The two experts make the same two main points.

You should:

- combine the information from the two experts and
- summarize the **two main points** the experts make.

Now listen to the two experts.

Expert 1: Stress is a series of physiological changes that enable us to fight back or run away when a threat is present. Most people view stress as something negative, but in reality, when stress is relatively mild and short-lived – for example, the stress experienced immediately before giving a talk to an audience – it improves our ability to think clearly, to remember things and pay attention. In this way, controlled, manageable stress can be beneficial. On the other hand, when people feel stressed over long periods of time, often as a result of too much pressure at work or difficulties in other areas of their lives, it can give rise to negative physical symptoms such as tiredness or high blood pressure.

Expert 2: We all know that feeling we get when suddenly the pressure's on, and we need to perform. When we experience stress like this, it causes our brain cells to increase in number – with communication between them improved, which helps us to work more efficiently. This natural response to stress helps us to deal with challenging tasks. However, consistently high stress levels generally lead to health problems. Because today's fast pace of living generally requires people to carefully balance multiple responsibilities associated with work and personal life – which might contribute to stress – it's important to take time to relax in order to reduce its impact.

You now have 40 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Speaking Part 4 Debate Page 4

01.04 You are going to take part in a debate. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have two minutes to speak. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Your tutor has asked you to take part in a class debate. You are going to put a case for or against the following statement:

'Countries should import less food.'

Prepare your case for the debate. You should:

- use **two OR three** of the ideas below to argue your case
- provide support for the ideas you choose
- give a conclusion.

You now have 45 seconds to prepare. You can make notes if you wish.

Speaking Part 5 Follow-up questions Page 4

01.05 You are going to answer four questions on the topic of your debate. You have 40 seconds to answer each question. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

- 1 The topic of your debate was countries importing food. Farmers often use chemicals to increase the amount of food they produce. What do you think about this?
- 2 Some people say that we should all eat a vegetarian diet because producing meat is bad for the environment. What's your view?
- 3 Do you think that governments should be responsible for encouraging people to eat healthily?
- 4 How important is it for children to be educated about environmental issues?

Listening Part 1 Page 5

02.01

1 A luxury-soap maker is talking about opening a shop. She has decided to open a shop now because ...

- A finding experienced staff is straightforward.
- B interest in handmade products is increasing.
- C running costs and expenses are relatively low.

F When I first announced to friends that I was thinking of opening a real-life retail outlet for the soap I'd been creating and selling online for several years, the initial reaction was generally one of utter disbelief. To some extent, they have a point – after all, Internet shopping's stripped town centres of many well-known names. Where I live, though, small independent stores selling locally crafted goods have managed to hang on largely intact, thanks to the constant stream of tourists passing through. An unexpected bonus that Internet shopping has indirectly provided is that premises and business rates have been driven down substantially as councils struggle to keep town and city centres alive, and that's what I want to take advantage of. Funnily enough, the greatest challenge in getting the business up and running has been recruiting shop assistants who actually know what a till is and how it works.

Now listen again.

2 Listen to a radio discussion about moving to the countryside. What aspect of her new life did the woman struggle with?

- A the attitude of her neighbours
- B the slower pace of life
- C the lack of an established routine

M Have you ever been tempted by a simpler way of living, outside the confines of the city? Our first caller, Monica, left a high-flying London existence for rural Wales to try her hand as a novelist. Was it worth it, Monica?

F The move? Unquestionably. The career switch, less so. Clearly, not everyone has a book in them. I indulged in my new-found freedom from the stress of the commute and the long hours in a bustling office, to the extent that I effortlessly filled my time doing anything but write. People here are very private, and cautious about opening up to someone like me who might be off at the drop of a hat, but I wanted to put down roots here. So, for the sake of a regular salary, and that sense of getting somewhere, I opted to abandon writing and take up my old job but working online.

Now listen again.

3 A professor is giving an interview about a writing challenge. How does he feel about the challenge?

- A He applauds its main objective.
 - B He is impressed by those who complete it.
 - C He welcomes this way of finding new authors.
- F** Professor, tell us about National Novel Writing Month.

M The challenge is to write a 50,000-word novel in a month. I haven't tried it, but I've got colleagues who have. Most didn't finish! In fact, only 10% do!

F And have any of those had their novels published?

M Well, it's not entirely unheard of, but that's not really the point. It's about getting your first draft down on paper – something most writers struggle with. Once the challenge is finished, you can start editing your draft into what will hopefully become a decent novel. And even if it doesn't, you've discovered a lot about writing – and about yourself as a writer – in the process.

Now listen again.

4 A man is talking to university students about career choices. What is the key piece of advice the man gives?

A Remember the value of having a clear career path.

B Let go of any prejudices you have.

C Apply for jobs that suit your personal qualities.

M All through university I had no idea what I wanted to go into when I finished. Actually, I rather envied those students who seemed to have it sorted, especially ones headed for solid jobs like law or dentistry – the kind of thing that once you’ve cleared the initial hurdle and got your first job, you’re set for life. If you think that’s right for you, then go for it – though I certainly wouldn’t have had the stamina for all those years of training! It helps if you’ve got some insight into your strengths and weaknesses, though having said that, remember that any assumptions you may have that make you dismiss such-and-such a job could be quite wide of the mark, so rule nothing out. Anyway, don’t panic if you don’t know what you want to do yet. Plenty of people are still casting about for answers in their early twenties.

Now listen again.

5 A scientist is telling her students about a research study. Which aspect of the study does she have doubts about?

A the contribution it makes to scientific understanding

B the conditions under which it was carried out

C the conclusion its authors came to

F In this sleep study, researchers took seventeen volunteers, played them human voices – some familiar to them and some not – and monitored their reactions to those voices by tracking the electrical activity in their brains while they slept. The study was conducted over two nights, in a sleep lab. It’s usual in such studies to give participants one night to become accustomed to their surroundings – none of us sleep well in a new environment, do we? According to the researchers, the fact that there was an increase in brain activity when participants heard unfamiliar voices means that the brain associates an unfamiliar voice with potential danger. This correlation may be valid, or it could simply be that a new voice sparks heightened interest. Having said that, the study will provide some new data for scientists interested in the way our brains function while we sleep.

Now listen again.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

▶ 02.02

Listen to a lecture about archaeology. Complete the gaps in the notes with a word or two-word phrase from the audio. Remember to check your spelling.

You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

F Today’s lecture concerns the so-called ‘White City’ in Honduras, in Central America, believed to be the home of a lost civilization that thrived there over 1000 years ago.

Increasingly, the discovery of lost cities in remote locations comes about through the discovery of an image on some sort of sophisticated scanning equipment, such as specialist radar. Local legend, though often a tempting source of information, rarely proves to be any more than that – except in this case. In the 1990s, a film-maker called Steve Elkins heard several, all mentioning a huge lost city buried deep in the jungle, so he decided to investigate.

After a gruelling canoe journey, he came across a large stone on the riverside that seemed to show the carved figure of a man. This was interesting but far from conclusive proof that a city was nearby, as people had been travelling the river for millennia. On closer examination, though, he appeared to be carrying a sack. This had what archaeological researchers identified as seeds coming out of it. It was this detail that finally convinced them there’d once been a settled, agricultural civilization in the area, otherwise, why bother producing such a beautifully detailed object?

The jungle at the site was so dense, people could see less than six metres ahead, so the time had come for some more sophisticated back-up in the form of a light aircraft that overflew the area carrying Light Detection and Ranging – or LIDAR – equipment, to help discover more about the site. This produced 3D maps that eliminated the tree cover and showed what resembled extensive ruins beneath. A team from the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History then went on foot to confirm the findings.

At first, their discoveries were fairly limited. It seems likely that the city was, in the main, constructed from adobe walls – basically mud – and hardwood frames. Once the city was abandoned, these simply rotted away in the rainforest environment, leaving behind its stone foundations to be uncovered by the team.

But there were more important finds to come. The team discovered a series of pyramid constructions, vast public spaces – what we'd call plazas – as well as hillside terraces for growing crops, and the remains of irrigation canals which were further indicators of the city's agricultural heritage. All these suggested a city of great wealth, something further underlined by the series of large statues they uncovered at the site, half buried near one of the pyramid structures.

People are often amazed that an entire city can simply vanish without trace, yet it's happened on numerous occasions in history. In the case of the 'White City', it was its location in steep mountains that made its chance discovery unlikely. The fact that, for ease of movement, travellers in the region rarely ventured beyond the river valleys only served to further increase its remoteness.

The further development of the site is now underway, yet it's a measure of its challenging position that an early priority for the teams working there was to clear a landing zone for helicopters to bring supplies. The boat trip is too far, and building an access road is simply unfeasible, whatever its advantages – and perhaps undesirable as it's a sad fact that sites such as this are always a target for theft.

Now, who were ... [fade]

Now listen again.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

02.03

Listen to two company owners discussing the introduction of flexible working in their organizations. Match the people (the woman, the man, or both) to the opinions below. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

- F** I'm Cara Said and in my Business Issues podcast today I'm going to be discussing flexible working schedules with Mark Layton. Mark, we both run successful medium-sized companies which, last year, started allowing staff to be more flexible with regard to the hours they work.
- M** That's right. In my company, staff have to work a 38-hour week and their core hours are between 10 and 4; most of them can also work remotely a couple of days a week.
- F** It's basically the same for our staff, though our core hours differ slightly. Anyway, how's it working out for you?
- M** Well, even though sales haven't risen as much as we'd hoped, our profit margins have improved due to cuts in office expenditure.
- F** Yes, well, like you, we anticipated a positive impact on our net income. That's beginning to look like wishful thinking, but perhaps it's early days.
- M** Maybe. Actually, one of the things we're really pleased about is that the change has enhanced our reputation as a family-friendly business.
- F** Yes, it's quite a selling point. We're receiving many more applications for any new posts we advertise.
- M** Fantastic!
- F** Well, it's a mixed blessing. We've never had issues finding talented people, and now we have a far longer list to sort through with lots of heated discussions about who should make it to the shortlist, let alone to an interview.
- M** Oh, really? We've only had to hire a couple of new staff since introducing flexible working, but we've undoubtedly seen the quality of applicants we've been able to attract go up, which has meant much less concern over who to take on.
- F** Our staff retention rates have increased, too. That at least suggests staff appreciate the changes to their working patterns and the overall mood at work is definitely upbeat.
- M** With us I'd say the jury's still out. The fact is that these arrangements can't be open to everyone, which means that some members of staff are feeling put out. That brings in the potential for accusations of discrimination, though fortunately, so far, ...
- F** But it just isn't practical for some jobs to be done remotely, is it? For example, if you're brainstorming ideas for a new advertising campaign, the creative energy sparked by face-to-face meetings is essential.
- M** There is that and actually you can't deny that those water-cooler moments and shared lunch breaks can be productive, as well as relaxing. And there's obviously less of all that when people's hours vary so much more.

- F** Even so, I think overall we've gained in terms of productivity. I think that's because staff feel more comfortable to carry on with their work at home when they're a little bit under the weather. They'd have been more inclined to take the time off if they'd had to show up at work.
- M** I can see that could be a plus of flexible schedules. When we've been through a few winter months and a flu season, we'll be able to see how things pan out.
- F** Fair enough.
- M** Would you say your customers have noticed the changes you've introduced? We haven't had much feedback, actually.
- F** Neither have we, really. There's been the odd complaint that the person a client usually deals with isn't around when they need them but nothing else of any significance.
- M** I guess we've had the occasional situation where there's been some kind of communication breakdown between departments giving rise to some minor frustration. But I wouldn't say we've lost any business as a result.
- F** So overall will you continue to permit staff to work flexibly?
- M** I imagine so but we're keeping it under review.
- F** As are we.

Now listen again.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

12.04

1 A student is asking her professor about an essay. What does the professor particularly want her to do?

- A Avoid giving the essay a conventional focus.
- B Ensure that the essay is supported by references.
- C Concentrate on forming a clear structure in the essay.
- F** Professor? Would you have a moment to discuss our essay on lifestyles in history?
- M** Of course. What we're after is a discussion of landmark changes in lifestyles during particular periods of history – things like the impact of the industrial revolution. It's something that's probably most effectively addressed by examining the lives of what we might term 'ordinary people', as opposed to the more high-profile characters that typically attract our attention. There's a huge number of resources now available on that – which'll need proper crediting of course – and I'm sure you're aware that time spent on planning a logical line of development can only help your arguments.

Now listen again.

2 An author is talking about book reviews. She tends to ignore reviews of her novels because ...

- A they distract her from her work.
- B any inaccuracies in them annoy her.
- C she finds negative comments discouraging.
- F** I remember anxiously waiting for reviews after my first book was published. And naturally, some were more positive and enthusiastic than others. Some infuriated me – had they actually read the book from cover to cover? The sheer range of opinions takes a lot of processing though – I found myself wasting far too much time contemplating what had been said, so these days I generally give reviews a miss. It's not that I can't handle criticism – everyone's entitled to their own opinion, after all. But I want to hear it from people I trust – my editor, and a handful of friends and fellow authors – I know they'll give me an honest appraisal of my work.

Now listen again.

3 Two students are discussing a documentary about fast fashion. What criticism of the documentary does the woman make?

- A The topic of the programme lacked relevance.
- B The choice of interviewees was inappropriate.
- C There was too much focus on the presenter.

F Given so many of us are concerned about the clothing industry churning out so much cheap, poor-quality clothing, I was excited to watch Fast Fashion Nightmare last night.

M Me too, it was really interesting.

F I can't think of any other celebrity more capable of fronting a documentary like that than Stephanie Walker – in a sense she stole the show, but there was no doubting her commitment in getting her message about the negative impacts of fast fashion across. It did strike me that the people featured were keen consumers in general though, not just of fast fashion specifically, so what they said didn't really support the point the documentary was trying to make. Seeing a programme tackle such a thorny issue was refreshing all the same.

Now listen again.

4 An archaeology professor is talking to his students. Why is the professor talking about an archaeological site?

A to encourage them to volunteer there

B to suggest it as a possible focus for project work

C to illustrate a problem they may face in the profession

M To inspire your upcoming research into so-called 'lost cities', I'll show you some slides of the archaeological dig we did last year, at a site called Trellick – a practically complete medieval town that was abandoned abruptly sometime in the 12th century. Over the centuries since, it gradually acquired almost mythical status. It was rediscovered through finds of pottery and coins by a farmer, whose observations proved invaluable. Had we, like others before us, been tempted to listen to local legends, we'd've started digging in entirely the wrong location. Of course you too, by following the evidence and helping out somewhere could, similarly, experience the unique thrill of being the first to uncover the remains of a settlement lost in the mists of time.

Now listen again.

5 A professor of fashion is talking to some students. Why is he talking to the students?

A to challenge them to make an original jacket if they want

B to discourage them from making a jacket until a later date

C to help them identify potential problems when making a jacket

M I've been asked whether it's OK for students to consider crafting a jacket this early in the course. Well, jackets being relatively complex garments, there are hundreds of things that could go wrong with anything from the pattern to the fabric to the fitting. Anyway, in answer to the question, it would certainly be legitimate; whether it's actually a safe option is quite another matter. That said, if anyone is set on producing something utterly unique – and remember that they've been on the scene for a long time – far be it from me to prevent you from going outside your comfort zone.

Now listen again.