

Oxford Test of English

A guide for test takers

Who is the Oxford Test of English for?

The Oxford Test of English is for learners of English at B2, B1, and A2 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). It tests your ability to communicate in English in a range of educational, professional, and social settings. The results can be used to show employers and universities your level of proficiency in English according to CEFR level. The Oxford Test of English is recognized by the *Asociación de centros de lenguas en la enseñanza superior* (ACLES) for reporting at B2, B1, and A2 levels.

You can find a list of all institutions recognizing the Oxford Test of English at www.oxfordtestofenglish.es.

About the test

The Oxford Test of English is a computer-based test. It consists of four modules: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. You can take the whole test (all four modules), a single module, or any combination of the four modules.

Visit www.oxfordtestofenglish.es for information on participating test centres.

The test uses a bank of questions for each module so that during one test session, each test taker gets a different version of the test. The Listening and Reading modules are adaptive, which means that the questions get more difficult or easier depending on whether you answer them correctly or not. This allows the computer to accurately assess your level of English. The Speaking and Writing modules are marked by trained English language assessors.

The following information tells you what is in each module, how long you have to complete it, and what is being tested.

Speaking module

Timing: approximately 15 minutes

Part	Structure	Testing focus
1	Interview Eight questions on everyday topics Questions 1 and 2: Talk for ten seconds per question Questions 3–8: Talk for twenty seconds per question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responding to questions giving factual information expressing personal opinions on everyday topics
2	Voicemail Talk for forty seconds per voicemail Twenty seconds' preparation time Voicemail 1: Leave a voicemail Voicemail 2: Reply to a voicemail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizing longer speech speaking formally or informally
3	Talk Short talk Choose two of four photos to talk about Thirty seconds' preparation time Talk for sixty seconds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organizing longer speech describing comparing and contrasting speculating suggesting
4	Follow-up questions Six questions on the topic of the Part 3 talk Talk for thirty seconds per question	As for Part 3 and including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responding to questions expressing, justifying and responding to opinions expressing feelings agreeing and disagreeing

Listening module

Timing: approximately 30 minutes

Part	Structure	Testing focus
1	Multiple choice – picture options Five short monologues/dialogues each with picture options Five three-option multiple-choice questions Audio and visual input Time to check answers: ten seconds	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific information
2	Note completion A longer monologue with a note completion task Five three-option multiple-choice questions Time to check answers: fifteen seconds	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific information
3	Matching opinions with people who say them A longer dialogue Five three-option multiple-choice questions Time to check answers: fifteen seconds	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stated opinion implied meaning
4	Multiple choice Five short monologues/dialogues Five three-option multiple-choice questions Time to check answers: ten seconds	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attitude/feeling/opinion gist function/reason/purpose speaker relationship topic type/genre

Reading module

Timing: 35 minutes

Part	Structure	Testing focus
1	Multiple-choice questions on short texts Six short texts from a variety of sources Six three-option multiple-choice questions Texts may be adverts, blogs, emails, notes, notices, and text messages One minute twenty seconds to answer each question	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> main message purpose detail
2	Multiple matching Six profiles of people to match with four longer text descriptions Texts are factual and may be from brochures, advertisements, and magazine articles Eight minutes to match the profiles and texts	Reading quickly to identify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specific information opinion and attitude
3	Gapped text Six extracted sentences inserted into a longer text Texts may be from online sources such as a newspaper or magazine article Eleven minutes to decide where the sentences fit in the text	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> text structure organizational features of a text
4	Multiple-choice questions on longer text Four three-option multiple-choice questions Texts may be formal, neutral or informal in register and may be from online sources such as a newspaper or magazine article Eight minutes to answer four questions	Identifying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attitude/opinion purpose reference the meanings of words in context global meaning

Writing module

Timing: 45 minutes

Part	Structure	Testing focus
1	Email Respond to an email Write between 80–130 words Responses are either informal or formal/neutral, and need to include the three prompts from the input email Twenty minutes to write a response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> giving information expressing and responding to opinions and feelings transactional functions such as inviting/requesting/suggesting
2	In Part 2, you have a choice of writing an essay OR an article/review	
	Essay Essay topic typical of classroom discussions Write between 100–160 words Twenty-five minutes to write an essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expressing and responding to opinions developing an argument
	Article/Review Article or review topic typical of classroom discussions Write between 100–160 words Twenty-five minutes to write an article or review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describing narrating expressing feelings and opinions recommending

Registering for the test

You can only take the Oxford Test of English at an approved test centre. Please ask your school for information about your nearest test centre, or visit www.oxfordtestofenglish.es. You will need to register with the test centre in order to take the test – they will tell you the dates when the test is available and how much it costs to take the test.

After you have paid the fee for the test and the test centre has confirmed your session with Oxford University Press, they will provide you with the following details:

- The test date and time
- The test venue and room
- The Test Taker Terms and Conditions
- The Oxford Test of English Privacy Policy
- A copy of this guide.

Preparing for the test

Before you take the test, there is a lot of free support on the test website on www.oxfordtestofenglish.es. There is a full online demo test and you can take the whole test, or individual modules. The demo test is at CEFR B1 level and is designed to let you familiarize yourself with the different types of questions in the test, the time allowed to answer each one, and the online test experience. The online demo test does not save your answers.

In addition to the demo test, there is also a link to a PDF version, which you can print out, complete and then mark using the accompanying answer key.

If you would like further practice, two official practice books are available, one at CEFR B1 level, and one at CEFR B2 level. The books are packed with exam tips, skills-development exercises, and two full practice tests with audio and a key so that you can check your answers. They can be ordered through your test centre.



Test day

Make sure you arrive at the test centre at least half an hour before your test is scheduled to start.

When you arrive at the test centre, the invigilator will tell you where to put your personal belongings, such as your bag and your phone, while you are taking the test. You must switch off any electronic devices, such as mobile phones, before you give them to the invigilator. You cannot access these belongings until the test ends.

You must follow any instructions given by the invigilator. You must not talk during the test, except in the Speaking module, or to talk to the invigilator. There will be time for you to ask questions before the test starts. If you have a question, please put up your hand and wait for the invigilator.

The invigilator will ask you to sit at a particular computer where you will take the test. You must stay in your seat until the test finishes. If you need to use the toilet during the test, your test will continue and you will lose any time spent away from the computer.

The invigilator will read out the Oxford Test of English Terms and Conditions.

You will need to log in or register. If you are already registered with Oxford University Press (with Oxford Learn, Oxford Learner's Bookshelf, Oxford Learner's Dictionaries, or the Oxford Test of English) you must use your existing username and password to sign in. If you are new to Oxford University Press, you will need to register.

The image shows the login page for the Oxford Test of English. At the top, there is a dark header with the text 'Welcome to Oxford Test of English' and a circular logo on the left. Below the header, the page is divided into two main sections. On the left, under the heading 'Sign in', there are input fields for 'Username.*' and 'Password.*', each with a small eye icon to toggle visibility. Below the password field is a 'Sign in' button. A note states: 'If you don't have an Oxford University Press account, you can [register here](#).' On the right, under the heading 'Are you registered with:', there are four options, each with a small icon: 'Oxford Learner's Bookshelf?', 'Oxford Learn?', 'Oxford Learner's Dictionaries?', and 'Oxford Test of English?'. Below these options, it says 'Sign in using your existing username and password.' At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the Oxford University Press logo on the left and copyright information on the right: '© 2016 Oxford University Press. [Release 1502171432]. All rights reserved.'

After you log in, the invigilator will check your identification.

Your identification

You will need to show a form of photo identification (ID) to prove who you are. The ID must be an original document which is valid. You must keep the ID on your desk with the photograph showing throughout the test. The following forms of ID are accepted:

- National ID Card (DNI)
- Passport.

Unacceptable behaviour

Oxford University Press will not tolerate the following behaviour:

You must not do anything to give you or other test takers an unfair advantage, before, during or after the test.

You must not bring any dictionaries, paper, pens, pencils or electronic equipment, such as laptops, mobile phones, cameras, smart watches, digital sound recorders, etc., into the test room during the test. If you bring any electronic items with you on the day, you must turn them off and give them to the invigilator before you enter the test room.

You must not copy the questions or answers in the test, or share the questions or answers with anyone else.

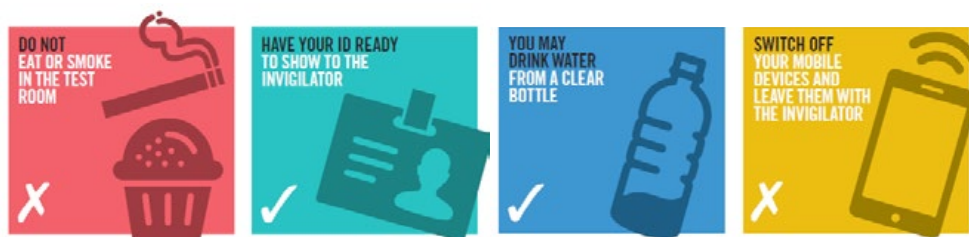
You must not take the test for someone else or let anyone take the test on your behalf.

You must not talk to other test takers during the test.

You must not smoke in the test room.

You must not eat in the test room.

You may take water into the test room in a clear plastic bottle.



You will do a sound check to make sure the headphones and microphone provided by the test centre are working properly. You should speak clearly at a normal level into the microphone. You can change the volume to the level you want. If there is a problem with the headphones or microphone, tell the invigilator – you must not try to fix the problem yourself. It is a good idea to keep the headphones on for all four modules if you are doing the whole test; during the Speaking module, other test takers in the room will be speaking at the same time as you. There may also be some background noise, which headphones will reduce.

When everyone is ready, the invigilator will start the test.

The Speaking module

You will need to wear the headphones provided during the Speaking module. In the Speaking module, your answers to the questions are recorded. The recordings will be marked by a trained assessor, so please speak clearly into the microphone. For each question, a clock shows how much time you have to answer. The Speaking module moves from one question to the next automatically. You cannot return to a question after the time runs out.

The Listening module

You will need to wear the headphones provided during the Listening module. Each audio plays two times. You can choose your answers at any time while the question is on screen. If you answer a question after the first play, you can click the 'Next' button to go to the next question. After the second play, a clock shows how much time you have left to finish choosing your answers. The question will then automatically move to the next screen. You cannot return to a question after you click 'Next' or after the time runs out.

The Reading module

For each question, a clock shows how much time you have to answer the questions. You can click 'Next' to go to the next question. You cannot return to a question after you click 'Next' or after the time runs out.

The Writing module

For Writing Part 1 you will write an email.

For Writing Part 2 you will have a choice of writing an essay or a magazine article/review.

You cannot return to a question after you click 'Next' or after the time runs out.

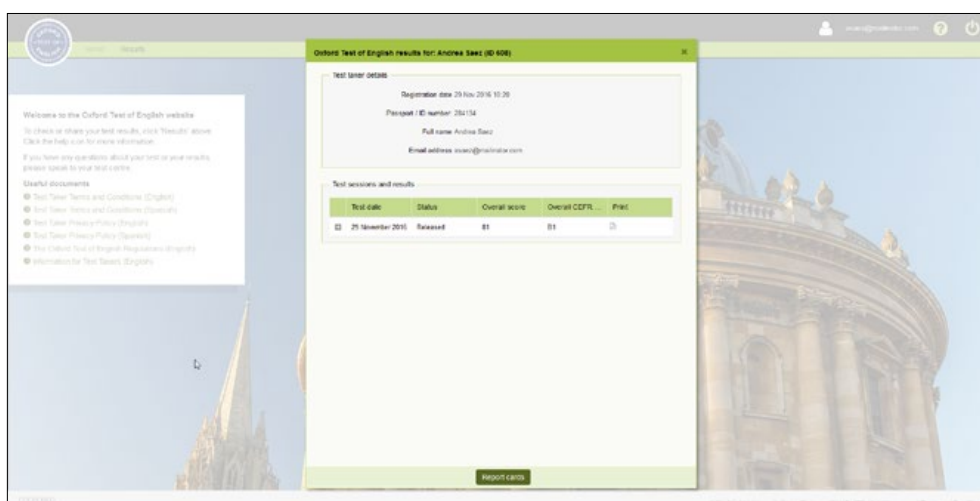
During the test, invigilators will walk around the room to make sure there are no problems, and to check IDs. If you have a question, put up your hand and wait for the invigilator.

When the test is complete, you will need to sign out. You can then quietly leave the room and get your belongings. You must not talk to other test takers until you leave the test room.

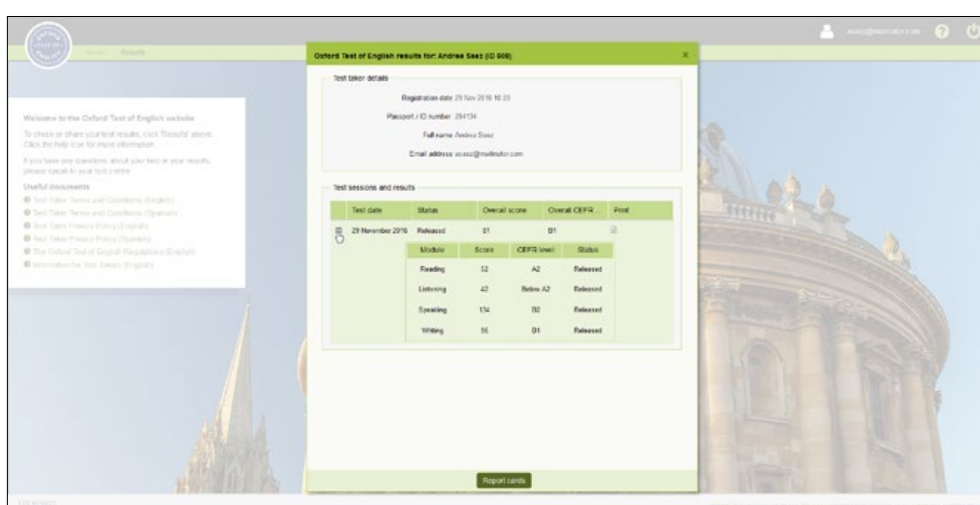
Full details of the test regulations are available on www.oxfordtestofenglish.es.

Viewing your results

Your results will be available within fourteen days after your test, or up to twenty-eight days after your test if managed by your test centre. You will receive an email notification when your results are available. After this time, you can log onto the test taker portal and view your results.



You may then view a breakdown of your scores for individual modules and create your report card in PDF format, which you can then download and print.



Understanding your results

Oxford Test of English results are valid for life – they never run out. However, individual test score users such as universities may have their own policies on how recent your evidence of English language proficiency must be.

If you complete all four modules of the test, you will get an Oxford Test of English Certificate of Proficiency. If you complete three modules or fewer, you will get a Module Report Card.

Certificate

You will receive a certificate if you complete all four modules (Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing).

Overall CEFR level and score

Certificates have an overall CEFR level and an overall score. The overall score is the average of the scores of the four individual modules, out of a total of 140.

Date module was taken

You may take individual modules on different dates. Here you can see the date each module was taken.



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The Oxford Test of English is certified by the University of Oxford

Certificate of Proficiency

TEST TAKER NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	TEST TAKER NUMBER
Fernando García León	03 January 1990	123 456 789
CERTIFICATE REFERENCE NUMBER		
ABC 456 789 123		

OVERALL CEFR LEVEL	OVERALL SCORE
B2	120

MODULE	SCORE	CEFR LEVEL		
		A2 (51–80)	B1 (81–110)	B2 (111–140)
Speaking Taken 03 September 2016	100	<div></div>		
Listening Taken 25 June 2016	112	<div></div>		
Reading Taken 25 June 2016	128	<div></div>		
Writing Taken 03 September 2016	140	<div></div>		

Score Guide
The Oxford Test of English measures proficiency in English at A2, B1, and B2 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The Certificate provides a CEFR level and a standardised score from 0–140. For more information on test scores go to oxfordtestofenglish.com

Results Verification
The information on this certificate can be authenticated by requesting the link to the Oxford Test of English verification site from the test taker. More information on score interpretation can be found at www.oxfordtestofenglish.com

Peter Marshall

Peter Marshall, Managing Director, English Language Teaching, Oxford University Press

Charles Boyle

Dr Charles Boyle, Deputy Director, International Programmes, University of Oxford

Oxford University Press reserves the right to amend the results given following a results review, appeal, or other results-related investigation.

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Module score

Each module is given a CEFR level and a score out of 140. This shows your relative strengths across the four skills. All module scores are available on the test taker portal. You can select which results you would like to appear on the Certificate or Module Report Card.

If you wish to improve your score, you can retake an individual module, rather than the whole test.

Verifying results

You can provide your university, employer or organization with a link to verify your result instantly online. You can access your verification link via the test taker portal.

Test scores

Scores for the Oxford Test of English are from 51–140. These scores are aligned to CEFR levels A2, B1, and B2. The scale is used for the individual module scores and the overall score for the test.

A2		B1		B2	
A2.1	A2.2	B1.1	B1.2	B2.1	B2.2
51	66	81	96	111	126
					141

Module Report Card

You will receive a Module Report Card for each individual module if you complete three modules or fewer. Report cards do not give an overall CEFR level or overall score.

Module Report Card

TEST TAKER NAME	DATE OF BIRTH	TEST TAKER NUMBER
Fernando García León	03 January 1990	123 456 789
MODULE REPORT CARD REFERENCE NUMBER		
ABC 456 789 123		

MODULE	SCORE	CEFR LEVEL		
		A2 (51–80)	B1 (81–110)	B2 (111–140)

Speaking Taken 03 September 2016	100			
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Score Guide
The Oxford Test of English measures proficiency in English at A2, B1, and B2 levels of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The Module Report Card provides a CEFR level and a standardised score from 0–140. For more information on test scores go to oxfordtestofenglish.com
Results Verification
Please go to <https://verify.oxfordtestofenglish.com> for details on how to officially verify the results shown on this module report card.

Module score

The Module Report Card shows the module score and CEFR level for the module completed.

How overall CEFR level and overall scores are calculated

You are given a CEFR level and score for each module and, if you have taken all four modules, an overall CEFR level and overall score. For this reason, you may find that you have scores at more than one CEFR level. For example, B2 for Reading, Listening, and Writing, but B1 for Speaking, and an overall score of B2:

MODULES	SCORE	OVERALL CEFR LEVEL	OVERALL SCORE
Speaking Taken 03 September 2016	100	B2	120
Listening Taken 25 June 2016	112		
Reading Taken 25 June 2016	128		
Writing Taken 03 September 2016	140		

Your institution or employer may take the individual module scores into account if a particular language skill, for example, Speaking, is more important than others for your course or job. Similarly, they may require B2 in all four skills. This is decided by the institution or employer.

CEFR level descriptors

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) is a widely-recognised international benchmark for language ability, developed by the Council of Europe (2001). The table below shows how the overall scores of the Oxford Test of English relate to the CEFR levels, and what you are likely to be able to do if your score corresponds to the range for levels B2, B1, and A2.

Overall score	CEFR level	CEFR level descriptors©
111–140	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
81–110	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics, which are familiar, or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
51–80	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.


© The copyright for the CEFR level descriptors is owned by the Council of Europe.

Getting the results you want

The Oxford Test of English is accepted by a large number of institutions and employers as proof of language proficiency. However, before the test, make sure that you know exactly what results you need to get. For example, for ACLES, to show your English is at CEFR B2 standard, you need to get CEFR B2 level in each module, not just CEFR B2 level as your overall CEFR level.

Sharing your results

Once your results are available, you can share them with others, such as universities or employers, by email. You can include a personalized message with the report card or certificate. Use the 'Share your report card' feature to share your report card or certificate.

Share your report card 

Type the email address you want to send your report card to.

You will also need to type a message to send with your report card.

Use the message to introduce yourself and say why you are sending the report card.

Type a message to send with your report card: *

Dear Mr Davis,

Please find attached a copy of my

Oxford Test of English results.

Next

Back

Retaking the test

If you didn't get the results you wanted, you can retake the whole test or just the individual modules you wish to improve. There is no limit to the number of times the test can be retaken, but you need to wait one month before you can retake the test. It is recommended that you use the time for further study. You can find more information about retakes in the Test Regulations at www.oxfordtestofenglish.es.

Concerned about your results?

Results review

If you are unhappy with a result you receive, you can request a results review via the test centre. Fees for results reviews are available from the test centre and may vary at different test centres.

A results review consists of either a re-mark of the Speaking or Writing module, or a results check of the Listening or Reading module. A results review will not result in a lower score than that achieved in the original test being awarded. If the CEFR level for the module or the overall CEFR level increases as a result of the results review, the review fee is refunded.

In the unlikely event that the results review identifies an error in the tasks presented to you during the test, you may need to retake the test. In such cases, your review fee may be refunded and you may be offered a refund of the test fee or a free test resit via the test centre.

Please note that as the Listening and Reading modules are marked by computers, errors in marking are extremely rare so a results review for these modules is unlikely to result in a change to the original result.

Appeal

If you have requested a results review for one or more modules of the test and you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may request an appeal via the test centre. The test centre will charge a fee to process an appeal. You cannot request an appeal if you have not previously requested a results review. All appeals are reviewed by the University of Oxford. The decision of the university is final.

Frequently asked questions

On the test day

What if I am late for the test?

Once the test has started, test takers arriving late cannot join the test.

What if I cannot come to the test?

If you cannot attend the test, contact the test centre as soon as possible.

What form of ID do I need?

You need to bring either your National ID Card (DNI), or your passport. No other form of ID will be accepted.

What if I forget my ID?

If you do not have a valid ID, you will not be allowed to take the test.

What happens if something goes wrong with my computer?

If there is a technical problem with your computer, put up your hand and tell the invigilator. Do not try to fix the problem yourself.

During the test

What if I need a break during the test?

If you need to take a break during the test, for example to go to the toilet, put up your hand and ask the invigilator. Please note that the test will continue, and you will lose the time spent away from the computer.

Can I leave if I finish the test early?

No. All test takers must remain in the room until the test has finished.

During the test, can I change my answers to questions?

Yes. For the Listening, Reading, and Writing modules, you can change your answer as many times as you like until either you click 'Next' or run out of time, and move to the next screen.

Can I go back to a previous question?

No. After you click 'Next' (or run out of time) and move to a new screen, you cannot go back to a previous question.

Do I have to give an answer?

No. You can move onto the next part of the test without giving an answer, but remember that you will not be able to come back to the question to answer it later, so it will be marked as incorrect.

What criteria are used to mark the Speaking and Writing modules?

Speaking is marked on pronunciation, fluency, grammar, and lexis. Writing is marked on task fulfilment, organization, grammar, and lexis.

Do I have to answer all the questions in the Speaking test?

You should try to answer all the questions in the Speaking module. If you do not speak enough, you will lose marks.

Do I have to include all three prompts in the email in Writing Part 1?

Yes. The prompts will help you organize your email. If you do not use all three prompts, you will lose marks.

You can find more information in the sample test, available on www.oxfordtestofenglish.es.

After the test

How soon can I retake the test?

You need to wait one month before you can retake the test.

When will my results be available?

Your results will be available within fourteen days of your test or twenty-eight days if managed by your test centre. You will receive an email notification when your results are available.