



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B1 Practice Test 3

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

I live in a modern flat in the middle of Madrid, and we are on the third floor. The flat has three bedrooms, a kitchen and a sitting room. We have a balcony that looks down on a square outside that has a lot of trees.

4 **Sample answer**

The area I live in is very quiet. There are a lot of apartments and houses, but there aren't any offices or factories. There are a couple of restaurants and a small shop, but if we want to have an evening out, we go to the city centre.

5 **Sample answer**

I like our home, and I don't think I would change very much, although it might be nice to have a separate dining room. One thing that would be great is a small garden.

6 **Sample answer**

I don't watch TV very often in the week, because I'm usually too busy doing homework. It's different at the weekend – we tend to watch TV a lot on Saturday and Sunday, and there are often some quite good things on.

7 **Sample answer**

Yes, I really like going out to the cinema and seeing the latest films that everyone is talking about. We're lucky because we have a cinema near us that has free parking, so that makes everything very easy.

8 **Sample answer**

I saw a really good TV programme recently, and in fact I'm still watching it. It's a police drama about a girl who goes missing, and it's very exciting. I can't wait to see what happens in the end.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi, I'm Anita Jones from Warmington, I ordered some trainers from The Trainer Warehouse last week. They were supposed to arrive at my house yesterday, but they have not arrived yet. Have they been delivered to another address? Would you be able to check for me, please? I live at number 4, Chester Lane.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Zadie, I just got your message about the concert – that's amazing, well done. I'm really sorry, but I won't be able to make it. We're going to visit my grandparents for two weeks. Don't worry about being nervous, I always get nervous too. My mum tells me to take a few deep breaths and to pretend that nobody is watching me. I hope this helps. Good luck!

Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

Sample answer

I'm going to talk about two things that we can all do to try and protect the natural world and reduce the damage that we are doing at the moment. Firstly, there's the problem of the rubbish that there is from people's homes. This gets taken away to places where there are huge mountains of waste. We can't solve the problem completely, but if we recycled as much glass, paper and other waste as possible, we could improve things. The second problem we can help with is air pollution. We can reduce this by using public transport as much as possible rather than driving around in cars. It would also help if more people had electric cars, although this is too expensive for most people at the moment. So you see, there are things we can do to protect the environment, and we should all try as hard as we can.

Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Sample answer

The best place to learn about the natural world is at home with your friends or your family. It's important to appreciate your own area and your own country, and to spend time in the countryside going for walks, picnics or camping because that gives you the chance to find out about it.

2 Sample answer

I think that it depends what age you are. I think the countryside is good for young children because they are free to play outside, they have plenty of space and they are away from traffic. For people in their 20s or 30s, the countryside is less attractive – there are fewer job opportunities, and living in the city is much more exciting.

3 Sample answer

I think both types of places would be extremely difficult. If you lived near the Arctic Circle, you would hardly ever be able to go outside, and it would be dark for half the year. It might be slightly easier to live in somewhere very hot because in the evenings and in the winter months it might be a bit more pleasant.

4 Sample answer

I don't think it is wrong to have animals on farms. People need things like milk, butter and cheese and most people also eat meat. I think the important thing is to give animals a good life and to take care of them. I really dislike the idea of factory farming – for example, I think it is wrong to keep thousands of chickens in a single building – it seems cruel.

5 Sample answer

No, I don't think meat should be banned. We have been eating meat for millions of years and it is a natural part of our diet. However, we probably eat too much meat, and we are damaging the environment because we keep cutting down forests so that we can grow crops to feed to animals. It would be better if we all ate vegetarian food a bit more often.

6 Sample answer

I am not sure what the natural world will be like 100 years from now because a lot depends on climate change and whether we deal with the problem. I think we will probably lose some animals like tigers and elephants, and we will only see them in zoos.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 C

The boy says he's thinking of getting some painting done. He says he's thinking of having a break from social media, and his tablet has got very slow, and he says he finished reading his book yesterday.

2 B

The newsreader says, 'an enormous number of potatoes have fallen off a lorry, and they're now blocking the road,' so that's why Springfield Road is closed now. The street market is in Palmer Street, and the street party is the reason Springfield Road will be closed tonight – not why it's closed now.

3 C

The woman says she's 'talking to a friend who goes round festivals and sells food from a van.' She says she thought about working in a hotel by the sea, but thinks it could be too quiet during the winter, and she says 'most people want to be waiters', and that selling food from a van would be 'more fun than a restaurant'.

4 A

The man says, 'it'll have to be the one above the shop'. He says the flat near the railway 'wasn't big enough', and he says he doesn't think he can afford the flat opposite the park.

5 B

The man says he wanted to choose something peaceful. The woman prefers the photo of the city, but it isn't the one the man is entering. The man thought of entering the picture of the sea, then changed his mind.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 A

Karen says, 'when people are asked to stand up and introduce themselves, they generally can't think what to say', so instead they'll all play a game. They'll have coffee after that.

2 C

Karen says she'll talk about how the company was set up and how it's grown and about the range of products, but she'll 'concentrate on what the different departments do'.

3 B

Karen says, 'we hoped we could complete those on security and data protection before lunch,' leaving health and safety till the afternoon. However, security will have to 'be after lunch', so data protection will be in the morning.

4 C

Karen says, 'we'll have a cold meal in the conference room', instead of the canteen. She also says the meeting room would be perfect but is in use.

5 B

Karen says, 'I'll give you each a list of words and ask you to circle those that describe how you feel.' She says that in the past, they've usually asked people to stand up and talk, and that they've sometimes asked people to write some sentences.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 both

The man says, 'Surely nearly everyone has some food that makes them feel more cheerful', and the woman agrees by saying 'I suppose that's true', although not for her.

2 woman

The woman says, 'it's great that some families always sit down for meals together – I'm sure it brings them closer'. The man disagrees, saying, 'I'm sure it makes no difference to how people feel about each other'.

3 both

The man says that he and his brother 'love going to restaurants serving food from different parts of the world'. The woman agrees, saying 'I see what you mean. I like it as a way of learning about other countries'.

4 man

The man says, 'too many restaurants seem to forget that some people get ill if they eat certain foods', and gives the example of his sister. The woman disagrees, saying 'there's a limit on what you can expect restaurants to provide', and you shouldn't go to a restaurant if it can't give you the food you want.

5 both

The woman says that food probably tastes better if you buy the ingredients and make something yourself, although she doesn't do it herself. The man says he makes an effort to cook for himself, and 'nothing is better than your own cooking'.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 B

The woman is calling her friend because she can't meet him at the time they had arranged – she has to drive her father to a dentist's appointment. She still needs to get the details of the art assignment from him. Her friend is going to give her information about their assignment when they meet: she isn't asking for it now, and they have already agreed to meet, so she doesn't need to suggest that.

2 C

The woman says, 'It seems as though you suddenly decided you'd written enough, though, and I wondered what happened to the main character.' She says 'you've included a lot of characters, which could be a risk, but you've brought their stories together very well', so the way he has dealt with the number of characters is good, and she says 'I felt I got to know the characters, so what they did made sense.'

3 A

The girl says she had to look at the online class chat to check she'd understood the assignment, and now she knows that it's quite easy. The girl is not his sister because the boy says that his sister reminded him about the online chat, and it is not his teacher because a teacher wouldn't need to check they'd understood the assignment they'd set.

4 B

The woman shows her surprise by saying, 'I can think of several other people at work who could do it better than I could.' She says she'll do the best she can, and hope that's good enough, so she isn't confident it will be a good speech, and she says she's 'really not sure' how she'll manage with hundreds of people in the audience.

5 C

The man asks if dark green and light blue are the only options for that style of sofa. When the woman says he can choose another, he replies, 'that's what I was hoping'. He already knows the sale ends on Sunday, and he says he'll come in one evening, and checks that the store closes at 8 p.m. rather than asking the opening hours.

Reading Part 1 Page 9–10

1 B

'It's the most important meal of the day so it's essential to eat a lot of healthy stuff' means you should think consider what you eat. Although the text says, 'it's essential to eat a lot of healthy stuff' and 'a balance of everything you need for the day' this is not the same as eating 'as much as you can for breakfast'. The writer advises some types of food, but this does not mean 'you must only eat specific things'.

2 A

Chloe is 'most importantly' looking for someone 'sociable', which suggests someone who will chat with her. Chloe does not mention sharing the housework, and she does not want someone to help improve the flat because the work has been done by someone else – 'the bathroom was recently decorated, and it will have a new bathroom soon'.

3 A

The text message gives instructions 'download your tickets', 'have them ready to show on arrival', 'bring your discount card if you have bought a reduced-price ticket' so the visitors will be prepared for their visit. The tickets will be sent in a 'confirmation email' so the text message does not include a receipt, and it reminds people 'to bring your discount card if you have bought a reduced-price ticket' not to tell them about cheaper tickets.

4 C

The email tells locals that their houses 'will be without water ... while we replace the pipes for the new housing'. The building work is to 'replace the pipes for the new housing' not 'their homes', and the message says 'we are writing to confirm' and 'as previously mentioned' so the readers already know about the building work.

5 B

Raoul Lyon gives the idea behind the story, describing the book as transporting 'readers to a strange world where books come to life when you read them aloud' and 'where dreams and reality mix together'. Although the review says 'K.T. Mews (the author) transports readers to a strange world where books come to life when you read them aloud', this does not mean the author reads the book to children and does not say how the book makes children feel.

6 B

Kavita mentions Safi 'spoke to her classmates last night and found out about the work you covered yesterday' and she 'will do this by Monday' but because Safi missed the lesson, Kavita says she'd 'be grateful if you could explain anything she's (Safi's) unsure about'. The letter starts 'as you know' so the teacher already knew about Safi's toothache, and although she explains her daughter got in touch with one of her classmates about the work covered, this is not the main purpose of the letter.

Reading Part 2

Page 11

1 A

Francesca says 'Being a gardener has been very positive for me. I love seeing the smiles on my clients' faces' which means she uses nature to make her customers feel better. Jessica mentions family and friends, but only talks about nature making her feel better.

2 B

Jessica says 'I still love exploring the countryside ... It's time away from social media, screens and ...' this refers to technology. Francesca says, 'Now I spend most of my time outdoors in nature, rather than in an office surrounded by computers.' However, she doesn't say she has chosen this as a break from technology.

3 A

Francesca has changed her job and is now helping nature: 'I've started a new career as a gardener' and 'I feel I can make a difference to the future of our planet by taking care of plants and trees which in turn helps insects and animals.' Sammy mentions people should look after nature: 'Every insect, animal and plant has a role to play, so we need to do more to look after their living environments to help keep them alive.' But does not mention how he is making a change.

4 C

Sammy says, 'experiencing new places encourages me to learn even more about the world around me.' Francesca talks about helping the planet but not about learning more about it.

5 B

Jessica describes how she was as a child compared to now: 'I used to spend all my free time with my little brother exploring nature' and then: 'Now nature has become a source of adventure and excitement' and 'However, these days, I'm always looking for something more exciting I can do in nature with my friends.' Sammy talks about loving travelling with his family 'since childhood' but does not mention a change.

6 A

Francesca describes a positive change in her life, 'Being a gardener has been very positive for me. I love seeing the smiles on my clients' faces and I'm much happier since I started doing this for a living.' Jessica compares what she used to do as a child with what she does now, however she does not describe it as a good change.

Reading Part 3

Page 12

1 D

Before the gap, the writer mentions 'in the past, people could only listen ... when they were played on the radio.' In contrast with this, option D begins 'Now listeners can enjoy them at any time'.

2 G

The sentence before the gap mentions 'producers'. In option G, producers are referred to as 'they'. The sentence after the gap mentions 'podcasts being changed for TV'. Option G relates to this as it talks about TV producers 'testing ideas for the screen' which is another word for TV.

3 B

The sentences before and after the gap talk about being 'very close to the presenter' and 'close relationship' which relates to the idea in option B 'sitting in their front room with an old friend'.

4 F

The sentence following the gap gives an example of 'they may tell the listeners about the stories ... they need to play the music too' which relates to option F, 'they need to ... talk for the right amount of time'.

5 E

Option E introduces a new topic of becoming famous, so begins a new paragraph. The sentence following the gap explains what you need to do to make a podcast and therefore become famous.

6 A

The sentence before the gap talks about podcasts as a trend, which suggests something lasting only a short time. Option A introduces the opposite idea beginning with 'However,' and explaining that they are 'here to stay' the opposite of a short time. The sentence following the gap gives a reason for this by explaining how popular they are.

Reading Part 4

Page 13

1 B

The writer says that after walking home from work he had 'left all the stresses of the day behind'. He does not say walking makes him a better worker, and he talks about walking 'improv[ing] your mood' not 'your memory'.

2 A

The writer describes how the sound and smell of the rain has an effect on people physically and mentally. Although the writer says many people think you can catch a cold, he does not say it changes the temperature of the body, and that walking in the rain 'requires more focus' not that it helps us concentrate.

3 A

The writer says, 'the force of the wind means your body has to work harder, making it a better work out'. The writer says you can breathe easier when the air is clean, but he does not say you get more exercise in clean air. And he only mentions running to compare it to walking in the wind, he does not say that people who want to get the most exercise should run.

4 C

The writer explains the benefits of going out for walks frequently in different types of weather: 'walking for just 30 minutes a day', 'making a habit of walking in any weather is good practice', and 'get out for a walk whenever you can'. Whilst he mentions 'different conditions to walk in' and describes 'what walking in nature feels like' these points are not the main purpose of the text.

Writing Part 1

Page 14

Sample answer

Hi Alex,

I think the best way is to go by train. If we catch the 9.10 train, we'll just need to change once. It's also possible to get there by bus, which would be much cheaper, but it would mean changing twice, and would take much longer.

It's great that your brother wants to join us. He's such fun, and I'm sure we'll enjoy ourselves even more if he comes.

I'd love to spend longer by the sea, but I'm afraid I can't. I've promised to help at a charity sale the day before, and I've got a dentist's appointment the morning after we go.

Looking forward to it.

Karl

[111 words]

Writing Part 2

Page 15

Sample answer – essay

It is very important for school students to help each other, in various ways. Of course, some work is individual, and students must try and show that they understand and can do it. In this case, doing it together is cheating. However, students can do other types of work together, and this is very good, because they have to consider other people's opinions. Learning to work with other people is extremely important: it is a way to prepare for adult life.

There are also other ways that people can help each other at school. They can learn from each other, just by chatting. One person's hobby may be the stars, for example, or animals, and talking about this interest can introduce other people to the subject. Students can also help each other to deal with everyday life – we all need somebody to talk to sometimes.

Life and studying are both too hard to deal with on your own!

[158 words]

Sample answer – review

I was recently invited to a formal wedding and decided to buy a suit. I've never had one before, and the only shop in my town that sells them doesn't look very friendly. Anyway, I went in, and an assistant immediately smiled and offered to help me. I refused and started looking at the clothes. There were so many that I soon got confused. As soon as I looked round for help, the assistant noticed and came over to me. We talked about different styles of suit, and he helped me to choose one.

It's possible to buy a suit online, but I'm sure it's much more difficult to find exactly the right item. In addition, for me, part of the pleasure of shopping is chatting to other people face-to-face, which you can't do online.

If I ever need any other formal clothes, I would definitely go back to that shop, because I had such a good experience there.

[159 words]