



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B2 Practice Test 3

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

My English teacher is called Isobel, and she comes from Scotland. She has been teaching me English for three years and I really enjoy her classes. She is always positive and encouraging, and I find that really important.

4 **Sample answer**

I find I need to write new words down and keep repeating them. I then need to test myself straight away, then the next day and then again, a few days later. It's very important to repeat these tests several times.

5 **Sample answer**

I think most tourists like to try speaking Italian, and they can say things like hello or goodbye, but that's it. But a lot of tourists just assume that they can speak to you in English and that you will understand.

6 **Sample answer**

I have a brother and a sister, but I am closest to my sister. She is a year and a half older than me, so we do a lot of things together. My brother is seven years older than me, so I don't see him much.

7 **Sample answer**

Our last big family get together was my cousin's 18th birthday. She invited me, my sister and all her other cousins, and we had an amazing party in the garden of her house.

8 **Sample answer**

I prefer to be with my family when we have traditional celebrations like Christmas, because these are important family events. I prefer to be with friends when I'm doing something new or exciting like having a party on the beach or camping in the mountains.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi! My name's Jason Smith, and I'm a friend of Emily Watson, who's in your Wednesday painting class. I'd really like to join the class. I did some painting as part of my Art GCSE. However, I'm keen to develop my technique. Emily's told me the class is full at the moment, but could you put me on a waiting list and contact me if a place becomes available? Many thanks.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Jim. I'm well, thank you. That's great news about your new house – how exciting! Where is it and how big is it? I want to know everything! Unfortunately, I'm not free next Thursday, I have to work all day at the restaurant. My sister is free that day, though, and I'm sure she would be happy to help. You should give her a call.

Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

Sample answer

So many people love music, it has the ability to make people feel really happy. Dancing is a great way to enjoy music with your friends. You can dance together to the same tunes. As well as making you feel really happy, it's also great exercise. The problem is, you need space to dance and to be able to play your music nice and loud.

Another great way to enjoy music is to learn an instrument. Not only can you enjoy the music you make, you also have the satisfaction of learning a new skill. Learning an instrument is not easy though. You need to have time and patience to practice a lot.

Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Sample answer

I think that you need to be quite young if you want to learn a musical instrument well. That's partly because it can be a long, slow process, and partly because it's easier to learn things when you are younger. In some ways, it's a bit like learning a language, which young children seem to be able to do without even trying.

2 Sample answer

There are different kinds of challenges. The first is that, if you are teaching someone to play the piano, for example, you can't do that with a class of 30 students. It is something that has to be done on a one-to-one basis, so it is expensive for the school to provide. Perhaps that is why, in many cases, parents have to pay for their children to have private lessons.

3 Sample answer

I think as people get older their tastes in a lot of things change, not just music. As you get older your life often becomes busier and more stressful, therefore, older people often prefer quieter, more calming music. But not everyone is the same, there are a lot of older people who still love the music they liked in their teens.

4 Sample answer

In the future, I think we will be able to listen to all music for free. We can already listen to a lot of music for free if we are happy to listen to adverts. I think this has advantages and disadvantages. It's great to make music available to everyone but how will musicians make money in the future?

5 Sample answer

I think people enjoy going to see live music because of the atmosphere. It feels great to be stood in a crowd with thousands of people singing along to the same song. It is a very special feeling that is difficult to find elsewhere.

6 Sample answer

Unfortunately, it is very difficult to make a career out of playing music. If you play the violin and classical music, you might be able to join a professional orchestra, but there is so much competition that it is almost impossible. In the world of popular music, the situation is similar – there are just a few stars who make it to the top, but there are thousands of small bands and groups who make hardly any money at all.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 A

The most popular painting was the one of the leopard, which was 'a nightmare to get anywhere near to', meaning the room was very crowded; the one with the eagle was 'almost as bad', so almost as crowded/popular.

2 B

We can infer that at some time the woman had a problem with her passport being out of date because she says there is no need to remind her of the incident. She says the queues were bad, but she does not say that this happened before; the problem with the luggage happened before but happened to the man.

3 A

The man says he doesn't mind going back to the street market and would rather go to one place where John and Anne would both be happy.

4 C

The man says he feels he should be prepared to take a few risks with his career now, so he is going to focus on being an internet chef, which is currently highly successful but which may not remain successful; he is quite attracted to the idea of being an electrician, but this is described as a safe option, and the option of becoming a teacher is his parents' idea rather than his own.

5 B

The man says he goes for a walk early every morning and the trainer says it's a great way to start the day. The trainer implies that the cycling isn't doing much good because he only cycles 'just round the corner' to the office, and the swimming is not very effective because he is unable to do lane swimming. The trainer suggests finally that the two expensive activities are not as good as the free activity.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 C

The speaker says that 'ultimately' the students are there to 'develop a deeper understanding of ancient societies'. Only some of the students will be collecting material for coursework and the programme is based on previous research.

2 A

The speaker says that it took thousands of years for communities to move from the Middle East to Britain. The speaker says the climate in Britain was cold, not that it changed, and that communities grew crops and had animals.

3 A

The speaker says that the students will start by just eating the food they can gather, and then later they can eat the food from the farm. The plants will not be highlighted, and the speaker does not say that hunting was challenging.

4 B

The speaker says that the lessons are based on 'clues on which we can make reasonable assumptions'. The speaker does not say that the evidence is new, and the skills were not invented in Neolithic times but 'had in fact been discovered thousands of years earlier'.

5 C

The speaker says that the special events are 'popular with visitors from the town and beyond'. The speaker says the students will be 'confined here', so cannot visit any local tourist sites, and the talks will be given by 'visiting speakers'.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 Both

The man agrees with the statement because he says that the organizations have 'really made people sit up and take notice'. The woman agrees and says that they have used social media effectively. The man disagrees with this detail – he thinks that nature documentaries have been more important – but they still both agree on the main point that organizations have been successful.

2 Woman

The man disagrees with the statement. He says he sometimes fails to act in an environmentally friendly way by using his car instead of public transport but says 'you just have to be practical sometimes and not let it bother you'. The woman says she does the same thing but says 'I don't feel good about it'.

3 Both

The woman implies that the man would get into trouble if he didn't follow his own principle of treating animals well. The man agrees and implies that the press would be justified in criticising him if he behaved in that way.

4 Both

The woman thinks that celebrities can be useful if there is a link between the celebrity and the charity; the man agrees that it can be useful as long as there is 'a real link that people can see'.

5 Man

The man says that his organization has 'started being more positive, stressing the good news stories'. The woman does not share his optimism and implies that her organization does not have any 'good news stories' to promote.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 C

The woman says her app is good because it gives good directions, but the man says that is a standard feature. Both of the apps are free. The man implies that the woman's app does not give information about traffic conditions whereas his does; the woman agrees that traffic information would be useful even if the app 'takes a bit of getting used to'.

2 B

The man says the stars were so bright 'you almost didn't need a torch' and he implies he enjoyed it because he 'could have stayed there for hours'; the woman agrees that the experience was positive. Only the man mentions the silence and only the man mentions that the telescope was powerful enough to show the planets up close.

3 C

The man blames the interviewer for 'painting a completely unrealistic picture of what the job would actually be like', and the woman agrees that the interviewer's behaviour was an example of 'what not to do'. The woman initially implies the sister is at fault because she keeps giving up jobs too quickly, but the man denies this. Neither of them blames the boss this time, although it seems that this has been a problem in the past.

4 B

The woman tells the man about the topics the student is going to study. The woman tells the man that she has not given the student any extra work. The professors say that the student is very bright and very hard working. The man clarifies also that the student is not ill, so implies that the quality of her current work is not good, so he is going to talk to her to see if he can find out what the problem is.

5 B

The woman implies that even if the company saves money on rent, they will have to spend more on hiring new people, so they will not make any savings overall, and the man agrees. They do not say it will be difficult to replace staff, just that it will be expensive. The woman says that employees will have to pay for train fares but does not say that the company will give them higher salaries.

Reading Part 1 Page 9–10

1 B

The text message tells Jonas to 'click on the link' in order to enter 'a big prize draw ... to win a £100 gift card' which is a competition. Although the text message talks about 'regular texts' which is similar to 'future notifications', this is not the main purpose of the message. The text advises to 'reply "stop"' to cancel the future notifications rather than to stop his membership.

2 A

Sally 'had to go for the tasting menu' because the restaurant offered 'remarkable dishes with so many unique ones'. Although she says 'It's expensive, but definitely worth a visit', this does not mean the same as good value. The review does not say what Sally thinks of the restaurant before visiting it, just that she expects it is going to be good because of the smells when she arrives there.

3 C

Jessie says that they 'have taken matters into [their] own hands' which means they have ordered a new fridge themselves. She asks the landlord to look at 'the attached receipt' with the cost of the fridge which they will 'be taking ... out of next month's rent'.

4 C

The notice explains that the work being done to the wall on the footpath has been delayed, 'Due to extreme weather conditions, completion of the new wall has been put back to the end of March' which means the footpath 'will now be closed until then'.

5 B

Miriam asks Charlie to cut up the food they do have as soon as he gets to the restaurant: 'Could you chop the ingredients we do have as soon as you arrive, please?' Whilst Miriam tells Charlie that they 'were rushed off our feet last night – every table was full', this is not the reason Miriam wrote the message. Miriam will not be late because she says she will arrive 'no later than usual'.

6 B

The blogger says 'they fit like a dream' and 'better than having to wear a stiff pair of new jeans'. When comparing new jeans to vintage jeans, the blogger mentions comfort but not quality, 'I'd never really come across any comfortable jeans'. Whilst the blogger says 'everyone should get a pair', it does not tell us if everyone has a pair already.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 B

Malachy has 'made friends at concerts and music festivals' and is 'meeting up with some of them at a music gig' and says, 'I love being a part of that connection.' Freya explains that 'music is ... a way to connect' but she talks about music connecting with 'my feelings' rather than with other people.

2 B

Malachy says that 'in the gym, I need the energy of rock and pop; when I study in the library, I want the peace of gentle piano music to help me focus.' Freya explains how she listens to different types of music in response to how she is feeling 'when I'm feeling stressed or anxious, I listen to reggae music' and 'if I feel tired, I use lively music' rather than being in different places.

3 C

Laila says, 'If I get distracted by my problems, I play jazz music on my piano or guitar: the process of creating music helps me centre my mind' and goes on to explain: 'Listening to music helps just as much. If I am surrounded by sound, I keep my mind on the present moment.' Malachy mentions one (not two) ways of concentrating 'I want the peace of gentle piano music to help me focus.'

4 A

Freya loves watching the audience arrive and says, 'There are usually people of all ages and backgrounds – with music, differences don't matter – it can make us feel the same.'

5 A

Freya never stops listening to music. She says, 'When I'm not playing keyboards with my rock band in London, I'm listening to my favourite tracks on my headset – it's something I can't live without.' Malachy also takes music with him, but not at work. He says, 'with the exception of work when I leave my music in my pocket.'

6 A

Freya wants to communicate to others through her lyrics. She says, 'I write from the heart ..., I feel like I'm sharing a piece of my soul with the world.'

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 C

The sentences before and after the gap talk about the look and appearance of the photographs taken using film looking like they are from the past. The text uses terms such as 'traditional' and 'times gone by' which have a similar meaning to 'old-fashioned' in Sentence C.

2 F

Before the gap the writer mentions 'a limited number of photos'. This is picked up at the beginning of Sentence F 'Being restricted in this way'. The end of Sentence F, 'develops a greater awareness of the value of every shot', links to the sentence following the gap 'In sharp contrast, digital cameras can encourage you to point and shoot'.

3 B

Before the gap, the writer says, 'photographers must ... learn how to use their equipment properly' and this connects to Sentence B 'Luckily, there is no shortage of advice online'. Sentence B also links to the sentence after the gap which introduces an alternative to 'websites', 'choose to go on a ... course.'

4 G

Before the gap, the paragraph begins 'Many photographers report ... a break from ... the rapid pace of modern life'. At the start of Sentence G, 'They add ...' refers back to 'photographers' and continues the theme of speed 'a slower type of art'. The following sentence repeats the idea: 'stepping away from digital' with 'further separates the photographer'.

5 A

Before the gap, the writer mentions 'check in your local area for assistance' and 'helpful communities'. Sentence A begins 'These neighbourhood groups' which refers back to 'communities'. The end of Sentence F, 'drive creativity', links to 'results in innovation' in the sentence following the gap.

6 D

Before the gap, the writer says that it's 'fashionable to take things slowly' which is picked up in Sentence D with the phrase 'some say it's more than a trend'. The sentence after the gap follows on with 'Whatever the immediate future holds'.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 C

The writer says, 'tracking near-Earth asteroids is essential'. They say that 'dangerous impacts are rare' and 'studying asteroids contributes to our understanding of space weather' not the weather on Earth.

2 B

The writer says the space missions; 'improved our understanding of space rocks and their potential impact on Earth' and provided 'valuable data about their composition and history.'

3 C

The writer says asteroids 'may well be a stepping stone' to humans living in space in the future and that their resource potential 'could enable humans to live in space'.

4 A

The article is looking at whether 'we should spend resources on studying these objects'. Life in space and the effect an asteroid impact could have been used as examples of why the writer thinks we should study asteroids.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

Sample answer

Dear Ms Playford,

I offered to help plan the festival because I hope I can be useful. I recently helped arrange a successful fair at college, which involved working with over 20 clubs, charities and businesses.

There are several activities that might be worth organizing. For example, the local museum could supply everyday objects found in the area, and people could be asked to guess which century they are from. That would connect life in the past with life now. Offering a small prize for the highest number of correct answers would encourage people to take part.

I'm afraid that since I contacted you, my parents have booked a holiday starting on the day of the festival, so I won't be able to help. I'm really sorry.

Yours sincerely,

Annie

[130 words]

Writing Part 2 Page 15

Sample answer – essay

There are several good reasons why children should spend time in nature, whether it is in the countryside or on the coast. The air is much less polluted than in cities, and walking is good exercise, so their health can benefit. In addition, seeing the natural world shows them that humans are not the only inhabitants of this planet. A further reason is that it can be very relaxing, and a way to escape the pressures of everyday life.

Unfortunately, not all children have easy access to nature. Many children live in city centres without gardens. If you do not have a car, it can be difficult to get to the countryside. For this reason, I think cities should invest more money in parks and public transport links to greener spaces.

I believe all children should spend as much time as possible in nature to improve their physical and mental health.

[151 words]

Sample answer – article

Trains are my favourite means of transport, and as my birthday present last year, my grandparents took me on a special train trip. We travelled from my local station to a city on the other side of the country, spent a few hours there, and returned home the same day.

The journey was amazing. Meals – a late breakfast on the way out and dinner on the return trip – were prepared on the train and served at our seats. They were outstanding, with dinner consisting of five courses! Three very friendly and efficient attendants looked after the people in our coach. We chatted quite a lot with them and with other passengers sitting near us. We also passed through some very attractive scenery.

It was the experience of a lifetime – I was so fortunate to be given the trip! I'm sure most people would have a great time if they could do it.

[152 words]