



Oxford Test of English

B2 Practice Test 4

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

I usually prefer to watch films in the cinema, not only for the big screen but also for the atmosphere. There's nothing better than watching a scary movie in a packed cinema!

4 **Sample answer**

I've watched lots of great things recently but one of the best things I've seen in a while is a documentary about space exploration – it really made me think about life away from Earth.

5 **Sample answer**

I like lots of different types of entertainment; films, live music, TV but I can't say I'm a fan of watching sport – I'd much rather be playing it.

6 **Sample answer**

The thing that makes me feel most happy is being with loved ones. Aside from this, achieving my goals is something that makes me really happy.

7 **Sample answer**

It was my best friend's birthday last week so I surprised her with a trip to her favourite restaurant. It was the first time anyone had ever surprised her like that so it made her very happy.

8 **Sample answer**

When I'm feeling down, the thing that works best for me is taking a walk or calling one of my close friends to talk things through.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

Sample answer

Hello, it's Joni. I missed English class today. My dentist appointment was much longer than I'd expected it to be. Could you let me know what we have to do for the presentation, please? Were we given a topic or can we choose one? It would be great to meet to discuss this. Are you free tomorrow after college? We could meet at the café opposite. Thanks so much.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

Sample answer

Hello Emma, I'm so sorry! That's dreadful news! It was a brand new bike, too! Where exactly did it happen? Maybe there's a camera in the area that recorded the thief. I'm sorry but I'm not in college today – I have the dentist so I can't tell your teacher. Call Jin, he's in.

Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

Sample answer

I'd like to compare theme parks and music festivals as possible ways of making our town more attractive to visitors.

Both a theme park and a music festival would attract a larger number of visitors to our town. They would each be able to offer excitement and entertainment for all ages.

A theme park would bring in families and tourists with its rides, games, food stalls, and special holiday events.

A music festival, on the other hand, would draw large crowds by featuring popular bands, local artists, and different styles of music, perhaps even providing a taste of our country's culture and traditions. It can be held in the summer, with food trucks, art stands and activities for all ages.

Both options would make our town feel like an exciting, lively destination. Both would also benefit the local economy by generating extra income.

Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Sample answer

As a tourist I like to have as many experiences as possible. I love to taste the food of the local area and visit the sites and museums to learn about the history. I also love to be in nature, so I enjoy getting into the mountains or to the local park if I'm in a city.

2 Sample answer

There are many benefits of travelling abroad. You are exposed to new cultures and can learn about how people live in different countries. You are also able to hear different languages.

3 Sample answer

There are advantages to both but I'd say the advantages of travelling alone are that it gives you freedom to make your own plans, meet new people, and may even give you more self-confidence.

4 Sample answer

Tourism can have many negative effects on places. It can cause overcrowding especially in summer when thousands of tourists visit every day. It also increases pollution with more cars on the road and planes flying over. These effects are particularly harmful to small villages.

5 Sample answer

Going on holiday to another country can be very expensive, you need to pay for flights or long train or boat journeys. It is also stressful for some people who prefer the familiarity of the food and weather of their home country. Therefore, some people prefer to go on holiday in their own country.

6 Sample answer

In the next decade I think tourism might become more environmentally friendly. Perhaps more people will stay at home and visit places virtually.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 A

Option A is correct. The boy says, *I've now done something to injure my elbow*. Option B is not correct, because it is another boy who has an injured wrist. Option C is not correct, because he banged his forehead last week and implies that he is over that now.

2 B

Option B is correct, as the man agrees after the woman says, *I'd just warm it up*. Option A is not correct because the woman says, *It's already got plenty of salt and pepper on it*. Option C is not correct, as both agree that it would be a shame to get rid of the pasta.

3 A

Option A is correct. The captain said conditions *are currently foggy* and conditions are unlikely to change. Option B is not correct, as the plane is currently flying over a cloudless ocean. Option C is not correct as the captain says the predicted stormy weather has passed.

4 C

Option C is correct. The woman says, *there's a cave I was thinking about exploring*. Option A is not correct, as she won't be particularly close to the coast, which is where the shore is. Option B is not correct, as she would rather avoid walking along a cliff top in wet or windy conditions.

5 B

Option B is correct. The woman needs batteries for her remote control. Option A is not correct, the woman is in a shop where you can buy phone chargers, but she doesn't need one. Option C is not correct. She is calling to find out if printer ink is needed, but doesn't know the answer yet.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 B

Option A is not correct because the tutor says that someone chose this last year and it was too complex. Option B is correct, as the tutor says this would be achievable. Option C is not correct. The tutor says this could be unsuitable.

2 A

Option A is correct because the tutor says that this would be better than asking simple *yes/no* questions (Option B). Option C is not correct, as the tutor believes that recording answers to open-ended questions becomes a serious challenge.

3 A

Option A is correct because the tutor says that a good survey should cover an appropriate variety of people. Option B is not correct as the tutor believes this risks having a narrow focus. Option C is not correct as the tutor only mentions this number in relation to what not to do.

4 C

Option A is not correct as the tutor says this will not be necessary. She mentions a written report, so Option C is correct. However, she says that no recordings should be included, ruling out Option B.

5 B

Option A is not correct as she says she won't have time for that kind of individual help. Option B is correct, as she says I'm hoping to organise a workshop. Option C is not correct as, although she mentions emails, she only does so in the context of sending out information about the assignment.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 woman

The woman says, *I do think the older you get, the harder it is to learn a new language*. The man disagrees by saying, *I'm probably smarter now than when I was a kid* and that he is probably *a better student* now.

2 man

The man says, *It wouldn't be a bad idea if it was compulsory for school children to learn a language* and gives the reason as it would *get kids used to the idea of learning grammar rules*. The woman doesn't have the same view. She says she probably wouldn't have been able to choose Japanese, which is where her real interest lies.

3 woman

The woman says, *I do find myself agreeing with people who say that's the best way to really master a foreign language*. The man expresses disagreement by saying, *you can achieve something similar at home by watching videos or reading websites*.

4 both

The man says, expecting yourself to completely master a language is *setting yourself up for failure*. The woman expresses agreement by saying she hasn't mastered her own language of English, so getting to that point in Japanese isn't particularly realistic.

5 man

The man says that using an app has *motivated him to keep going*. The woman expresses disagreement by saying, *Don't you find that annoying? That was my experience*.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 B

Option A is not correct, because the man didn't make a mistake, even if he thinks everyone thought he had no idea how to dress. Option B is correct because he asks, *couldn't you have informed me that you'd intended everyone to come in formal clothes?* This means that he hadn't been appropriately told what to wear, and he felt bad because of this (he left early). Option C is not correct because although he says *I guess I should say how delighted ...*, he doesn't actually say that he's grateful.

2 C

Option A is not correct. The woman says that she hadn't been looking forward to it, but implies she had changed her mind after last week's episode. Option B is not correct because although she had been irritated in the past, when her friend gave away the entire plot, this has not happened this time. Option C is correct because the woman says *That's good to know* in relation to this final episode being better than the previous one.

3 C

Option A is not correct as the caller needs to press one to ask about savings accounts. Option B is not correct as the caller needs to press two to check their balance (i.e., to check how much money is in their account). Option C is correct as the recorded announcement says the caller can *take advantage of our special insurance offers* (i.e., learn more about getting financial protection in case of unpleasant events such as accidents) by pressing three.

4 C

Option C is correct. The student says he doesn't normally cry when he reads something, *but this one's managed to produce more than a few tears*. Option B is not correct because the student says the book is *pretty extreme* with regard to unlikely things happening. Option A is not correct because the student says *the people aren't the easiest to understand, or even tell apart*, which implies that they are not vivid.

5 C

Option A is not correct, as the man says he has got through a big project. Option B is not correct. He isn't getting ready for the meeting, as he hasn't been invited. Option C is correct, as he is waiting to go over some details with someone in a different time zone.

Reading Part 1 Page 9–10

1 A

Option A is correct because Marco says, the journalist is *so one-sided* and *hasn't exactly kept her opinions to herself*. Option B is not correct because Marco says *this time* and *at least she didn't ... like she's done so often in the past*, meaning that the writer has done something different with this article. Option C is not correct because the author hasn't *set out to shock readers*.

2 B

Option A is not correct because travellers can get to Letchworth at any time except in the evening after 9.00 p.m. Option B is correct because Platform 2 is not being used due to repairs. Option C is not correct because *southbound trains ... remain unaffected*.

3 C

Option A is not correct because the mother wants Amy and her brother to settle the argument on their own (*talk about what's bothering you and find an acceptable solution*). Option B is not correct because the mother says *I've no interest in taking sides*. Option C is correct because the mother says *you ought to sit down ... and talk about what's bothering you both*.

4 C

Option A is not correct because in fact the client was providing an update (that the item arrived). Option B is not correct because the client had already received a refund. Option C is correct because the client gave praise on how rapidly it arrived.

5 C

Option A is not correct because the blog says the new station is *in complete contrast to everything around it*. Option B is not correct because it has *adequate facilities for travellers* (i.e., places where you can shop or get food). Option C is correct because the text says the building has *appropriate access* (i.e. disabled people will have few problems moving into and around the station).

6 A

Option A is correct because the reviewer says there was *an emphasis on more recent hits*. Option B is not correct as the text says the band got the crowd to *sing along on multiple occasions*. Option C is not correct because the reviewer says there was only *a brief problem with microphones that was quickly resolved*.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 B

Emi says, *you can imagine my family's response when it looked as if I'd deliberately broken something of theirs!* This strongly implies that her family were alarmed at what was happening. Jon imagines having parents who worried that I was wasting too much of my time in front of a computer screen, but states that his parents were not like this.

2 A

Samir says about the pollution in the river: *It was only much later that I understood the cause of their concern ... Later, he says, After I'd made the connection in my mind ...* Emi mentions enjoying taking her time to do understand how things worked, but does not say that it took her a long time to realize something.

3 C

Jon says, *I began coming up with ideas for games long before I had the slightest idea of how to bring them to reality*. He later goes on to say he got a *deep understanding of the mechanics of computer games* while at college. Emi mentions not having a skill (i.e. being able to use software), but doesn't talk about developing things from her imagination.

4 B

Emi says that compared to her peers on her course, *it has taken her time to become fully comfortable in using software*. Jon mentions finding his course less difficult than other people, meaning that he became used to something more easily than his peers.

5 C

Jon talks about being fascinated by games since he was young. He also says that *luckily for my later career, his parents encouraged it*. His main message is summed up when he says, *if you have strong feelings about the worth of something*, then listen to those feelings. Both the other people talk about being inspired by something from an early age, but do not make a recommendation that other people should follow their early inspirations.

6 A

Samir says that he's *fully aware that the scale of solving this particular problem is massive*. Emi talks about software that she guesses is used in a many types of engineering jobs. However, she doesn't seem completely confident in saying how widely the software is used, using language like *I expect it's probably going to be beneficial* instead.

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 C

The correct sentence is: *Curious to solve the mystery, he inspected the gap and uncovered something astonishing*. *He* in the gapped sentence refers back to the *local man*. In the sentence following the gap, *the entrance to a tunnel* is the astonishing thing that he had uncovered.

2 D

The correct sentence is: *In the following decades, it was found to be part of an enormous network, 85 metres deep*. *In the following decades* is a reference to the time that had passed since 1963. The word *it* in the gapped sentence refers to the tunnel mentioned previously.

3 A

The correct sentence is: *Others had even provided an underground home for animals, such as cows*. The word *others* is a reference to the *several large rooms* mentioned previously. The word *these* in the sentence after the gap refers to the rooms used to keep cows, which are also referred to as *living creatures*.

4 G

The correct sentence is: *Although they were unlikely to have used it permanently, it may have been a shelter for months at a time*. *They* in the gapped sentence refers back to inhabitants, and talks about how the inhabitants used the city.

5 E

The correct sentence is: *Among the clues are the large, circular stones that can be pushed into place in order to create tunnel-blocking doors.* The gapped sentence is addressing 'the why' posed in the previous sentence. It begins to suggest a purpose. This is continued in the sentence after the gap, which used *these objects* to refer back to the large stones.

6 F

The correct sentence is: *Around 200 have now been discovered, all created under the soft, volcanic rock that is ideal for digging into.* The gapped sentence gives further details of the many underground cities in the area. It gives a number (200). The phrase *at least one* after the gap gives details about one of these 200 cities.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 C

Option A is not correct, as the writer places no blame on urban planners for the situation. She says that *urban heat islands would become a greater problem if those in charge of designing cities did not urgently take on the problem*, but this is expressed as a hypothetical future situation. Option B is not correct as, although the writer says that more of us will be living in cities, this is to point out that it is a situation that needs to be taken seriously. Option C is correct as the writer says that extreme heat is now part of everyday life, with *elderly people in particular danger and health warnings becoming increasingly frequent*.

2 A

Option A is correct. The writer says that heat stored during the day is released *back into the atmosphere after the sun sets, a time when air would normally cool down significantly*. This states that night-time temperatures do not cool down normally in cities. Option B is not correct. The writer says that cities lack trees and grass, but this is because of their design. Option C is not correct. The writer mentions air conditioning as a kind of technology that can worsen the situation. She says that these *do a good job*, so there is no mention of them not working efficiently.

3 B

Option A is not correct. The writer gives the example of adding to or changing what is already in a city, rather than making anything new. Option B is correct. The writer gives the example of adding to or changing things that already exist. Option C is not correct. The writer says that we cannot just replace our cities with new or different ones.

4 B

Option A is not correct. The writer says covering the river is *what some might call bad decision-making*, but does not give this view herself. Option B is correct. Apart from lowering temperatures, the writer also thinks property prices have received a boost. Option C is not correct. The writer says this could *provide an example of an inventive solution* for other cities.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

Sample answer

Hi Piotr,

Thanks for letting me know. I'm really sorry to hear that you aren't feeling well. It's too bad you can't come, but I completely understand. Obviously, I'd love to see you, but it's definitely best to rest and avoid spreading anything.

Yes, I did have the flu last year. It was horrible. Lots of sleep, warm drinks and watching my favourite TV shows helped me recover. To be honest, the best thing you can do right now is just stay in bed!

We should definitely meet up when you're better. Maybe we could see a movie next weekend if you're feeling fit enough?

Get well soon and take good care of yourself!

Speak soon,

Maria

[117 words]

Writing Part 2

Page 15

Sample answer – essay

Many people believe that museums should be free for everyone. Museums are important places where people can learn about history, art, science and culture. However, there are differing opinions as to whether they should charge money.

One advantage of free museums is that more people will visit them. Families, students and low-income visitors can enjoy learning without worrying about cost. Free museums also help schools plan visits and encourage more public interest in culture and history.

However, there are also disadvantages. Museums need money to pay staff and protect valuable objects. If there are no entry fees, they must find other ways to raise funds, such as asking the government or private donors.

In conclusion, while there are some challenges, making museums free will benefit the public and their appreciation of culture and history. Governments should be prepared to do something for the public good by making it easy for people to access them.

[154 words]

Sample answer – article

There are lots of cafés in my town, but my favourite has to be La Taza Feliz at the end of my road.

It's a small cosy café; there are only about 5 – 6 tables and a couple of really comfy sofas. The walls are painted with blackboard paint and there are pens so everyone can write and draw little messages and pictures all over the walls – it's really cute.

I love the atmosphere and they do great coffee; probably the best in my whole town.

I usually grab a coffee from there on my way to university in the morning and then I like to go on a Saturday afternoon with my friends. We sit there for hours – writing on the walls, chatting and playing cards. I love it!

It's my second home!

[134 words]