



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

Advanced

C1 Practice Test 1

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Model answer

My name is Kirsten Dahl.

2 Model answer

I'm from Denmark.

3 Model answer

My cousin was married a few weeks ago, so that was the last thing I celebrated. My whole family attended the wedding – it was such a great day! First, there was a ceremony and my cousin and her partner exchanged vows and declared their love and commitment to one another. After that, there was music, dancing, speeches, food and drinks. It really was unforgettable!

4 Model answer

It's not necessarily that important for friends to be into exactly the same things, but having a few common interests can certainly enhance the relationship. Having common interests does provide opportunities for shared activities and can indeed create strong bonds between friends. However, having distinctly different interests can also be good, as it allows friends to learn from each other. Ultimately though, I believe the most important aspect of a friendship is mutual trust, rather than having lots of shared interests.

5 Model answer

If I could go anywhere, I'd definitely visit Peru – my friend went there and said it was fantastic. It has vibrant cities, diverse landscapes, and rich history and culture. One thing I'd really like to do there is visit Machu Picchu – the views must be amazing. Also, Peruvian food is delicious and I'd be really interested in taking a cooking class there if I can.

6 Model answer

There are quite a few people who've had a major influence on my life, but the person who has had the biggest impact is, without doubt, my mother. She has always encouraged me to be a reliable, resilient and kind person. In fact, quite a lot of the time, people say that we are very similar!

Speaking Part 2 Voice message Page 3

Model answer

Hello Ms Brown, I'm calling to let you know that I'm afraid I won't be able to attend the meeting we originally scheduled for later today – unfortunately, something urgent has come up that I need to attend to right away. I'm very sorry and I regret having to cancel at such short notice – I appreciate that you had made time for this in your busy day. I'd be really grateful if we could reschedule the meeting – as you know, I have some important issues to discuss with you regarding my exams, which are coming up soon. Could you let me know if there is a time next week that would work for you? Thank you very much for your understanding, and I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Speaking Part 3 Summary Page 3

Model answer

Both experts highlight the fact that setting ambitious goals and attempting challenging activities has a direct impact on our happiness and sense of satisfaction. The evidence from a recent study involving a puzzle, for example, shows that those who have higher expectations of themselves tend to be more content in life. The experts also mention that the goals we set for ourselves will only make us happy if they are realistic and achievable. If we define our goals based on what others can do, it might prove too much. In other words, we need to aim high, but not so high that our goals are out of reach.

Speaking Part 4 Debate Page 4

Model answer

I would argue that reducing working hours holds the potential to bring numerous benefits to society, including improved career development, a more robust economy and better health for workers.

If people had to work fewer hours, they would have more time to focus on their professional development by engaging in training opportunities. Consequently, workers would get better at their jobs, which would be good for the companies they work for.

Shorter working hours could also lead to an increase in consumer spending, as people would have more time to spend on goods and services, which would boost economic growth.

Finally, working for long hours is linked to a range of negative health outcomes, such as stress, burnout, and a higher risk of chronic diseases. If people's time spent working were reduced, people would have more time to allocate for their physical and mental wellbeing.

In conclusion, I believe that the effect of shorter working hours would generally be very positive in terms of impact on both the individual and wider society.

Speaking Part 5 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Model answer

It depends on individual preferences, of course. I prioritize job satisfaction and find it more important to do work I enjoy, but I admit that this could naturally have trade-offs. This doesn't mean that I don't value financial security, which allows me to meet my needs and to support my family. However, having work I enjoy brings many benefits including increased motivation, job satisfaction, better overall well-being, and eventually more success in my field, which in return may well have a positive financial outcome as well.

2 Model answer

The major disparity in pay between individuals occupying different positions is a controversial issue. It raises questions about the values and priorities of society. In my opinion, higher salaries of people such as sportspeople point to the fact that society places higher value on entertainment and considers the contribution of such people as an outcome of their unique talents. However, the salaries of professionals such as nurses and other healthcare workers should definitely be relatively high because they provide critical services, work long hours under immense stress and play a crucial role in keeping local communities healthy.

3 Model answer

I think it's very important for people to keep studying throughout their lives because, in this day and age, professional development and the enthusiasm for continuous education is highly valued by companies. Studying also allows people to be able to function better and more efficiently in their roles as they gain new knowledge or improve their existing set of skills. It is also beneficial for professional development because individuals progress in their careers and increase their earning potential. On a personal level, it can indeed facilitate the exploration of new interests and help people gain new perspectives while enhancing their problem solving and decision-making capacities.

4 Model answer

I believe starting your own business and working for a company both have their own unique benefits and challenges. Starting a business gives independence, flexibility, a bigger earning potential and a better sense of fulfilment. These are, I believe, the main reasons that attract people to create their own businesses. However, working for a company offers quite a few benefits as well. These might include pension schemes, a stable income, opportunities for professional development including training and career advancement, employee assistance programs and on-site facilities, such as gyms.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 A

She says she will tell customers about the low environmental impact of her products. They will then be in a position to buy things from her ecologically friendly brand, and that will help the environment.

2 B

She says that social media is being criticised in the same way that the telephone and other technologies were criticised when they were new. The research has shown that there is no basis for this and that there is 'little or no difference in time given over to face-to-face socializing'. She is therefore dismissing the concerns as being not worth bothering about.

3 B

The research supports the controversial theory that the coloured rock in the cave is in fact an example of painting by the Neanderthals, an early human species. The professor says that this suggests that 'our distant cousins weren't so uncultured after all', so the way we have traditionally perceived the Neanderthal species needs to be re-evaluated.

4 A

The man says there has been some progress with stereotyping – 'it's not all doom and gloom'. He asks the woman if she remembers old advertisements with a lot of gender stereotyping in which, for example, 'washing up was only done by women and cars were only driven by men'. By saying this, he is implying that modern advertisements no longer have the same degree of stereotyping.

5 A

By saying 'far from it', the psychologist strongly contradicts the man's idea that people with problems want to hear suggested solutions. She says that although we may have a natural tendency to offer helpful advice, we have to 'hold back'.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 coal mine / mine / COAL MINE / MINE

The speaker says that there had been an earlier seed bank on Svalbard dating back to the 1980s, and this had been 'in a coal mine location'.

2 dangerous gases / gases / dangerous gasses / gasses / DANGEROUS GASES / GASES / DANGEROUS GASSES / GASSES

He says that 'dangerous gases occasionally build up' in the frozen earth of Svalbard, so the decision was taken to build the new bank 'within the rock of a nearby hillside'.

3 art installation / installation / ART INSTALLATION / INSTALLATION

He says that there are few clues on the outside that the seed bank is an important facility. However, he says that the art installation 'hints at its being something of true significance' and this implies that the steel, mirrors and prisms of the installation are impressive.

4 cooling system / COOLING SYSTEM

He mentions only one thing that was replaced rather than just improved between 2016 and 2019. This is the new cooling system, which was installed because of 'the original one being unable to adequately regulate the humidity'.

5 envelopes / ENVELOPES

He says that the seeds are kept in 'custom-made envelopes' that are 'fabricated from aluminium'.

6 climate change / CLIMATE CHANGE

He says it is becoming clear that the seed bank, which contains species that can cope with extreme environments, has a 'role in potentially combatting the effects of climate change'.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 Man

The man says there are some groundbreaking companies who have caused a lot of excitement on social media with their plastic clothing. The woman disagrees and says that despite a lot of initial interest in clothes made from plastic, it is now 'a rarity to see celebrities or even people in the street wearing them'.

2 Woman

The woman agrees with this when she says that 'the sky's the limit in terms of what you can transform into clothing ...'. The man says that 'some unusual things' can be used but disagrees by explaining that there are limits because 'the type and grade of plastic required is harder to come by than people perhaps imagine'.

3 Both

The man says that the impression that garments are being made in a sustainable way is 'misleading'. The woman agrees with him and says that manufacturers are 'just cutting down slightly on the resources required' and are 'certainly not' cutting down on the energy used.

4 Woman

The man says that this requirement would result in good companies being 'faced with complying with extra legislation' while the bad ones 'could get away with doing next to nothing'. The woman, however, thinks the requirement would encourage companies to be 'transparent about the impact manufacturing has environmentally' and adds that 'other companies might well follow'.

5 Both

The man says that clothes made from plastic and from synthetic fibres feel very similar and 'it's actually tremendously hard, if not impossible, to tell them apart'. The woman agrees with him, and says that a recent test measuring cosiness showed that 'there was next to no difference given between the scores' given for recycled plastic clothes and those made from artificial fibres.

6 Man

The man thinks it would be a good idea to 'to remove any government tariffs or other charges' from products made from recycled fabrics as it would encourage their use. The woman disagrees and thinks any tax incentives should instead be applied to 'products made from natural fibres which have had minimal processing during their manufacture'.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 C

She is disappointed because she was hoping to become more of an expert by doing lots of collaborative projects with other club members, but she says that people just 'get on with their own thing'.

2 B

The professor is implying that if you give a robot or a machine a name or if you would feel guilty about breaking it, then you feel some sort of bond or relationship with it. He says that the science behind this kind of relationship between man and machine is of critical importance and will become even more so.

3 A

Her frustration comes from comparing her own performance in her first 3k run with the other runners. For her, the experience was 'absolute torture', whereas the other runners 'made it look so effortless', and that contrast made her feel she hadn't made much progress.

4 B

The research has various objectives, but the most significant one – and the one he describes as 'fundamental to our research' – is the aim of identifying shifts in people's attitudes towards smells. The change in attitude towards the smell of coffee is an example of this.

5 C

John had already studied language at college. Then the conversation with his ex-classmate, who had already risen to being head of languages at a school, built on this and got him 'seriously thinking about' becoming a teacher himself.

Reading Part 1 Page 9

1 A

The blogger states that the '20th-century land drain' had been 'presumably installed by farmers unaware of the spot's significance', which means the blogger believes that no effort was made to check the site for any archaeological value before beginning the installation process. The blogger's frustration is that two days' work was wasted – 'down the drain'.

2 A

The reviewer says 'It is this that sets it apart', meaning what makes it stand out from all the other apps and so is 'particularly worth downloading'. The 'this' refers to the app's unique feature, the 'buttons beneath each headline which bring up an abundance of alternative interpretations on the issue'.

3 B

The narrator feels that they will 'pioneer a new way' themselves and so 'make a mark for themselves as a famous scientist'.

4 B

The extract says that with reference to 'the causal relationship' between mental health and green spaces, there is 'scope for further research', suggesting that the 'explicit reasons' are not yet known.

5 A

The blogger says that 'holding out for a position that is precisely aligned to your degree subject won't make it easy to make ends meet', which means that waiting for the perfect job won't help to cover basic living costs now. The blogger states that the most important thing is 'to just have *something*' in order to 'cover day-to-day costs'.

6 C

The writer states that 'Given our experience over the last decade regarding applications for permission to build, the outcome in this case would appear to be a foregone conclusion', making it clear they have no faith in the process. This is further supported by 'The powers-that-be will have decided ... whatever the implications ...'.

Reading Part 2 Page 12

1 C

Lucia Marlow says '... to my mind not enough of Hawking's own life and personality is evident.' Her 'disappointment' is clearly shown in 'And that is to be regretted'.

2 A

Charlene Scott refers to the fact that 'Hawking himself ... suggested that many people may have acquired the book simply to boost their intellectual credibility', meaning they bought it primarily because they wanted to impress others and not because they were genuinely interested in the subject.

3 B

Robert Bradshaw refers to the time 'when Hawking first approached a publisher', so this would have been 'an early draft'. The editor who read this manuscript expresses his 'scepticism' when he 'told the physicist that general readers would not purchase the publication if he insisted on retaining the many mathematical equations he had included'.

4 C

Lucia Marlow says that Hawking paid 'due recognition to the contributions' of other scientists from the Ancient Greeks up to the 20th century. Her use of 'due', meaning 'proper' or 'correct', indicates that she approves of 'the way that Hawking acknowledges' their work.

5 B

Robert Bradshaw says that 'many well-known scientists have put their decision to study physics, maths, astronomy or chemistry down to the inspiration they found in Hawking's writing.' The phrasal verb 'put down to' means 'to think something has happened for a particular reason'.

6 A

Charlene Scott says she thinks that 'the great physicist's success in this respect is somewhat debatable'. 'This respect' refers back to 'Hawking set out to make the subject matter of the book ... accessible to non-specialists by writing in a non-technical style.' It is this that 'questions the extent to which the average reader will understand'.

7 B

Robert Bradshaw says that 'A Brief History of Time has now sold more than 25 million copies worldwide. This is far beyond what anyone could have anticipated in 1988, when it was first published.'

Reading Part 3 Page 13

1 D

The sentence before the gap describes taste as possibly seeming ‘subjective’. Option D gives some examples of what ‘subjective’ is, including the fact that ‘some people have favourite colours and desserts’. In the short question after the gap, ‘this’ refers back to the concept of being ‘subjective’ and to the examples given in D. The paragraph goes on to give further examples of preferring one thing over another – authors and film directors. Then the text talks about these preferences in relation to ‘taste’ – ‘how can you prove that your taste is better than mine?’

2 A

In option A, ‘These experts’ refers back to ‘people of taste acquire certain abilities’ and ‘such people ... will ... set a “standard of taste” which is universal’ in the text before the gap. There is also a forward reference to the text after the gap to ‘Hume’s judges of taste’.

3 F

‘Good ones’ in option F refers back to ‘judgements of beauty’ before the gap. In the text after the gap, ‘He tried to describe the human abilities to perceive and categorize the world around us’ carries on the theme mentioned in the text before the gap, that Kant ‘was more concerned with understanding how judgements of beauty are formed’. The inherent quality is found in the ‘objects themselves’.

4 B

In the conditional clause ‘If it did not have such exact attributes’, in option B, ‘it’ refers back to ‘the rose’ before the gap and ‘such exact attributes’ refers back to ‘the roundness and flatness ... in the plate’. The main clause of option B states that ‘we would surely not get into so many arguments regarding taste’. The text after the gap offers a contrast to this in ‘And yet there is some basis for claiming that the roses are beautiful’.

5 G

The ‘cylindrical drinking vessel’ and ‘mug’ in option G are an ‘example’ of things that ‘suit a purpose’ before the gap. Also, the word ‘however’ in the text after the gap contrasts ‘apply labels or concepts to the world to classify sensory inputs that suit a purpose’ before the gap and ‘cylindrical drinking vessel’ and ‘mugs’ in option G with ‘beautiful objects’ after the gap – a contrast between functionality and beauty.

6 E

Within option E the writer makes a link between ‘that particular combination of colour and texture’ and the notion that ‘what I’m looking at is “right”’. This combined reference refers back to ‘the rose’ and ‘why it is beautiful’. The concept is carried on after the gap in ‘We label an object beautiful because it promotes an internal harmony’. There is also an association of ideas between ‘right’ in option E and ‘harmony’ in the text after the gap.

Reading Part 4 Page 14

1 B

The writer says ‘there has been a real flood of such claims of late’ (‘the idea that cinema is dying’) and ‘for an unprecedented number of reasons’, meaning a great many such claims and for exceptional reasons never given before.

2 A

The writer emphasizes how cinema had to beat the ‘serious competition’ and deal with ‘somewhat reduced audiences’ by doing things with ‘computer-generated imagery’ (‘special effects’) that ‘only cinemas could properly display’ ‘on large screens’.

3 C

It was not until the 1980s that there was ‘mass ownership’ of ‘video recorders’ and it was this technology that possessed the ‘features that would encourage people to stay away from cinema’. The question asks specifically about the period ‘before the 1980s’ when this technology did not exist.

4 B

In the fourth paragraph the writer is suggesting how almost anyone can use a smartphone, or some other device, to record ‘a piece of film’ and upload it to ‘social media’, where it will find an audience’ ... but (it) won’t be on film. And it won’t be seen in a cinema.’ Moreover, the writer states that ‘Developments ... have had a massive impact on film and cinema’.

5 C

The writer disagrees with Charney and Schwartz when he says that ‘film at its magical, animating best doesn’t define, fix, capture’. Their ‘limited understanding’ is revealed by his assertion that ‘Instead, it lets its subjects run, ... and mixes what we remember with what we dream’.

Writing Part 1 Email Page 16

Model answer

The fashion industry has changed dramatically in recent decades, and affordable clothing can now be designed, manufactured and delivered to shops in just a few weeks. Many retailers have embraced this fast fashion model which has made fashion more affordable to the general public. However, in my opinion the negative environmental impacts of fast fashion far outweigh the consumer benefits.

Although fast fashion has been beneficial to fashion-conscious consumers and allowed them to follow trends set by the rich and famous without the need to be rich themselves, the environmental costs are severe. When a celebrity makes headlines for wearing a striking outfit or accessory, this creates consumer demand, fuelled by social media, for similar items of clothing. Fast fashion companies quickly supply products to meet this demand, but creating these products so quickly while maintaining low prices necessarily involves cutting back on quality. This combination of low cost and low quality inevitably results in waste. The low cost encourages consumers to treat clothing as disposable, throwing them away after limited use in order to follow even newer fashion trends. The low quality means that even if consumers want to keep wearing these clothes, they soon wear out and need replacing anyway.

In an age of climate crisis, we must all do what we can to reduce waste and minimize carbon emissions. It is far more efficient to buy expensive, high-quality clothes which you will enjoy and keep for months or years, than to constantly update your wardrobe according to the latest fashions. Quality clothes need not even be expensive as you can pick up great bargains from second-hand stores and reduce your carbon emissions even further.

[277 words]

Writing Part 2 Summary Page 17

Model answer

Areas of high and low pressure in the atmosphere cause weather in the UK to be very changeable. The areas of low pressure are called depressions and are associated with weather fronts which bring rain and unpredictable conditions. These weather fronts are the result of different masses of air meeting each other; for example a warm front is when warm air meets and passes over a cold mass of air. The UK experiences better weather when there is an area of high pressure nearby. These are called anti-cyclones and bring spells of fine, sunny weather during the summer.

[98 words]