



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

Advanced

C1 Practice Test 2

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

There are certain activities I enjoy doing alone, like doing sports, for example. Working out in the gym on my own helps me to concentrate better and achieve greater results. However, I also love being with other people. There's nothing more rewarding than meeting close friends you've known for ages. My husband and I have recently visited our best friends who now live abroad, and we had the most amazing time. Just spending time in the house with children running around, catching up on each other's news or cooking together really helped me to recharge my batteries.

4 Model answer

An interesting place I have visited was the city of Brussels in Belgium. We were driving through it on our way home from a different city and were only able to spend one night there, but we absolutely fell in love with it. It has a unique atmosphere, is very lively in the centre, has a vibrant mix of nationalities and absolutely delicious food. I love exploring new cities on foot, as you can admire the unique architecture and really find out what the city is like, and Brussels didn't disappoint in that respect.

5 Model answer

Sport is extremely important in my life. I have been going to the gym and doing stretching for the last 3–4 years. I also used to have ice-skating classes, but then we moved to another country, and I had to quit. Sport is not just a way of keeping fit and being in good shape. Most recently sport has also become very important for my mental health. It's a way of releasing stress, and helps me process all the worries and anxieties I have while doing some physical work. I believe when you have a healthy body, you also have a healthy mind.

6 Model answer

My first urge is to say choosing to live without my computer and to keep my phone only. Mobile phones have probably replaced computers almost completely, so except for a smaller screen, they offer the same software and allow you to both connect with other people, and also do most of your work. Having said that, however, I realize that living without my computer would make it hard for me to pursue my work efficiently, as on a mobile phone I wouldn't be able to use the text-editing software much, which is a crucial tool for my job. So, if I had to pick either living without a computer or a phone, I guess it would be sensible to say goodbye to my phone and keep my computer – except when I am on holiday though, then I would want neither of those.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message Page 3

Model answer

Hi Max. This is Frank. I am calling about your request to borrow my laptop. So sorry to hear yours has broken. Such bad timing for it to break in the middle of your work on the assignment. I would really like to lend you my laptop, but, unfortunately, I can't do that at the moment as I am also working on an important project and won't be able to survive without my laptop even for one day. Also, the laptop I have is not my personal one – it is my dad's, and he can be quite strict about things. I think you could use one of the computers in our library while yours is being fixed – they were only replaced last year, so they're quite good. Not many students use them anyway, and it's nice and quiet in the library, so you should be able to work on your task productively. I hope it helps. Bye!

Speaking Part 3 Summary Page 3

Model answer

Stress is an integral part in every person's life, and the majority of people view it as detrimental to health. However, mild short-term stress is actually beneficial. When a person experiences stress, it might feel like the brain switches on – similar to the feeling you get before an exam, or when you have to speak in public. This is due to the number of brain cells growing, and the communication between them becoming better, which helps a person to concentrate and perform the task well. At the same time, when people are under considerable amounts of stress over longer periods of time, or when they have to perform several tasks at the same time – for example, at work and in their personal life – this can lead to negative consequences, such as health issues. It's important to remember to have some rest and give your brain the possibility of reducing the negative effects of stress.

Speaking Part 4 Debate Page 4

Model answer

Countries should import less food – I'm going to present a case to support this statement.

I am convinced that reducing a country's dependency on food imports can have several potential advantages.

First of all, importing less food means supporting the local economy. The less countries buy from abroad, the more they produce in their own factories and farms. This creates and generates taxes as a result, which feed the economy and increase the country's GDP. Some might argue that not all products can be manufactured locally, but most can probably be replaced by home-made alternatives. When you come to think of it, it might also boost the country's feeling of patriotism. Not to mention that producing food locally enhances a country's food security and makes it less vulnerable in the face of natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, or trade restrictions. This leads to a more stable food supply for the population even during crises.

Another important point in favour of importing less food is the positive effect on the environment. Transporting cargo across the globe inevitably produces excessive amounts of CO₂, which damages our planet. By choosing to produce food locally, we reduce the carbon footprint associated with food production and transportation.

All things considered, producing food locally rather than importing it stimulates economic growth and leads to a more sustainable, self-reliant, and ethical economy.

Speaking Part 5 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Model answer

Science and technology have advanced immensely in the last hundred years, so it is only natural for people to make use of it. It would be unrealistic to expect people to use primitive techniques in agriculture or any other sphere. People sometimes believe that if something isn't natural, it means it's not good for you. However, I don't agree with this. For instance, it's natural to get sick and not be treated (not use antibiotics, for example), but few people would go for that option. That's why I believe a similar approach should be followed when growing food. If pesticides allow more food to be produced, it's a good thing. At the same time, measures should be taken to make sure any chemicals being used are safe for people and the environment.

2 Model answer

I don't think imposing any kind of diet on anyone is the way to go. People should be given freedom to choose what they eat, and meat contains crucial components that we would need to substitute with plant

alternatives or food supplements if we had to give it up. I feel the best way to change people's beliefs is to educate them, rather than force them to do something. That's why, if meat production is detrimental for our environment, we need to teach this at schools and make sure as many people are informed about it as possible.

3 Model answer

Yes, I completely agree with this idea. This should start at schools with children learning about a healthy balanced diet, as well as the consequences of making unhealthy choices. Another thing I suggest is controlling the prices of healthy and unhealthy foods. Sometimes people eat unhealthily because they can't afford the better options, and producers of unhealthy foods that contain added sugars, unhealthy fats and other harmful ingredients simply drop the prices to make their products more competitive on the market. This can and should be addressed with people's health in mind, not just the profit that's made.

4 Model answer

I would say it is extremely important to educate children about the environment. They need to be aware of the situation we're in, the threats we are facing and the possible solutions that exist. It is crucial to realize the impact human activity has on the planet, as it boosts a sense of responsibility from a young age. Children are future leaders, and educating them about environmental issues equips them with knowledge and skills that will allow them to make informed decisions that can contribute to a sustainable future.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 C

The woman says that 'premises and business rates have been driven down substantially', which means that they cost less, and this is something that she now wants to 'take advantage of'.

2 C

The woman says that when she arrived, she had a lot of 'new-found freedom' compared with London. The problem was that she enjoyed it so much that she never got round to doing any writing, which was her original aim in moving to the countryside.

3 A

The man explains that the main point of the challenge is to encourage writers to get their first draft down on paper. This may lead to the creation of a decent novel or to learning about oneself, both of which are positive outcomes.

4 B

The man says that any assumptions you may have about what jobs are like may be 'quite wide of the mark'. Because these prejudices may be wrong, you should 'rule nothing out' and should be open to considering all sorts of jobs.

5 C

The woman explains what the researchers concluded and says that this 'may be valid'. However, she then gives an alternative explanation for the increase in brain activity that the researchers observed.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 local legend / legend

The text says that 'local legend' is usually unreliable, but in this case, it was hearing several of these that made Steve start his search.

2 seeds

The large stone carving had an image of a man, and this was not particularly unusual. However, the fact that it showed seeds coming out of a sack suggested that the image was connected with an agricultural society, so it seemed certain there was an ancient city nearby.

3 stone foundations / foundations

The text says that the walls of the buildings had been made of mud and wood, and these had rotted away in the rain. However, the foundations, which were made of stone, had survived.

4 great wealth / wealth

The text says that the statues the team dug up, along with other things like canals, pyramids and plazas 'suggested a city of great wealth.'

5 steep mountains / mountains

The text says that a chance discovery of the city was unlikely because of its location in 'steep mountains'.

6 Landing zone

The text says it was too difficult to get to the site by boat or by road, so they created a 'landing zone for helicopters'.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 Man

The man and woman explain at the beginning that both of their companies allow flexible working. The man says that his company has benefitted slightly financially because 'our profit margins have improved'. The woman says her company had been expecting a rise in income, but it hadn't happened yet – the hope had been 'wishful thinking', which means being too optimistic.

2 Man

The woman explains that they now have too many applicants, and as a result, they have 'a far longer list to sort through with lots of heated 'discussions' – therefore recruiting people is less straightforward. The man says they have been getting better candidates, and as a result, there is 'much less concern over who to take on'.

3 Woman

The man disagrees and says the new arrangements mean that 'some members of staff are feeling put out'. The woman says that they are keeping more of their staff, people like the arrangements and the mood is good.

4 Both

The woman says that it sometimes essential for people to work together face to face, and the man says that informal moments spent together, the 'water-cooler moments' can be very productive. Flexible working means that people meet less often, so these benefits are lost.

5 Woman

The woman agrees and says that staff will often work from home if they are not feeling very well, whereas they might have taken the day off if they had had to travel in to work. The man says it is too early to make a judgement.

6 Woman

The woman says that 'there's been the odd complaint' from clients when the person they usually deal with isn't around. The man says there has been the occasional 'communication breakdown between departments' within the company but does not say that customers have been affected.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 A

The professor says he wants to see a discussion of changes in lifestyle, but instead of taking the conventional approach of focusing on high-profile characters (such as kings and queens), he wants her to focus on 'ordinary' people in her essay.

2 A

The woman says she has stopped reading reviews because she found herself 'wasting far too much time' thinking about them.

3 B

The woman says that the interviewees on the programme were people who enjoyed shopping for a wide variety of products ... rather than people with a special interest in fast fashion. As a result, what they said did not seem very relevant.

4 C

The professor mentions the problem of listening to local legends, which can be unreliable and can lead to digging in completely the wrong place. Instead, he recommends 'following the evidence'.

5 A

The professor says he will not prevent them from taking on the challenge of 'producing something utterly unique' if that is something that they really want to do.

Reading Part 1 Page 9

1 B

The key is B because the ‘people in the parlour’ are standing ‘motionless’ before the piano, unsure of an ‘appropriate course of action’. They are doubtful because the teacher is undecided about what he ‘might do with it at his new lodgings’. A is incorrect because the miller had kindly ‘lent a horse and cart’ and, although the piano was ‘cumbersome’, there is only the suggestion that it would be difficult, not impossible, to load it onto the cart, which is ‘of sufficient size for the departing teacher’s belongings’. C is incorrect because, although the rector had gone away for the day, there is no indication that people ‘had counted on’ his ‘support’.

2 A

The key is A because the ‘theory’ they want to test comes from ‘earlier research’ and it states that ‘A logical conclusion ... to influence the penalty taker’s decision. As penalties often change the course of a match, we set out to test this theory.’ Therefore, the ‘practical application’ in professional matches would be, if the theory were proved correct, that ‘keepers’ could save more goals by always standing to one side of centre. B is incorrect as there is no criticism of how the findings of the ‘previous academic investigations’ were arrived at; they simply want to test them. C is incorrect because they are planning to do a completely different kind of analysis, not further analysis – they will deliberately have keepers position themselves to the left or right, which is not the same as in the ‘earlier research’.

3 C

The key is C because the writer points out that ‘all direct approaches’ to her noisy neighbours ‘have been ignored’, meaning that she had up until now tried ‘resolving the issue’ without involving Mr Edwards. A is incorrect because the writer says she will ‘make the situation a matter of official record’ if she is ‘forced to do so’. B is incorrect because, although the writer says she had ‘been unsure whether to bring this problem to your attention’, at no point does she express ‘doubt’ about how ‘he would respond’.

4 C

The key is C because the narrator uses phrases like ‘less fashionable’, ‘comforting presence of millionaires’ and ‘the white palaces ... shone’. The narrator contrasts their own cheap rent and ‘rather hideous’ house with the high prices and grandeur of the other dwellings. A is incorrect because, although the narrator refers to ‘white palaces’ and ‘mansions’, at no point does he actually express ‘a fondness’ for any type of architecture. B is incorrect because the implication is that the narrator’s rent is easily affordable – ‘all for 80 dollars a month’.

5 B

The key is B because the researcher points out the basic flaw of ‘using non-drinkers of coffee as a control group’, in ‘previous studies’, namely that ‘non-drinkers of coffee significantly experience more health issues unrelated to coffee consumption than those who drink coffee’. Also, the researcher points out how this led to ‘the contradictory nature of their conclusions’ and hence the need for ‘alterations’ to ‘the methodology used’. A is incorrect because, although the researcher refers to the different groups used, this is not the main concern in relation to ‘previous studies’. Also, they didn’t take into account the ‘variable’ of ‘health issues unrelated to coffee consumption’. C is incorrect because the criticism is not of the ‘data obtained’, but of the ‘methodology’ that fails to take account of the ‘health issues’ of ‘non-drinkers of coffee’.

6 C

The key is C because the blogger says the main reason is ‘the toll that the gruelling fixture schedule inevitably takes on even the best-prepared athletes’, which means that the players are fine athletes, but they are just being asked to play too many games. This is ‘the obvious reason’, which ‘social media and football podcasts’ ‘skate over’ (ignore). A is incorrect because it is the ‘fans on social media’ that give this as a reason, not the blogger. B is incorrect for the same reason. It is the fans on social media that complain that players ‘don’t care enough’.

Reading Part 2 Page 12

1 C

Orla Stevens compares the ‘fluidity’ of language to ‘a river ... flowing’. By saying ‘to imagine it (language) can be trapped like coins in a jar is as absurd as expecting a river to stop flowing’, she emphasizes that it is ‘ultimately pointless’ to try to ‘hold back evolution in language’.

2 C

Orla Stevens reveals her 'empathy' when she sympathizes with 'some scholarly types' by saying that it is 'not necessarily their fault' that they become very angry at 'the abbreviated nature of comments on social media threads' because they have been 'conditioned' to think of language in a certain way.

3 B

Ignacio Duarte says 'I have seen it cause tempers to flare in departmental meetings', meaning he has seen colleagues lose control of their temper in these meetings. 'It' refers back to 'the debate about the impact on our language of communicating online, especially through social media'.

4 A

Mayumi Watanabe points out that some have 'wept at their desks over supposedly slipping standards in grammar and vocabulary for hundreds of years'. They 'wept at their desks' is a dramatically exaggerated way of pointing out how upset they were at declining standards.

5 B

Ignacio Duarte points out that he 'can navigate both landscapes', the 'landscapes' referring back to 'polished prose' and the 'style' of 'social media'. The suggestion is that he can 'adapt' his language to suit shorter communications on social media and he refers to the fact that he 'can compress it (language) in certain circumstances'.

6 C

The 'potentially adverse feature' is referred to by Orla Stevens as 'the restrictions regarding message length'. She points out how these limitations on the number of words allowed has 'inspired them (those using certain social media platforms) to become more inventive in their discourse', meaning their language performance is 'enhanced'.

7 A

A 'strong sense of discomfort' is mentioned by Mayumi Watanabe when she says that some people find change 'deeply unsettling'. She says this is what 'leads them to find fault with' – to criticize – 'these relatively new channels of communication', which they see as the cause of the change in language use.

Reading Part 3 Page 13

1 E

The text leading up to the gap contains the concepts of what we 'expect', of 'trust' and of something we know being 'comforting' in relation to branding. Option E continues this idea by saying that one of the 'benefits of branding' when in 'a strange city' is to 'reduce' any 'anxiety'. Option E is reinforced after the gap by 'also ... reassuring power'.

2 G

The text before gap 2 refers to people feeling 'better about themselves' and after gap 2 to 'self-esteem' and 'a sense of identity and belonging'. Option G links both backwards and forwards by saying 'we are encouraged to believe we've made the smart choice'.

3 B

The text before gap 3 discusses how employees can feel a sense of 'value' that is not just 'monetary' when 'working for a good brand'. It points out that this is particularly the case if it is 'a strong ethical brand'. In option B, 'highly principled' links back to 'ethical', meaning morally good or correct. 'Better decision-making and practice' in option B links forward to workers receiving 'clear guidance on what to do and how to do it'.

4 F

Paragraph 5 introduces the negative aspect of branding, pointing out in the text before gap 4 that the result of 'homogeneity', meaning all of the same kind, can actually lead to 'fewer' goods and services'. Option F gives a clear example of this, stating that 'global corporations' can 'drive out local, unbranded businesses, leading to a seemingly identical range of shops, hotels and even restaurants', which in turn refers back to 'homogeneity'. This concept is continued after the gap with the example of 'domination' of 'the online world' by 'just a few tech giants'.

5 D

In option D, 'apparent criticism' links back to the reference in the text before gap 5 to 'they deceive us into buying things which are surplus to our requirements'. Option D states that this criticism, i.e. buying things we don't need, 'is in fact the essence of brands and branding'. This links forwards to 'Their primary function is to create desire ... to consume things we don't need ...' in the text following gap 5.

6 A

The text before gap 6 states that 'the effect of branding is to force things into the open'. This concept is continued in option A in the statement that 'by using these powerful labels, companies are highly visible ... and therefore objects of scrutiny', meaning they are constantly being examined by consumers. This concept is carried on in the text after the gap in 'People tend to be very aware of branding and how it works ...'.

Reading Part 4 Page 14**1 A**

A is correct because the writer says that 'folk music' was the 'victim of the very forces to which it had so richly contributed', this latter being the success of 'world music'. The writer points to 'the demise of traditional, local ways of making music', the 'something valuable' which has been 'damaged'. B is incorrect because it is not the case that 'certain genres of music were overlooked'. Many genres were, in fact, very much used but with the addition of 'elements of western pop and jazz music'. C is incorrect because, although the writer refers to the fact that 'new hybrid music' led to 'the demise of traditional, local ways of making music', they do not say that any genre itself died out, just the way some genres were made.

2 B

B is correct because the writer says that 'Polka is found just about anywhere in the world ...' and 'wherever polka travelled, musicians domesticated the dance', which is to say that it crossed 'international borders'. A is incorrect because neither 'its complexity as a folk dance ... belies attempts to classify it' nor 'polka became local' suggests that its essential nature was changed. C is incorrect for the same reasons. Whatever local changes there were, it was still recognizable as polka.

3 C

C is correct because in relation to the 'top-down perspective' the writer refers to 'a sound aesthetic that stretches as an umbrella over music, expressing a collective identity'. In relation to the 'bottom-up perspective', the writer refers to 'certain traits that allow anyone and everyone to participate in performance'. A is incorrect because the writer does not mention any features as being 'easily recognizable'. B is incorrect because the fact that polka is so universal ('anyone can participate') suggests that its 'characteristics' are not 'consistent' because they are adapted so much.

4 B

B is correct because the paragraph is talking about different styles of polka across a region from the 'push style' ... in Chicago' to the 'accordion-heavy Slovenian style' of 'Cleveland'. A is incorrect because the reference to the two cities is related to differences in style, not to why polka has 'continuing appeal'. C is incorrect because, although the nationalities of two musicians are mentioned, the two cities Cleveland and Chicago are there to illustrate the extent of the polka belt in the USA and Canada.

5 C

C is correct because the paragraph is about how polka has been made widely known by 'publishers ..., recording companies and radio stations'. These media 'interventions' have been 'effective' in allowing the 'particular development' that is 'a category for polka in the 'Grammy Awards''. B is incorrect because, although the phrase 'across time and space' is used, this is simply a reference to the past with no suggestion that 'a long-term perspective' is advantageous. It is the 'extensive intervention' of radio stations, etc. that has any 'advantages'. A is incorrect because, although there is a mention of 'competition' in the 'annual Grammy Awards', the writer is applauding this.

Writing Part 1 Essay Page 16**Model answer**

In my opinion, it is generally a bad thing when culturally significant objects are displayed far from their place of origin, as this is usually the result of imbalances of power. From the 15th century onwards, various European countries colonized and exerted power over large areas of the world, and many treasures and important cultural items were removed from their historical context and later incorporated into the large collections of Western museums. Although there is a positive aspect to diverse museum collections that display objects from a wide range of cultural traditions, this does not compensate for the loss of the specific historical context of important objects or the harm done to the people they were taken from.

An important part of a museum's purpose is the transfer of knowledge. Diverse museum collections holding items from around the world give visitors access to objects which they would not usually have the opportunity to see. However, we also need to consider the transfer of knowledge within individual cultures

and communities. It should be possible for young people to learn about their history in local museums and not have to travel long distances to see important parts of their cultural heritage. Moreover, when items are displayed locally, this attracts tourists who wish to learn about the objects in their true historical context, with economic benefits for the host communities as well as educational benefits for the tourists.

All in all, I think it is better when objects are displayed in museums close to the places where they were produced. It is of course still desirable to have some foreign objects in museums, but the most significant objects should be displayed at home.

[280 words]

Part 2 Summary Page 17

Model answer

All organisms have adaptations that help them survive. These adaptations can be categorized as structural, behavioural, and physiological. Structural adaptations relate to appearance and shape, behavioural adaptations concern behaviour, and physiological adaptations consist of internal functions or processes. These can be illustrated using stick insects. The stick insect camouflages itself against its environment by closely resembling a stick, not only in appearance (structural adaptation) but also in the way it behaves, remaining completely still apart from occasional swaying (behavioural adaptation). Some stick insects can also use their bodies to produce bad-smelling substances which put off potential predators (physiological adaptation).

[99 words]