



OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

A2 Practice Test 1

Answer key

Speaking Part 1 Interview Page 3

1 Students' own answers

2 Students' own answers

3 **Sample answer**

My favourite item of clothing is a black winter coat. It's really warm and comfortable, and it keeps out the wind and the rain. I got it from a shop that sells ski equipment.

4 **Sample answer**

I went shopping for clothes last Saturday. I went to the Westgate Centre with a friend from college because she wanted to buy a dress for a party. She didn't find a dress, but I bought two great jumpers, so I was happy.

5 **Sample answer**

When I go to work or when I have a meeting, I prefer wearing smart clothes, and I have three or four nice suits. When I am at home, I like comfortable clothes, usually jeans and a T-shirt.

6 **Sample answer**

I live in a village, in a small stone house with a garden. Downstairs we have a sitting room with a table where we eat, and we have a kitchen. Upstairs we have two bedrooms and a bathroom.

7 **Sample answer**

I like the countryside best. It's very pretty, and there are lots of places where you can go for walks. There's a river in the village that's nice to sit by, and there is also a forest near here.

8 **Sample answer**

I would like to live in a big city like London for a few years. London is very exciting – there are lots of shops, cinemas, theatres and restaurants. But after a few years, I'd like to come back to the countryside.

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 1 Page 3

Sample answer

Hello, this is Jakub Kaminski from West Hendred. I'm calling because I started having toothache last night and today it's really bad. The problem is I'm going on holiday tomorrow so I need to see a dentist today. Could you call me back on 07700 900287? I want to arrange a time when I can come and see the dentist. Thank you!

Speaking Part 2 Voice message 2 Page 3

Sample answer

Hi Molly. That's great news about your painting course – well done! I am sure you'll have a great time because your paintings are amazing. What kind of course is it? Do you have to go to lessons or can you do it online? Is it a short course or a long one? And what happens at the end of it? I know you're worried about your job at the restaurant, but I think you should keep it. It's always good to have a bit of extra money.

Speaking Part 3 Talk Page 4

Sample answer

I'm going to talk about street markets and supermarkets. We have a street market near us every Wednesday, and I always go there for my fruit and vegetables. The man who sells them is really friendly, and he often tells me what I should buy. Everything is really fresh. It costs about the same as the supermarket, and I feel happy because I am helping the farmers near here. I also go to the supermarket once a week because there are lots of other things that I need to buy, for example, meat, shampoo, chocolate, and so on. The supermarket sells lots of really nice things, so it's easy to spend a lot of money there.

Speaking Part 4 Follow-up questions Page 4

1 Sample answer

I prefer buying clothes online. I think it's much easier than driving into town and walking round the shops. I know it's difficult to get things that are the right size when you do internet shopping. But there's an answer to that problem. When I buy a shirt, for example, I buy two sizes – a small one and a medium one. When they deliver it, I see which one I like best. Then I send back the one I don't want.

2 Sample answer

The best time to go shopping in my area is early in the morning, at about 8 o'clock. The bread shop opens at 8, and I love the smell of fresh bread, so I always buy something there. The supermarkets also open at 8. At that time in the morning, the town is very quiet. The schools open at 8.30 and the people in offices start at 9 o'clock, so at 8 it's very easy to find a place to park and the shops are empty.

3 Sample answer

It can be dangerous to buy things online. There are some bad people and they try to get information about your bank card or your bank account. Then they can steal money from you. It is very important to be careful when you are buying things online. You should always try and buy from shops that you know. And if something is much, much cheaper than it should be, there's probably something wrong.

4 Sample answer

In the future I think there will be more shops online, and there won't be any shops in the town centre. In my town we used to have about 50 shops, and now there are about 20. It is very difficult for small shops to make money. People always want to buy things that are cheap, and a small-town shop will always be more expensive than an internet shop. In the future there will probably be just cafes and sandwich shops in town centres.

5 Sample answer

There are lots of reasons why people don't enjoy going shopping – and I am one of those people! I hate shopping. First of all, shopping is hard work. I have to drive to the station, find a parking space, get on the train, and then walk to the shops. The shops are full of hundreds of people, so everything is slow and you have to wait for hours. Then you have to carry all your heavy shopping bags back to the train. No, thanks!

6 Sample answer

I don't think shopping is a social activity. A few years ago, I went shopping in London with my wife. The streets were noisy, the weather was hot and I was tired. Every time I wanted to buy something, she said 'no'. Every time she wanted to buy something, I said 'no'. She got angry with me and I got angry with her. It was terrible. Anyway, we don't go shopping together anymore, and we are much happier.

Listening Part 1 Page 5

1 C

The woman has a big computer under her desk and wants 'a new model of the same machine'. She doesn't think a laptop is easier to use, and the man says that tablets don't have much memory.

2 C

The woman prefers newspapers because you get the full story. Last year she used an app but she doesn't any more, and she says TV news doesn't give much information.

3 C

The boy will come to the friend's house at 11, after his friend's mother has woken up at 10. They were going to meet at 9 at the boy's house, but the boy's sister and her friends will be at the house then and they make a lot of noise.

4 B

The man says the theatre was boring last time, and suggests the museum and a concert. The woman doesn't want to go to a concert, and likes his first idea best – the museum.

5 C

The woman wants a career in sport and 'is going to follow her dream'. She says she wanted to be a teacher when she was little, and her father wants her to be a farmer, but she doesn't want to do those things now.

Listening Part 2 Page 6

1 C

The woman says that 'the green track is for learning to ride'. The yellow track has jumps, and the red track is the most difficult.

2 B

They will have a short meeting at 10, before getting coffee and tea at 10.30. After that, they will go climbing at 11.00.

3 C

Any student can try the 3-metre wall, but only students with equipment can try the 5-metre wall or the 10-metre wall.

4 A

The woman says they can use the tables in the Free Climb Zone if they have brought their own food from home. They can buy food at the Surf Cafe and can buy drinks at the Skate Bar.

5 B

The woman says that private lessons from an instructor cost £15. £10 is the cost of buying lunch, and £45 is the price for the full day.

Listening Part 3 Page 7

1 both

The man says 'the day was a winner' and that they made a lot of money. The woman agrees by saying 'We did, didn't we?'

2 woman

The woman says the man from the charity 'did a great job showing the visitors around'. The man disagrees and says 'that wasn't really necessary'.

3 man

The man says the cakes were 'wonderful'. The woman didn't try the cakes because they were finished when she got there.

4 man

The man says the books were in 'an awful condition'. The woman says she did not notice the books.

5 both

The man says that the children enjoyed themselves and the woman agrees. She says that the children can't wait for next year's event.

Listening Part 4 Page 8

1 C

The woman says the speeches 'need a bit of work before they're completely ready'. She says someone else is bringing the food and drink, and copies of the schedule are on the table.

2 A

The photo is the railway station because you are right inside it when you finish your train journey. The railway station has some old stone towers, and there are lots of books about it.

3 A

The man says he wants 'somewhere with lots of cupboards'. He wants a garden, but it doesn't have to be big, and he only wants one floor.

4 B

The man says that the rabbit 'needs fresh vegetables every day'. He says they don't need to water the garden, and he says that they can take some tomatoes if they want.

5 C

The main reason why the woman is calling is to give him some advice – she thinks he should take a break and have some time for himself. She asks why he didn't talk to her before, but it is not really a complaint.

Reading Part 1 Pages 9–10

1 B

The text message tells customers they have no data, and can buy more data if they want to.

2 A

The advert says customers can get a free backpack if they buy a swimsuit. We know the clothes are 'fantastic', but we do not know if the styles are 'creative'. There is a special offer on, but we do not know what the price is.

3 A

The blog post talks about photos of a pool and a restaurant, so the writer is talking about a hotel. A train does not have a pool, and you can't say that a journey has a pool or a restaurant.

4 C

Sue's email tells Kate about the swimming club and says 'It's perfect for you', so she is recommending it. We do not know if Sue has joined the club or not, and Sue does not explain how to get to the club.

5 B

The notice says that the problem was caused because 'large stones have fallen down' onto the railway and it is not safe to travel. The railway employees will fix the problem when the rain stops.

6 C

The notice says that children may use the pool, but they must be with a parent. The pool is open for most of the afternoon, and is only closed for an hour. The only people who can use the pool are the hotel guests.

Reading Part 2 Page 11

1 A

Priya says she enjoyed working from home in the beginning. But later on she changed her mind. She says 'after a while, I began to miss talking to my colleagues'. Ajay says he is better at working from home, but we don't know if he has changed his mind about how he feels.

2 A

When she started working from home, Priya enjoyed the new routine of getting up later, taking a break when she wanted, and going to the gym. Ajay found the new routine hard, and Henry missed being at school with his students.

3 B

Henry found it difficult because his children kept asking him to play when he was working. Priya enjoys going to the gym with her sister when she has some free time, but that is not a problem for her.

4 C

Ajay says he hopes to find 'something else to do' and wants 'to work in a busy office with people to chat to'. Priya is not completely happy about working from home, but she doesn't say she is looking for a new job.

5 B

Henry was a schoolteacher before and now he has started his own business and works from home. Priya and Ajay do the same job as before, but they work at home and not in an office.

6 C

Ajay says he 'didn't really manage to do anything' on the first day he worked from home. Henry also mentions difficulties working from home, but this only happened during school holidays.

Reading Part 3 Page 12

1 E

The sentence after the gap says 'I didn't realize this ...' so the gap must be some new idea or thought. The paragraph is about people talking about the weather, so Sentence E fits best.

2 F

The sentence after the gap says 'this means there isn't a huge difference between summer and winter', so the gap must give some sort of reason for this. Sentence F explains that the temperature doesn't change much.

3 A

The paragraph is about different types of weather on the same day. Sentence A explains one result of this – it's hard to know what to wear. Sentence A also talks about choosing what to wear 'in the morning', and the sentence after the gap talks about the weather 'when you get up'.

4 B

The sentence before the gap talks about summer clothes and winter clothes. Sentence B explains what people do with these clothes 'at the end of each season'. The sentence after the gap explains that the writer does not need to do this.

5 D

The sentence before the gap says the writer likes all kinds of weather, but the sentence after the gap talks about something the writer doesn't like. Sentence C explains what it is – fog makes you feel cold and wet and makes it difficult for drivers to see.

6 C

The sentence before the gap says they don't get much snow in Tenerife. The sentence after the gap suggests that one year they did get a lot of snow. Sentence C explains why this happened.

Reading Part 4 Page 13

1 C

Emily says her neighbour showed her all the basic recipes. She watched her mother baking, but her mother didn't teach her. Emily says she now teaches her sister.

2 A

Emily says 'you have to organize your space well and be tidy, or things will get messy'. She says that your kitchen can be big or small and also says that most of the ingredients are quite cheap.

3 A

Emily says she set up a social media account after getting the idea of posting pictures from her teacher. At the beginning she did get paid for one cake, but her main reason for posting pictures was to share her hobby, and she wanted her classmates to 'have fun, too'.

4 C

Emily thinks her first few months at university will be difficult because 'leaving home can be hard', and baking will help her feel better. She says she will make a bit of money from baking but that's not her main reason for carrying on.

Writing Part 1 Page 14

Sample answer

Hi Charlie

Thanks for your email – I'm really looking forward to our nature walk next weekend, too. We can get there by train or by coach. The train is faster, but it's more expensive, so I think we should take the coach.

I'm not sure what the weather will be like, but it is summer now, so it will probably be OK. However, I know it rains a lot there, so let's check the weather forecast before we go.

That's great news about your cousin Danny. He's a great guy. I met him at your birthday party last year – do you remember? I think it will be fun if he is there, too.

Bye for now

Joe

[117 words]

Writing Part 2 Page 15

Sample answer – essay

There are lots of cars in city centres these days and they cause a lot of pollution. This is bad for the environment. However, people need to get to work or school, so we need to find a better way of travelling.

One idea is to have really good trains and buses. Then people won't want to travel by car into city centres and there will be less pollution. A lot of cities have underground trains, and they are also a great way of travelling around.

Another good idea is to cycle. This is good for the environment and it's also very healthy. However, it can be dangerous if cars and bicycles are on the same roads. We need more roads that are only for bicycles.

In conclusion, we should still allow cars into the city centre. However, if there are more trains, buses, and cycle lanes, people will use public transport and will leave their cars at home.

[159 words]

Sample answer – article

I don't want to thank one person, I want to thank two people – my parents.

They have always helped me when I needed it. They are always very kind and patient and took care of my sister and me. They made me do my homework when I was at school, and this helped me when I wanted to go to university. They helped me find a job at weekends, and took me to work when the weather was bad.

My parents taught me lots of different things. My mum taught me how to drive, and now I have my own car. My dad taught me how to cook, so when I went to university I could cook my own food and save money.

I don't say 'thank you' enough to them, but in this article, I want to say thanks, Mum and Dad. You are the best, and I am so happy that you are my parents. Thank you!

[159 words]