OXFORD TEST OF ENGLISH

B2 PRACTICE TEST 2

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Test 2

Speaking

Parts 1 & 2

Part 1 Interview

2.01 You are going to answer eight questions. You have 10 seconds per question for questions 1 and 2, and 20 seconds per question for questions 3–8. Start speaking when you hear this tone.

Part 2 Voicemail 1

2.02 You are going to leave a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

You were recently asked to attend a job interview. However, you are now unable to attend the interview. Leave a voicemail message for the manager of the company. In your message, you should:

- say who you are
- explain why you are unable to attend the interview
- suggest an alternative date for the interview.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

Part 2 Voicemail 2

2.03 You are going to reply to a voicemail message. First read and listen to the task, then decide what you want to say. You have 40 seconds to leave your voicemail. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Listen to the message from your friend about a holiday. Then, leave a voicemail message for your friend. In your message, you should:

- accept your friend's invitation
- ask for information about the cost
- tell your friend when you can go.

Now listen to the message.

You now have 20 seconds to think about what you want to say.

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Part 3

2.04 You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task, and start speaking when you hear the tone.

You are going to give a talk to your English class about different inventions.

Choose **two** photographs. Tell your class how these inventions have improved our lives.

You now have 30 seconds to think about what you want to say.

You now have one minute to give your talk.

A laptop

A microwave oven

A car

A digital camera

Part 4

2.05 You are going to answer six questions about your talk. You have 30 seconds to answer each question. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening

Part 1

2.06 Listen and choose the correct picture (A, B, or C).

1 A brother and sister are discussing which film to watch on TV. Which film do they decide on?

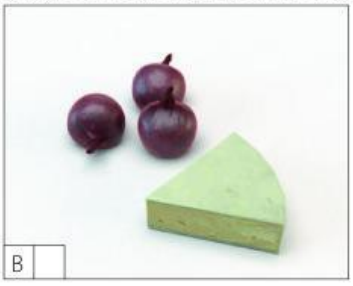
A

B

C

2 A husband and wife are discussing which food items need to be bought. What should the man buy?

A


B

C

3 A man is leaving a voicemail message for his boss. Which part of his body is painful?

A

B

C

4 A brother and sister are discussing jobs. Which job is the man most interested in?

A

B

C

5 A railway station employee is making a passenger announcement. Which train service has the longest delay?

A

B

C

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Part 2

2.07 Listen to a manager of a store telling his staff about some changes to the services the store provides to customers. Choose the correct answer (A, B, or C) for each gap (1–5). The first one (0) has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

Staff update

Loyalty card

0 With the new-look loyalty card, customers can ...A... .
- A use their points elsewhere
- B get double points for some items they buy
- C use their points in specific departments only

1 New customers wanting to join the scheme have to ..... .
- A speak to a member of staff
- B provide proof of their address
- C complete their registration at home

In store

2 The store's ..... will no longer be the same.
- A café
- B restaurant
- C coffee shop

Services and classes

3 Customers who wish to use the 'personal shopper' service need to ..... .
- A pay in advance
- B describe their tastes
- C make an appointment by phone

4 The home design service will for the first time include assistance with choosing ..... .
- A carpets
- B curtains
- C cushions

5 The initial home skills class will cover ..... .
- A food storage
- B seasonal dishes
- C meals for busy people

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Part 3

2.08 Listen to a man and a woman talking about their holiday. Match the people (woman, man, or both) to the opinions below. The first one (0) has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

0 The resort was unexpectedly busy for the time of year.

1 One of the new facilities was unsatisfactory.

2 Parts of the hotel need redecorating.

3 The hotel staff were devoted to making sure guests were content.

4 The holiday proved to be value for money.

5 For their next trip, it would be better to try a different type of accommodation.

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Part 4

2.09 Listen and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

1 A husband and wife are talking about a new fitness class. How does the woman feel about joining the class?
- A anxious about causing herself an injury
- B worried that she will be the oldest member
- C concerned that she will be unable to keep up

2 A girl is leaving a voicemail message for her father. What does she want her father to do?
- A help her to gather data
- B pay an unexpected bill
- C call the internet provider

3 A husband and wife are discussing home repairs. The woman says that the man …
- A has to build the bookcase.
- B ought to try to fix the front door.
- C needs to focus on the floorboards.

4 A woman is leaving a message for the manager of a company. What is the main purpose of the woman's message?
- A to request a personal visit
- B to ask for her call to be returned
- C to enquire about a range of products

5 A brother and sister are talking about a science magazine. What is the subject of the article they mention?
- A the planets
- B the weather
- C the atmosphere

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Reading

Part 1

1 Read the blog entry and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

> What a refreshing change to see an artist who doesn't feel the need to impress audiences with unusual dances or costumes, and instead comes across as modest and serious. She is rarely given sufficient credit by the critics for her unique voice. And she willingly discusses her lyrics! Most artists leave their fans to struggle to work out the meaning for themselves.

What does the blogger say about the singer?

A She behaves in a rather exaggerated way on stage.

B She writes strange songs that are quite hard to understand.

C She has an unusual way of singing that deserves more praise.

2 Read the advert and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

> Ice Palace Ski Company
>
> Large ski holiday companies often guarantee low prices. But our small and long-established business, Ice Palace Ski, knows that people are prepared to pay a little more for the personal touch. While other companies may offer an equally wide range of accommodation, they certainly won't have such caring staff catering to your every need. Call us on 0117 496 0812.

What does the advert say is unique about Ice Palace Ski Company?

A the great variety of places clients can stay

B the high quality of service that is available

C the ability to offer particularly cheap holidays

3 Read the note and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

> David,
>
> I phoned the computer company – there are several ways of getting help. If the problem is urgent, you can call, but you can also send messages to technicians who will get back to you within one working day. I'd go to the website first, where there's advice on the most common issues. I reckon you'll figure it out from there.
>
> See you later!
>
> Melissa

What does the note say?

A It is not easy to find answers to the problem online.

B It is not necessary to phone the company to get help.

C It is not possible to get a quick response from the company.

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4 Read the email and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

FROM: Harpers Gym
TO: Michael Green
SUBJECT: Gym membership

Dear Michael,
We are sorry you have decided not to renew your membership. We hope you have been satisfied with the high-quality facilities you have had access to for the past year. We are constantly looking for ways to improve, and suggestions are appreciated. If you wish to return in the future, our staff are ready to help. We would love to welcome you back.

What is the writer of the email trying to do?

A apologize to Michael for the quality of service he has received
B explain to Michael changes to the procedure for providing feedback
C persuade Michael to consider changing a recent decision he has made

5 Read the text message and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Hi Luke
When you get the groceries this week I'd suggest that discount store, Roses. Just get what we need and don't be tempted by non-essential things, or even little luxuries, just because they're cheaper than in some other supermarkets. It's hard to resist a bargain, I know, but it's important that we stick to our budget.
Anna

Why did Anna text Luke?

A to persuade him to be less cautious with money
B to advise him on what sort of items are affordable
C to warn him against purchasing things simply due to low prices

6 Read the extract from a review and choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

The new drama series fails to win awards for originality, but I could forgive it that, given its other strengths. The inexperience of the virtually unknown young cast didn't prevent them from being unexpectedly good. I question, however, the possibly inappropriate moments of humour in the emotionally intense scenes. The writer probably wanted to lighten the mood but it didn't quite work.

What does the reviewer feel about the new drama series?

A He was confused by some parts of the script.
B He was disappointed by how predictable it was.
C He was surprised by the performance of the actors.

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Part 2

The people below are looking for a novel to read. Read the information about the people and the novels, and choose the best novel (A, B, C, or D) for each person.

Book reviews

A The Messenger

The Messenger has won several awards and is a fascinating detective novel full of suspense. There is a thrilling description of a car chase on the first page so the novel immediately grabs your attention, moving so rapidly it will leave you gasping for breath. It is written in a straightforward way, often with quite basic vocabulary. The story has so many twists and turns you're uncertain how things will be resolved. The characters are not the stereotypes often found in fiction of this kind, but remarkable people you won't often meet in real life. You end up really caring about what happens to them.

B Future Perfect

Although *Future Perfect* is a science fiction novel, with the story taking place in a weird and wonderful alien world, it can be enjoyed by those that don't usually enjoy this genre. This is because there is a huge amount of action, and plenty of witty dialogue between the main characters. In many respects this novel demands a lot of the reader and makes you think about your life in a new way. The ending will certainly astonish you and isn't something you could have predicted! The writer obviously knows a great deal about the latest developments in science and technology, so you can pick up some interesting information.

C The Peak

The Peak is a story of fighting against the odds, and encourages you to believe you can also achieve great things. The novel is based on a true story and is set in 1925, although there isn't much historical detail. In fact, the complex relationships and emotions could be from any period. The novel covers a huge range of different locations which adds to the enjoyment of the reader. The main character is amusing, smart, and brilliant at getting out of tricky situations. This is a novel that deals with serious themes, including criminal activity and the importance of telling the truth, but does so in a light-hearted way so reading is never an effort.

D Silver Wood

Silver Wood is an outstanding historical novel, which deserved the prize it was recently awarded. It transports you to the early nineteenth century and successfully conveys the sights and sounds of various distant lands. The writer's attention to historical detail and analysis of other cultures will widen your horizons considerably. The heroine becomes like a dear but annoying friend you'd like to shout at because of her ridiculous decisions, but somehow this makes her more lovable. The novel could be much shorter, so might suit someone with time on their hands to get into the story. It's full of passion and drama and builds to a shocking and heart-breaking conclusion.

1
Abdul is searching for a book that tells an inspiring story. He gets a lot of pleasure from novels that feature clever and funny heroes. He hopes to find a novel that isn't just set in a single place. .....

2
Chen is particularly keen to find a book that is easy to read. She is on the lookout for a novel with unusual personalities that will interest her. In addition, she hopes to read a book that has been given prizes. .....

3
Maurizio likes novels which are set in highly unfamiliar and unusual locations. He particularly enjoys stories that include some humour. He has a strong preference for a novel that is quite challenging. .....

4
Jazmin likes novels that are moving and even sad in places. It is also essential that the writing makes her feel affection for the main character. She would be particularly pleased to find a book that features beautiful descriptions of places. .....

5
Hitoshi would like to find a novel about crime, and is keen to read one that is full of big shocks and surprises. He wants to read an exciting story which moves quite fast, as he gets easily bored. .....

6
Zeinab has a long summer holiday and so has plenty of hours to devote to a book. What she is really looking for is a novel that will take her back in time. If possible, she hopes to learn something new from the book. .....

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Part 3

Six sentences are missing from this text. Choose the correct sentence (A–G) for each gap (1–6). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Are to-do lists useful?

For many people, modern life gets busier and busier as we juggle the multiple demands of jobs, relationships, leisure activities and housework. Most of us make use of to-do lists in an attempt to keep up with all these things. The satisfaction of crossing completed tasks off such lists is enormous, but do they really make us more organized?

These days, Nicola Rankin, a 30-something owner of a thriving fashion business, swears by her to-do lists. However, it took her some time to develop an approach that worked for her. Now, she writes her lists in a traditional notebook rather than storing them electronically, and makes sure she checks them daily. She gives three reasons why such lists work for her. .....[1] They also provide a structure for her life, and offer proof of what she has managed to complete.

Psychology offers some insights into the value of to-do lists. There is a phenomenon termed the Zeigarnik effect. The psychologist Bluma Zeigarnik carried out an experiment and observed that waiters could only remember customers' orders before they had been served. After delivering the dishes, they had no idea who'd had the chicken and who'd had the fish. .....[2] The to-do list may allow our minds to focus on actually doing tasks rather than wasting effort on trying to remember what we have to do.

Another interesting experiment has shown that, while we worry about things we haven't done, this can be prevented simply by making a plan to do them. .....[3] However, those who were offered the opportunity to note down concrete plans about how to finish things off were more relaxed and their performance on an unrelated follow-up activity was better. Simply writing plans down makes people function more effectively.

There are, however, good lists and bad lists. Research shows that short scribbled notes, such as those on the back of envelopes or on a scrap of paper, are not particularly effective. More detail than just a scrawled 'Dad' or 'Tickets' is essential. .....[4] If your to-do list isn't clear, your tasks won't be prioritized and they won't be completed.

If you find that you put off tackling larger tasks, then think about the wording of your lists. .....[5] 'Redecorate the house' is clearly a terrifying prospect; 'paint the bathroom door' is less alarming and thus more likely to get done.

Nicola Rankin admits that she doesn't always complete everything on her own to-do lists. .....[6] Her clothing website has become a household name in less than three years.

A Participants had to do a task but were not allowed enough time to complete it.
B The best approach is to break them down into smaller, more manageable chunks.
C They had done what was necessary and the brain could let go and move on to something more important.
D But some of us struggle with another stage: working out exactly why we need to do those tasks.
E They make her feel more in control of her schedule.
F Yet major success has been possible in spite of this.
G For example, do you need to email, visit or phone, and for what reason?

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Part 4

Read the article about people who do a lot of exercise. For each question (1–4), choose the correct answer (A, B, or C).

Obsessed with exercise?

Laura Thompson investigates why some people exercise so much

We all know someone who spends much of their free time doing exercise. Once people boasted about a 45-minute gym session, or a gentle evening jog, because both activities used to be viewed as serious exercise; but now many seem to be attempting things which are considerably harder. Of course, it is preferable that people are no longer 'couch potatoes' sitting on the sofa and watching television for hours on end, but when they go to the opposite extreme, it's important to stop and reflect on what is behind this trend.

New research suggests that individuals feeling that they don't have sufficient control over their lives – for example, those stuck in jobs they don't enjoy – deliberately seek out free-time activities that require enormous effort. Managing to run a marathon gives them a sense of power and self-belief which they may not be getting in other areas of their lives.

This may have a grain of truth in it. I have a colleague who regularly does 10-kilometre runs, and, whatever is going on in his life, focuses with admirable determination on the next training session. He takes pride in pushing himself to the limit. Yet he becomes defensive if anyone dares to hint that it might be an obsession.

Dr Jeff Breckon, a sports psychologist, points out that control is not the only explanation for people exercising excessively. 'Social media push people to become extremely fit because many want to impress their peer group. It is an easy way of demonstrating your success to others by posting detailed statistics about your latest sporting achievements. It's all part of creating your online personal brand.'

When asked why they exercise so much, most people insist that it is done purely for their own satisfaction or for socially acceptable reasons, such as getting fit. Such assurances, no matter how believable, should not be taken at face value. Most therapists, for example, would see an addiction to exercise as a symptom of some hidden issue that needs to be addressed. It's worth looking a bit deeper and only then can positive steps be taken.

1 In the first paragraph, what does the writer say about the way people's attitudes to exercise have changed?
   A They regard it more and more as a form of relaxation.
   B They set themselves more ambitious challenges than in the past.
   C They are more honest about how hard they find it.
2 The writer says that her colleague who loves running …
   A claims that exercise helps him to concentrate effectively.
   B uses exercise as a way of relieving stress.
   C rejects any suggestion that he thinks too much about exercise.
3 Dr Jeff Breckon says that, for people doing a lot of exercise, social media …
   A allow them to measure their achievements.
   B help them to create a positive public image.
   C encourage them to compete against friends.
4 People who exercise too much are often …
   A unaware that they could have a problem.
   B unconvincing when they make excuses.
   C unclear about how to find professional help.

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Writing

Part 1

You have 20 minutes to write an email. Write 80–130 words.

You are a student at a college. First read the email from Mr Bell, a teacher. Then write an email to Mr Bell, including the three notes you have made.

FROM: Mr Bell
SUBJECT: College magazine

Hi there,

I am writing to tell you there will be a new college magazine starting next month. I hope you will read it.

That's a great idea!

We would also like to invite students to write articles for the magazine. Would you be interested in writing something?

Yes – say what you could do.

We are unsure whether to publish the magazine every week or every month. What do you think?

Explain ...

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mr Bell

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Part 2

For Writing Part 2, choose one question, the essay OR the review.

Part 2 Essay

You have 25 minutes to write an essay. Write 100–160 words.

You have had a class discussion about mobile phones. Your teacher has asked you to write an essay. The title of the essay is:

Should using mobile phones be banned in all classrooms?

Write your **essay**.

Part 2 Review

You have 25 minutes to write a review. Write 100–160 words.

You have seen the following advert in an online magazine for English language students.

> Write a review!
>
> Write a review of a museum or an art gallery you have visited. What could you see there? What was special about the place? Could it be improved in any way?
>
> The best reviews will be published in the magazine next month.

Write your **review**.

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