Oxford Test of English

B2 PRACTICE TEST 4

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Test 4

Speaking

Part 1 Interview

1.01 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 the tone. Try to speak for the full amount of time.

Part 2 Voice message 1

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

You missed your English lesson today. In the lesson, your teacher told the students about a presentation you need to give next week. Leave a voice message for your classmate. In your message, you should:

- say why you missed the lesson
- ask your classmate some questions about the presentation
- suggest a time to meet.

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

Part 2 Voice message 2

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

Listen to the message from your college friend about her bike. Then, leave a voice message for your college friend. In your message, you should:

- say how you feel about your friend's news
- ask some questions about what happened
- say why you cannot help your friend.

Now listen to the message.

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

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Part 3 Talk

1.04 You are going to give a talk. Read and listen to the task. You have 60 seconds to give your talk. Start speaking when you hear the tone.

Your town or city wants to encourage more tourists to visit. You are going to give a talk to your English class about different ways of attracting tourists.

Choose **two** photographs. Tell your class how these two ideas can attract more visitors to your town or city.

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

A music festival

A shopping centre

A museum

A theme park

Part 4 Follow-up questions

1.05 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.

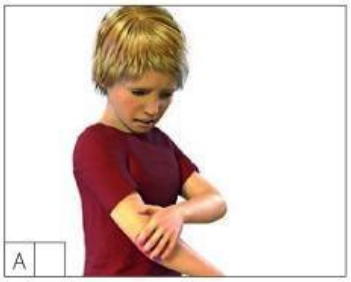
LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening

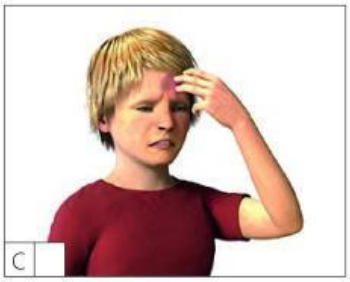
Part 1

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

1 A boy is phoning his mother. What is the problem?


A

B


C

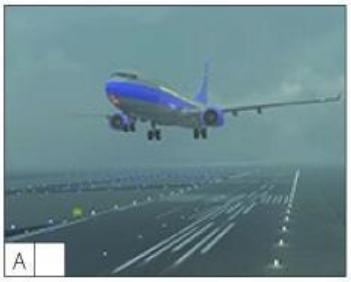
2 Two friends are preparing dinner. What should be done with the food?

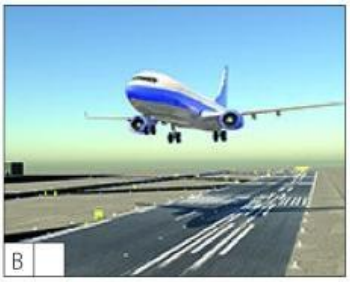
A

B

C

3 A pilot is making an announcement on an aeroplane. What will the weather be like at the plane's destination?


A


B

C

4 Two colleagues are discussing weekend plans. Where does the woman intend to go?

A

B

C

5 A woman is leaving a voice message. What was the reason the woman went to the shop?

A

B

C

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

D2.02 Listen to a college tutor telling students about an upcoming assignment. Choose the correct answers to complete the notes. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

THIS TERM'S ASSIGNMENT

0 This term's assignment will be ...B... of student's final grade.

A 10%
B 25%
C 50%

Designing the questions

1 The tutor suggests ..... as a possible topic.

A environmental policies
B transport options
C childcare

2 The tutor prefers to collect responses by asking people ..... .

A to rank different options
B to answer questions with *yes* or *no*
C to answer open-ended questions

Carrying out the assignment

3 The tutor recommends conducting the assignment with ..... .

A people with different life experiences
B friends of the students
C at least 100 people

Presenting the results

4 Students will be asked to ..... after the assignment.

A give a presentation
B share any voice recordings
C write a report

5 The tutor will offer ..... for any students that need help.

A individual sessions
B practical help in groups
C support by email

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 3

D2.03 Listen to two people talking about learning languages. Match the people (the woman, the man, or both) to the opinions below. The first one has been done for you. You now have 30 seconds to look at the task.

0 It takes time and hard work to learn a foreign language.

woman	man	both
		✓

1 It's easier to learn a language when you're a child.

woman	man	both

2 All children should learn a language in school.

woman	man	both

3 To really learn a language, it's best to go where it is spoken.

woman	man	both

4 It is not possible to completely acquire a foreign language.

woman	man	both

5 Apps are useful for learning a new language.

woman	man	both

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Part 4

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

1 A man is leaving a message for a friend. Why is he leaving the message?
   A to show regret for doing something wrong
   B to criticize the friend for not giving enough information
   C to express how grateful he is for being involved

2 Two friends are talking about a TV series. How does the woman feel about the information the man tells her?
   A She is pessimistic.
   B She is irritated.
   C She is relieved.

3 You hear an automated call after someone calls a bank. Which is the number for information about financial protection?
   A one
   B two
   C three

4 You hear a tutor talking to her student What does the student think of the book he's reading?
   A It includes vivid characters.
   B It has a realistic plot.
   C It is very moving.

5 You hear two colleagues at work. Why is the man staying late in the office today?
   A He is working to a very tight deadline.
   B He is preparing for a group meeting.
   C He is waiting to speak to someone.

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Reading

Part 1

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

TO: Lisa
FROM: Marco
SUBJECT: Interesting article

Thanks for the news article you sent me. It's an interesting topic, but this time, the journalist is so one-sided, don't you think? I like her, but she hasn't exactly kept her opinions to herself. Anyway, at least she didn't set out to shock readers this time, like she's done so often in the past!

What does Marco say about the article?

A It's a biased piece of work.
B It's consistent with others by this writer.
C It's very controversial.

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

Information for train passengers

Due to essential repairs from 1 to 15 July, trains travelling north will depart from Platform 3 instead of Platform 2. Southbound trains from Platform 1 remain unaffected. In addition, technical work on the tracks during this period means that trains will be replaced with a bus service between here and Letchworth from 9.00 p.m. to 12.00 a.m. All other services will operate as normal until further announcements.

What should passengers avoid doing?

A travelling to Letchworth during the day
B using a particular part of the station
C going to stations in the South

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

Hi Amy,
I noticed you and your brother have fallen out yet again. I hate to tell you what to do, but I really think you ought to sit down with him and talk about what's bothering you both and find an acceptable solution. Since you're the eldest, it should be you who starts. I've no interest in taking sides – all I want is some peace in this house!
Mum

What is the writer of the message trying to do?

A settle an argument
B confirm who is to blame
C urge someone to take action

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

Ben, a client of yours, Esma Shah, rang while you were out. It's about a refund you organized recently to replace an item she'd bought that'd had some faults. She thought she'd get in touch to praise you on how rapidly it was sorted out and also mentioned she'd get back to you with any further issues. She'd like you to acknowledge her call.

Thanks, Paula

What is Paula reporting?

A a client wanted an update about a product

B a client wanted some money back

C a client wanted to provide positive feedback

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

www.ourcity.oup/trains

Unlike so many of the buildings that have appeared in our city in recent years, the new train station stands in complete contrast to everything around it with its innovative design. Having appropriate access is just one of its many positive features and, unusually perhaps for a relatively small station, it has more than adequate facilities for travellers passing through.

What is the writer's opinion of the new building?

A It fits in with the surrounding architecture.

B It lacks places to eat, drink or shop.

C It's suitable for people with disabilities.

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

REVIEW

Purple Velvet: live in concert

Fans of this band probably had one of the best nights of their lives. Apart from a brief problem with microphones that was quickly resolved, it was a fantastic night. Some older fans might have been disappointed with the emphasis on more recent hits, but the band more than made up for this by getting the crowd to sing along on multiple occasions, which many were delighted with.

What negative point does the reviewer make about the concert?

A Few of the old favourites were played.

B There was little audience interaction.

C Continuous technical issues stopped the music.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

Careers in science and technology?

Three people talk about their choice of career

A Samir

There is a river in the town where I spent my childhood, and I remember playing there a lot when I was very young. That all stopped when I was around eleven or twelve years of age because according to most adults I knew, it was no longer safe to swim in. It was only much later that I understood the cause of their concern. It was pollution being carried from upstream – something I only understood after watching news reports of how so many rivers in my country were being negatively impacted by waste from factories and homes. After I'd made the connection in my mind, I challenged myself to do something about it. That's why I eventually went on to study environmental sciences at college and am now at the early stages of a career as a water quality technician. I am fully aware that the scale of solving this particular problem is massive and change won't happen overnight. I must admit that this frustrates me sometimes, and I'm sure other people are upset, too. Nevertheless, I'm glad that I've made this choice and hope to make a difference later in my career, even if it's a small contribution.

B Emi

I was fascinated by building things when I was a kid. I had those little blocks that you can put together to create pretty much anything you want – houses, bridges, space rockets; you name it. One thing led to another and before I knew it, I was doing things like taking clocks and bikes apart and putting them together again to find out how they were constructed! I loved nothing more than taking my time to really figure out how things operated. I'm sure you can imagine my family's response when it looked as if I'd deliberately broken something of theirs! I decided to study engineering at college. It seemed the most obvious choice. My main challenge so far has been mastering all the software that the engineering industry probably regards as standard, which I'm guessing is used in many types of engineering jobs. Compared to my peers in my course, it has taken me time to become fully comfortable in using it all. I expect it's probably going to be beneficial, though. I'm unlikely to progress far in my career if I can't use what other people might see as the essential tools of the job.

C Jon

Since I was young, I've always been fascinated by computer games, especially story-rich ones where players take on various roles and go on a journey of some kind. I guess I could've had the kind of parents who worried that I was wasting too much of my time in front of a computer screen, but mine never seemed to mind. In fact, luckily for my later career, they encouraged it. So much so that I began coming up with ideas for games long before I had any idea of how to bring them to reality. It all led to me studying games design at college, where I gained a deep understanding of the mechanics of computer games, and how to construct them. I think that, because I'd been playing games for so long, I found the course much less challenging than other students. Teachers told me that games can be more than just entertainment. They can educate you, challenge your beliefs by transporting you to whole new worlds and tell powerful stories. But I've always known – as I've always felt – that if you have strong feelings about the worth of something, then you should pay attention to them.

Read the questions and match them to the correct text about deciding to pursue a career in science and technology (A, B, or C).

1 Who occasionally made other people feel alarmed?

A Samir **B** Emi **C** Jon

2 Who says it took them a while to realise why something was happening?

A Samir **B** Emi **C** Jon

3 Who didn't have the skill to develop the things they were imagining?

A Samir **B** Emi **C** Jon

4 Who feels that other people have become used to something more easily?

A Samir **B** Emi **C** Jon

5 Who has the attitude that people should follow their passions?

A Samir **B** Emi **C** Jon

6 Who understands completely how wide-ranging an issue is?

A Samir **B** Emi **C** Jon

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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.

An ancient hidden city

There are many ancient cities around the world. In places such as Athens, Rome or Mexico City, it's possible to see the remains of sites constructed hundreds or even thousands of years ago, still standing alongside modern buildings. One chance finding a few decades ago, however, suggests there could be much more to discover, if only we knew where to direct our attention.

The town of Derinkuyu is in central Türkiye. In 1963, a local man was making repairs to his basement when he noticed that several of his chickens seemed to be disappearing through a small hole in a wall. [1] It was the entrance to a tunnel that seemed to lead deep under the surface.

Soon after, work began to learn what the tunnel was. [2] Experts began to realize that what had been found, with its total size of 445 km^2, was one of the world's largest underground cities.

The network consists not only of tunnels, but several large rooms. Some seem to have been used as living spaces, meeting halls and schools. [3] These were deliberately placed near the surface so that the living creatures provided a warm layer of heat. All this was additionally supported by a brilliant system of small holes that allowed fresh air to move freely from the surface right down to the deepest levels. Fresh drinking water was supplied by a well, which had been dug over 50 metres into the ground.

In all, the city could have supported as many as 20,000 inhabitants. [4] Experts have claimed that this continued for thousands of years, until as recently as the early 20th century.

There is some debate as to who created the city and why. [5] These objects, which could only be moved from the inside, can be found on each of the 18 levels of the underground city. They would have provided extra protection against invaders that might have attacked the population above ground, making sure that no enemy army could have reached the people hiding deep below.

Derinkuyu's underground city is just one of many that are now known to exist in the area. [6] At least one has recently been identified as being even larger than the one at Derinkuyu. Perhaps even more amazingly, many of these cities are interconnected by tunnels, some of which stretch for up to nine kilometres. This means that a whole civilization sought protection under the ground here, and did so very successfully, for several centuries.

A Others had even provided an underground home for animals, such as cows.

B However, this, in particular, has been of little use in helping anyone to understand what had gone on here.

C Curious to solve the mystery, he inspected the gap and uncovered something astonishing.

D In the following decades, it was found to be part of an enormous network, 85 metres deep.

E Among the clues are the large, circular stones that can be pushed into place in order to create tunnel-blocking doors.

F Around 200 have now been discovered, all created under the soft, volcanic rock that is ideal for digging into.

G Although they were unlikely to have used it permanently, it may have been a shelter for months at a time.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 4

Read the article about urban heat islands. For questions 1–4, choose the correct answer, (A, B or C).

Urban heat islands *by June Sire*

Many of us who live in cities experience something known as the urban heat island effect. This is a situation in which temperatures are far higher in a city than surrounding rural areas. In a growing number of places, extreme heat has become an accepted fact of life, placing elderly people in particular danger. Indeed, health warnings in cities are becoming increasingly frequent. Two out of three of us will be living in urban environments by 2050, according to the United Nations. So, urban heat islands would become an even greater issue if those in charge of designing cities did not urgently take on the problem.

The main causes of urban heat islands are the ways in which cities have been designed. Unlike trees or grass, which cities often lack, concrete absorbs and stores heat, slowly releasing it back into the atmosphere after the sun sets, a time when air would normally cool down significantly. Modern machines such as air conditioning, which do a good job of keeping the inside of buildings cool, can nevertheless worsen the situation, transferring heat into the outside environment.

So, what solutions can urban planners put into action? Clearly, we cannot simply replace our cities with ones more capable of standing up to our planet's warming climate. However, it might be possible to **retrofit** them. If we cannot make new city-centre parks, for instance, we could try adding rooftop gardens. Even painting buildings or roads white, to reflect the sun, can have a positive effect.

Alternatively, we could reverse what some might call bad decision-making. In the Korean capital of Seoul, the Cheonggyecheon river was covered by a motorway in the 1960s. Recently, it has been removed, exposing the river once again. This has created a wide area in the city where the air flows and nature has returned. Temperatures are now approximatley 4°C cooler than surrounding streets. No doubt, property prices around the river have also received an economic boost. Something like this may not be possible in other cities, however, it could provide an example of an inventive solution to a growing problem.

1 In the first paragraph, what is the writer's main point about urban heat islands?

A She believes urban planners are to blame.

B She expects the problem will worsen.

C She considers them a major risk.

2 What does the writer say is caused by the urban heat island effect?

A Night-time temperatures are altered.

B Plants cannot grow normally.

C Cooling technology works less efficiently.

3 In the third paragraph, what does *retrofit* mean?

A construct new cities using different materials

B adapt the existing features of cities

C identify parts of cities to be knocked down

4 What is the writer's attitude towards the river in Seoul?

A It was a mistake to bury it under a road.

B It has had a number of benefits.

C It's unlikely to inspire planners in other cities.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing

Part 1

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

You recently received an email from a friend. First, read the email below from Piotr. Then, write an email to Piotr, including the three notes you have made.

FROM: Piotr
SUBJECT: Party on Saturday

Hello,

I'm really sorry, but I can't come to your party this weekend.

I've got the flu and I feel terrible. I think I got it from my sister.

Respond .....

I hope I get better soon. When you had the flu last year, what did you do to get better?

Give details .....

I'm sorry I can't come. Maybe we can meet another weekend?

Suggest .....

Speak soon,

Piotr

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part 2

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

Part 2 Essay

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

You have had a class discussion on the topic of museums. Your teacher now wants you to write an essay

The title of the essay is:

'Should museums be free for everyone to visit?'

Write your **essay**.

Part 2 Article

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

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

Write an article for the magazine.

> Articles wanted
>
> *Your favourite café in your town*
>
> Write an article about your favourite café in your town. Describe the café. What do you like about it? When do you usually go there? Is there anything you would change about the café?
>
> The best articles will be published on our website.

Write your **article**.

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