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Practice Test 1

Level B1

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Contents

Introduction to Skills for English	3
About Skills for English	3
The Skills for English Practice Tests	3
What is included in this document?	4
How you can use this document	4
Practice Test 1: B1 Speaking Test	5
Speaking: Part 1	5
Speaking: Part 2	6
Speaking: Part 3	8
Sample answers and comments	9
Sample Answers	9
Comments	10
Practice Test 1: B1 Listening Test	11
Listening: Part 1	11
Listening: Part 2	13
Listening: Part 3	15
Listening Scripts	17
Part 1	17
Part 2	20
Part 3	22
Answer key	24
Part 1	24
Part 2	24
Part 3	24
Practice Test 1: B1 Reading Test	25
Reading: Part 1	25
Reading: Part 2	30
Reading: Part 3	32
Answer key	36
Part 1	36
Part 2	36

Part 3	36
Practice Test 1: B1 Writing Test	37
Writing: Part 1	37
Part 1 sample answer	38
Comments	38
Writing: Part 2	39
Part 2 sample answer	40
Comments	40

Introduction to Skills for English

About Skills for English

Skills for English is a qualification that enables you to demonstrate your knowledge of the English language for a range of purposes, including work, study or settlement. *Skills for English* tests make the process of taking a test and gaining an English language qualification as easy and convenient as possible.

Skills for English: SELT is a Secure English Language Test approved by the UK Home Office for UK Visa purposes. You take the level you need for your required visa, making the test quick and convenient. *Skills for English: SELT* is available to take in our network of test centres in over 130 countries.

Skills for English provides an accurate measure of language proficiency through practical and realistic tasks that you would expect to undertake in an English-speaking environment. You choose the test level you require, from A1 (beginner) to C2 (proficient). That way, you know you are preparing for, and taking, the level of test you need for your chosen purpose.

All *Skills for English* tests use computer-based delivery for all skills. Reading and listening are automatically marked during the test session itself; speaking and writing are marked by trained assessors (who have no access to your personal details) after you have finished. You move through each of the skills sections in a single test session, at home or in a test centre, then receive your results in as little as three days. When you receive your results, you will be given details of the individual outcome (pass/fail) for each skill taken, plus your overall test outcome (also pass/fail). You need to pass each of the skills taken to pass the test overall.

The Skills for English Practice Tests

Two sets of digital practice tests are available on the *Skills for English* website for people preparing to take the *Skills for English: SELT* tests. Both practice tests are delivered on our testing platform and will give you a good idea of what to expect on test day. They cover all levels of our tests, A1 to C2, and can be accessed by going to www.skillsforenglish.com

This booklet is a documented version of Practice Test 2, which is available on our website. It covers exactly the same material but is in a different format to help with your test preparation activities. A separate booklet is available for each level of the test and can be used for *Skills for English: SELT* test preparation.

We ensure that *Skills for English* tests cover a variety of everyday contexts and scenarios including life, work and study. The contexts and scenarios in our practice tests are varied and representative of what you may see in our tests.

What is included in this document?

This document contains all the tasks which you will see at a given level on the *Skills for English* practice test pages for Practice Test 2. It covers all aspects of the test including:

- Speaking test questions and tasks
- Speaking sample answers and comments
- Scripts, questions and answers for the Listening tests

At B1 and above these documents also include:

- Reading texts, questions and answers
- Writing tasks
- Writing sample answers and comments

The commentary on the sample answers for Speaking and Writing tests will show you why each sample is an example of a good response.

How you can use this document

You can use this document in a variety of ways.

Test takers: you can use the information in this document alongside the digital practice tests on our website. We would suggest that you *always* try out the digital practice tests as they will give you a good idea of what to expect on your test day; they are delivered on the same software and in the same format as on test day. You can use this document to support any further preparation work you may want to do, for example to check on questions you may have missed or to reflect on your own performance.

Teachers and training providers: you can use the information in this document to support any training or practice work you may be doing with your students as well as any materials you may be developing for work in the classroom. This document will allow you to focus on specific parts or questions in the *Skills for English* tests and concentrate your student preparation on specific aspects of the tests.

For a full range of preparation and practice resources, visit www.skillsforenglish.com

Practice Test 1: B1 Speaking Test

There are 3 parts to the Speaking test.

All your answers are recorded.

Speaking: Part 1

In Part 1, you will answer 5 questions about yourself.

Part 1 is not assessed.

After each question, you will hear a beep.

Answer the questions after each beep.

You will have 10 seconds to answer each question.

1. What is your name?

BEEP

2. Can you spell your first name please?

BEEP

3. Where are you from?

BEEP

4. What is your date of birth?

BEEP

5. What do you do?

BEEP

That is the end of Part 1.

Speaking: Part 2

In Part 2 there are questions about 2 topics.

You will answer 5 questions about each topic.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

You will have 20 seconds to answer each question.

Now I am going to ask you some questions about your favourite activity.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

1. What is your favourite hobby? Why do you like it?

BEEP

2. When did you start doing this hobby?

BEEP

3. Do you prefer doing this hobby alone or with other people? Why?

BEEP

4. How much time do you spend on your hobby?

BEEP

5. Do you have any other hobbies? What are they?

BEEP

Now I am going to ask you about giving gifts or presents to family and friends.

Remember to answer the questions after each beep.

1. Describe the last present you gave to someone.

BEEP

2. Why did you give this present?

BEEP

3. Did the person like the present? Why?

BEEP

4. Do you prefer to buy presents in shops or online? Why?

BEEP

5. What is the best present you have received?

BEEP

That is the end of Part 2.

Speaking: Part 3

In Part 3 you are going to give a friend some advice about the best way to study English.

The words on the role card will help you.

You can say more things if you like, but you **must** say something about each point on the role card.

You have 1 minute to read the role card.

You will have up to 4 minutes to answer.

Role Card: Giving a friend some advice about the best way to study English

- Describe how you study English.
- Describe where the best places are for studying English (for example, the library).
- Describe what you find difficult about studying English (for example, taking notes).
- Describe how studying English has helped you.
- Describe how you will use your English in the future.

That is the end of the B1 Speaking test.

Sample answers and comments

This page provides you with a transcript of model answers for a strong pass at B1 for Speaking Part 2. Note: Part 1 of the Speaking test is not assessed.

The comments show why these answers result in a strong pass.

Sample Answers

Speaking Part 2: Your favourite activity

1. *My favourite hobby is gardening. I like it because I enjoy growing fruit and vegetables.*
2. *I started gardening two years ago.*
3. *I prefer gardening with other people because it is more fun.*
4. *Twice or three times a week.*
5. *I play football and I am in a band.*

Speaking Part 2: Giving gifts

1. *The last present was some beautiful perfume for my mother. I bought it two months ago for her birthday. It was very expensive, and it is in a pretty glass bottle.*
2. *I bought this perfume for my mother because it is her favourite. She asked me to buy it for her birthday.*
3. *My mother liked the perfume because it is her favourite – she always wears this perfume. She was very happy with her gift.*
4. *I prefer to buy online – it's more convenient. You can usually find a lot of things. But it is dangerous because I often spend too much money.*
5. *I have had some wonderful presents. Last year I got the best present for my birthday. My wife bought me a beautiful car! It wasn't new because we can't afford that, but it was lovely.*

Speaking Part 3: Advice about studying English

When I prepared for this exam, I started to read my English textbook. I practised reading and talked to my friends. They had to ask me difficult questions. I was studying every day for a month. I did not stop.

The best place for me to study is the library, but I also need to go to a café because you must not talk in the library. I didn't have to take any extra classes because my English is good, but my friend needed to take some lessons.

If you want to pass, you have to work hard. You could take notes from talks online or in class if you want. You might try films or TV too. The best way to prepare for this exam is to listen to English. You can practise listening on the computer. And you must speak as much as possible.

To help you concentrate, you need to work alone. Turn the TV off. You need to put your phone away, too!

For me, pronunciation can be difficult and also learning some of the verbs in the past tense. English has helped me to speak to people from other countries; I do this online. In the future I hope to travel and to be an architect. English will help me to do this!

Comments

This is an example of a good response at B1.

The test taker's responses are relevant and address the Part 2 questions and Part 3 task appropriately.

The test taker uses a range of vocabulary and grammar structures to talk about familiar everyday topics (talking about favourite activities, giving presents and learning English).

They can describe feelings, events, preferences and experiences (*it was lovely, some wonderful presents, I prefer*).

The test taker can use some simple linking words to provide further detail on their ideas (*because, but, and*).

The test taker has a good level of control of simple structures and common expressions (present tenses, adverbs of frequency, present perfect, past simple). They also attempt some more complex structures (*If you want to pass, you have to work hard, I was studying every day..., You could take notes...*)

The range of vocabulary and language is wide enough to answer the questions and task in detail.

Practice Test 1: B1 Listening Test

There are 3 parts to the Listening test.

You will answer 10 questions in each part.

You will hear each recording twice.

Listening: Part 1

Listen to 10 short recordings.

For each recording, answer the question. For each question, 1 to 10, choose the correct answer.

You will hear each recording twice.

You will hear a beep each time to tell you that the recording is about to start.

1. Why is Ahmed tired?
 - a. He is working hard at the office.
 - b. He is studying on a course.
 - c. He is decorating a bedroom.

2. What is the speaker's greatest wish?
 - a. To work at a hospital.
 - b. To go to university.
 - c. To visit different countries.

3. When can Mr Kemal collect his car from the garage?
 - a. After 1.30 p.m.
 - b. After 4 p.m.
 - c. After 5 p.m.

4. How high is the highest mountain in Africa?
 - a. 5,897 metres.
 - b. 6,190 metres.
 - c. 8,848 metres.

5. What time will the train arrive at Edinburgh Waverley station?
- a. 14.25
 - b. 18.55
 - c. 19.05
6. What is Laura Pinkerton best known for?
- a. Her journalism.
 - b. Her comedy.
 - c. Her interviews.
7. Where did Steve buy his notepad?
- a. A charity shop.
 - b. A bookshop.
 - c. A supermarket.
8. Why is the man calling?
- a. To rearrange an appointment with a doctor.
 - b. To check the name of a doctor.
 - c. To ask to see a different doctor.
9. Where are the keys?
- a. By the front door.
 - b. Under the newspaper.
 - c. In a coat pocket.
10. People who enjoy foreign movies, should buy a ticket for ...
- a. Screen 1.
 - b. Screen 2.
 - c. Screen 3.

That is the end of Part 1.

Listening: Part 2

Listen to two people being interviewed on the radio.

Listen to their conversation and answer questions 1 to 10. For each question, choose the correct answer, a, b or c.

You will hear the recording twice.

You will hear a beep each time to tell you that the recording is about to start.

You have 1 minute to read the questions.

1. What made Hannah decide to become an athlete?
 - a. She performed well in different races.
 - b. She won a sporting event at school.
 - c. She came first in a local competition.

2. Which other sport does Hannah do?
 - a. 100m relay.
 - b. Swimming.
 - c. Long jump.

3. What did Hannah enjoy most about the National Youth Championships?
 - a. Coming first in both races.
 - b. Being the youngest person there.
 - c. Meeting different athletes.

4. How did Jack join the England Under 18 Schoolboys basketball team?
 - a. His parents encouraged him.
 - b. A teacher suggested it.
 - c. The team coach chose him.

5. What does Jack say is the most important thing to him?
 - a. Spending time with friends.
 - b. Doing well at school.
 - c. Practising his sport.

6. What does the grant NOT cover?
 - a. Getting support from a coach.
 - b. Buying equipment.
 - c. Joining a gym.

7. What does Hannah need most support with at the moment?
 - a. Travelling to different competitions.
 - b. Buying a car.
 - c. Getting running shoes.

8. How has Jack's routine changed recently?
 - a. He is travelling a lot.
 - b. He is competing more than before.
 - c. He is eating different foods.

9. What does Hannah say she is most happy about?
 - a. Coming to the end of the year.
 - b. Working with children.
 - c. Preparing for school examinations.

10. What is Jack looking forward to doing this summer?
 - a. Taking part in competitions.
 - b. Helping family at home.
 - c. Travelling with friends.

That is the end of Part 2.

Listening: Part 3

Listen to a talk about friendship.

Listen and answer questions 1 to 10. For each question, 1 to 10, choose ONE correct answer from the box.

You will hear the recording twice.

You will hear a beep each time to tell you that the recording is about to start.

You have 1 minute to read the questions.

Questions 1 to 5

society	good
work	ten
education	thirteen
lonely	excited
independent	communities

Topic of talk: place of friendship in (1) _____ today

- Reasons for people moving
 - (2) _____
 - climate change
 - study
- Strong friendships generally begin: when children are (3) _____ years old
- People who leave friends behind can feel (4) _____ at the beginning
- Travelling can make you become more (5) _____

Questions 6 to 10

friends	shop
skiing	colleagues
club	parents
team	snowboarding
neighbours	groups

- Having children made it easier to meet other (6) _____
- Doing a new sport can help meet other people: speaker started (7) _____
- Speaker's wife worked in a local (8) _____
- Speaker's advice
 - Accept when (9)_____ give you invitations
 - Try new activities
 - Ask (10)_____ for help
 - Stay in touch with old friends

That is the end of the B1 Listening test.

Listening Scripts

Part 1

Question 1

Speaker 1	Hello Ahmed. How are you?
Speaker 2	I'm okay. A bit tired.
Speaker 1	Have you been working too hard at the office?
Speaker 2	Not really. It's because I'm doing a really difficult course at the local college.
Speaker 1	Are you studying in the evenings?
Speaker 2	No, mostly at weekends. We're decorating my daughter's bedroom in the evenings, and that's great fun.
Speaker 1	Great!

Question 2

Speaker 1	What's my greatest wish? I don't need any money. My children are grown up now, and I love my job at the hospital. When I was younger, I wanted to go off and see the world. I went to Tunisia after university and visited Egypt, but then I met my husband and we got married. I guess I would still love to be able to travel to far-off places, but won't be able to do that till I retire.
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Question 3

Speaker 1	Hello. This is a message for Mr Kemal. I am calling from Southside Garage. We have done a full service and are waiting for the new tyres to get here – that should be around half past one. Mr Kemal, your car will be ready to collect any time from 4 p.m. Oh, and please remember, we close at 5 on a Thursday.
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Question 4

Speaker 1	The highest mountains in the world? Let me check. The highest is Everest - everyone knows that! It's about 8,848 metres high, I think. The highest in North America is about 6,190 metres. That's called Denali, isn't it? And the highest in Africa is, of course, Mount Kilimanjaro and that's about 5,897 metres above sea level. I am sure of that.
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Question 5

Speaker 1	Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the delayed 14.25 train to Edinburgh Waverley. The train will call at Peterborough, York, Darlington, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Edinburgh Haymarket, and will arrive at Edinburgh Waverley at 19.05, 10 minutes later than scheduled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Passengers are advised that there is a buffet service on this train. This is located at the front of the train in coach C.
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Question 6

Speaker 1	Here is what's on tonight on Channel 11. At seven we have our popular soap opera followed by our top weekly music programme. From 8 till 9, we have the Laura Pinkerton show. Laura is best known for her journalism and newspaper articles. She has been a newspaper reporter for years. What is less well-known is that she is also a great comedian. In tonight's show though she will be interviewing Mack Johnson, to talk about his new biography.
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Question 7

Speaker 1	Steve, that's a lovely notepad. Where did you get it from?
Speaker 2	The supermarket on Station Road is pretty good, but they don't always have these large pads. This one came from my local charity shop. They always bring in nice things from other countries and they are not expensive. But if I want to get something special, I go to the bookshop. They have beautiful stuff on the second floor.

Question 8

Speaker 1	Hello? High Street Surgery.
Speaker 2	Hi, this is Ben Smith. I have an appointment with Dr Mahmood at 5 this afternoon. Any chance I can change the appointment to one later in the week?
Speaker 1	Of course ... how about Friday morning?
Speaker 2	I'm sorry but Friday is no good. Do you have any appointments for Thursday afternoon?
Speaker 1	Dr Simpson is free but the first appointment for Dr Mahmood won't be till 5.30.
Speaker 2	Oh, half past 5 will be fine, thank you.

Question 9

Speaker 1	Mary, have you seen my car keys? I put them here by the front door.
Speaker 2	No. Can they have fallen on the floor?
Speaker 1	No, they are not on the floor and they are not in my bag.
Speaker 2	What about your coat pockets? Have you looked?
Speaker 1	Let me check. No, not there either.
Speaker 2	Oh, here they are! You've put your newspaper on top of them.
Speaker 1	Phew! I was beginning to get worried.

Question 10

Speaker 1	Thank you for calling Winston Cinema. In screen 1, we have an action movie from Jim Marlow with scenes which some viewers may find upsetting. In screen 2, we have a short Italian film as part of our European season. This is suitable for teenagers with an interest in winter sports. Screen 3 is showing the latest animation movie from the USA. This is suitable for all ages, but younger viewers will need to be accompanied by their parents.
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Part 2

Speaker 1	Right, next we have a couple of young visitors to the studio, Hannah Paterson and Jack Woodward. Both doing very well in their chosen sports. Hannah, you first. Tell me about your sport.
Speaker 2	I do athletics. I'm a runner, 100 and 200 metres. I started running at school. I also competed locally against other schools. I was the youngest athlete to win the 100-metre inter-school championships in town at the age of 14. That's what made me think that I could be a serious athlete.
Speaker 1	Have you tried other sports?
Speaker 2	I had a go at the relay – that's when four members of a team take turns to run 100 metres each in a 400-metre race, but didn't really enjoy it. I don't do it anymore. Swimming is good though – it makes my muscles stronger and helps with my breathing. I also tried the long jump but didn't have the power for that.
Speaker 1	Now, something wonderful happened last month?
Speaker 2	Yes, I won the 100 metres in the National Youth Championships. And I came second in the 200 metres. I was competing against athletes from all over the country. It was really great to talk to people from different backgrounds. I wasn't the youngest person there though – there was someone just two days younger than me.
Speaker 1	And now you, Jack. What is your sport?
Speaker 3	I play for the England Under 18 Schoolboys basketball team. I always played basketball at school – you know, during break times and that – but never thought about playing seriously. Then my teacher organised a

	training event for our school with the national basketball team and the coach came to watch us play and selected three of us to join the team. My parents didn't even know about it.
Speaker 1	Now you scored against Hungary recently. You must be pleased. But is there a lot of pressure to keep scoring points?
Speaker 3	Yeah, I guess. I practise a lot. But I also have my schoolwork to do and friends to see. My parents think the schoolwork comes first, and I obviously want to do well in my studies, but if the sport stops me from spending time with my friends, I'll have to think again about what I would like to do in the future.
Speaker 1	Now, the reason I'm talking to you this week is because you've both got sports grants. The purpose is to provide young people with the financial support they need to continue in their favourite sports. The money can be spent on things like extra coaching, equipment but not the use of sports facilities in town. How do you feel about that, Hannah?
Speaker 2	Well, it was great to be selected for the grant. I suppose, being a runner, I use up quite a few running shoes each year, and those are expensive. But at the moment I am doing quite a lot of travelling to different events, and the cost of train tickets and taxis can be quite high, and I can't drive. So, what I really need is support with transport.
Speaker 1	What about you, Jack?
Speaker 3	I am in a different position really. I don't do much travelling. But what I do need is support with some medical issues I've been having. I hurt my ankle recently and stopped competing for a while. I am also changing my diet so that I'm eating the right things to support bone and muscle development.
Speaker 1	So, what does the future hold for you two?
Speaker 2	For me, I'm coming to the end of a very successful year and will be taking some time off to concentrate on my studies. I have my exams in July and want to do well. After that I am going to be spending the rest of the summer coaching at a sports camp for children. It will be absolutely great, and I'm really pleased I got the job.

Speaker 1	And you, Jack?
Speaker 3	Well, unlike Hannah, I'm training quite hard at the moment. I have one more competition before I take a break for the summer. Some of my friends are going travelling but, unfortunately, I won't be able to join them. Also, my older sister is having a baby soon and I want to be there to help. That's probably what I'm most looking forward to, having a little nephew and helping out at home.

Part 3

Speaker 1	<p>Hello and welcome to this afternoon's talk on the topic of friendship. This is part of a series of afternoon sessions on topics of general interest. Last week we looked at friendships in the workplace. Today's subject is the place of friendships in modern society and how they can be affected by different factors. We have already looked at some of the reasons why people or communities move. These include employment opportunities, which often lead people to move to a new city or even country. Climate change is another reason, especially when farmers cannot grow enough food. People often move away for education; however, they generally return to their hometown, for a short while anyway. Now, today I want to talk about relationships between friends.</p> <p>Many of the friendships that people have, the ones that last all through their lives, generally start at primary schools: at the age of ten in most cases, and are well-established by the age of 13. And when adults go to live in a new country, or even a new part of their own country, these friendships are difficult to replace. The result is often that they feel lonely for a while. People may feel excited by a new job or a new location, but it means they leave their old friends behind.</p> <p>Now, this isn't always a bad thing. There are good things about travelling. One thing is that you realise you don't need friends around you all the time. You learn to become independent instead of feeling homesick.</p> <p>Now my own personal experience has been different. My family and I moved to another country when I got a job teaching at a new university. We knew no one. My children were 5 and 7 years old and starting primary school. It meant that, from the moment they started school, we naturally</p>
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met the parents of their friends through school. It was harder getting to know people like their teachers as we didn't meet them outside school. We also decided to take on new hobbies and sports, so that we could meet new people. I took up skiing for example – something I had never done before. And my children took to snowboarding and, by taking lessons, we met lots of very nice people.

Another piece of advice I have for you, if you are in a new country, is to get involved in local activities. My wife first joined a book club, but it was her work as a volunteer in a local charity shop that really helped her get to know our neighbours and people who lived in the same area.

So, to sum up then, although it may take time, there are things you can do. The first thing is accept invitations from your colleagues, and join in any team building events at work. You may find that you really enjoy something you may not have thought of doing yourself. The other thing I want to say is don't be afraid to ask for help from your neighbours. They will know about any local events or groups that you can join. And finally, remember that some of your old friends will want to stay in touch. So, you will have to find the time to keep those friendship going through email, phone calls, or whatever method suits you both.

Answer key

Part 1

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. c
6. a
7. a
8. a
9. b
10. b

Part 2

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. c
5. a
6. c
7. a
8. c
9. b
10. b

Part 3

1. society
2. work
3. ten
4. lonely
5. independent
6. parents
7. skiing
8. shop
9. colleagues
10. neighbours

Practice Test 1: B1 Reading Test

There are 3 parts to the Reading test.

You will answer 10 questions in each part.

You have 1 hour for the Reading test.

Reading: Part 1

Read each short text and answer the question that follows. For each question, choose the correct answer, a, b or c.

1 [Newspaper advertisement]

Flat for sale

3 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Ideal for families, close to local shops, surgery and supermarket. Nursery and primary school within walking distance. Limited local transport to Holmstown. No access to garden. For further information, call 0946 7876321

1. The flat is most suitable for people who ...
 - a. have young children.
 - b. like gardening.
 - c. need to use local buses.

2 [Text message]

Jim, can u please get something for dinner from supermarket? Pizza maybe? Am going to be late and won't have time to cook. Can U also please turn washing machine on – it's all ready to go. See U at 7. Tracy

2. What does Tracy want Jim to do?
 - a. Go food shopping.
 - b. Phone for a pizza.
 - c. Empty the washing machine.

3 [Email]

Pricelock Furnishings: Sale starts today!!

Get fantastic offers on a variety of women's clothing, shoes and bags. Men's clothing sale from 15 May and children's from 30 May in-store. For home accessory bargains, see website. All home goods half price or less.

3. Which of the following can you buy from the website?
- Children's clothes.
 - Cushions and candles.
 - Women's shoes.

4 [Notice on board]

Lost and found notice

Mobile phone found in cafeteria. Now with Mary in the library, next to Human Resources. Please bring an ID as well as any evidence of ownership such as a receipt. All unclaimed items will be sent for disposal.

4. Where should you go to collect the mobile phone?
- The cafeteria.
 - The library.
 - Human Resources.

5 [Written note]

Ryan

You had a call from Anna Snow. She wants to arrange meeting and needs to know when you are next in office. She is free on 10th @ 9am, or 11th @ 2pm. She is also available on Fri but think you're on holiday then? Can you please let her know when you can meet? Thanks.
Andy.

5. What does Ryan need to do next?
- Call Anna Snow to arrange a meeting.
 - Confirm when he is going on holiday.
 - Tell Andy when he is in the office.

6 [Weather report]

Unsettled and cloudy through this afternoon with heavy showers and a chance of a few rumbles of thunder. More showers and thunderstorms expected for tonight, coming in from the west. Rain gradually clearing away in the morning and most places will stay dry with sunny spells. Windy with heavy showers on Saturday. Sunday will be dry.

6. What will the weather be like tomorrow?

- a. Wet and windy.
- b. Cloudy with thunderstorms.
- c. Dry and sunny.

7 [School website information]

Wooddale Secondary School

Dear parents

As you know, parents' evening is important as it offers you the chance to speak with your child's teachers and find out how they are doing in class. It also provides the opportunity for the teachers to advise you on how best to support your child at home. If you cannot attend, could you please email your child's student representative at: studentrep@wooddalesecondary.org or call 01267 654 897.

7. What is this notice asking parents to do?

- a. Email any questions they have to their child's teachers.
- b. Tell teachers what their child likes doing at home.
- c. Inform the school if they will miss the parents' evening.

8 [Job advert]

Receptionists wanted

We require two receptionists. You will be smartly-dressed and have an excellent telephone manner. The work involves administration so IT training will be provided. The two positions will be very similar. One person will work weekday mornings, 8am to 1pm, with the other working 1pm to 6pm. While the office is open at weekends, receptionists are not required on these days. To apply please email your CV to JadrankaSulic@Wilmslows.co.uk

8. Who is most suitable for the job?

- a. Someone who has good communication skills.
- b. Someone who has experience in IT.
- c. Someone who is available to work at weekends.

9 [Website]

Find instruction booklets online!

We are the biggest board game suppliers in Europe. We want you to have fun and start playing our games straightaway so we have made all our instruction booklets available online. All you need is the name and if possible, the year when the game was launched. Information about where you bought the game is not necessary. We have instruction manuals going back to 1977. We hope you find what you're looking for.

9. What information must you have to be able to use this website?

- a. The name of the game you bought.
- b. The year when you bought the game.
- c. The place where you bought the game.

10 [Twitter feed]

The town council has had to close a playground because of complaints about noise. People living in nearby flats complained that children visiting the playground during school lunch breaks were far too noisy. The decision was not welcomed by parents who have signed a petition to ask the council to reverse the decision. One parent said, 'this was a terrible decision. It is important for children to have a place where they can be themselves outdoors'.

10. What do the parents want to happen?

- a. Children to have longer school breaks.
- b. Children to have lunch inside.
- c. Children to be allowed to play outside.

Reading: Part 2

Read the information from a website and answer questions 1 to 10 with True, False or Not Given.

Waste collection in your area

What is Bulky Waste collection?

Bulky Waste collection service is for those items which you cannot easily remove from your house or flat and includes white goods such as washing machines and refrigerators. You can request Bulky Waste collection free once in every 12-month period beginning in January.

When will Bulky Waste be collected?

We have regular collections throughout the month in various neighbourhoods. We will inform you of the next collection when we receive your request. If you have items in your home for us, you must be available at home for us to collect them.

Unfortunately, we need to charge for some more unusual items. These include the following:

- Bricks and building rubble
- Concrete
- Boilers, water tanks and central heating systems
- Greenhouses
- Windows and window frames
- Tree trunks
- Sheds, huts and outdoor buildings

Please note: we do not collect any gas appliances. To have these removed, you must contact your gas supplier in the first instance. We also do not collect food waste, garden waste and supermarket trolleys.

Household items such as beds, mattresses, chairs and tables can be donated to charities if still in good condition and can be reused. Any soft furniture such as sofas and armchairs must have the necessary fire labels in order to be accepted. To donate household items to charities, you need to approach your selected charity personally.

How do you arrange a Bulky Waste collection?

You will have to give us an accurate list of all your items to be collected.

1. On our website: you must set up an online account in order to do this. You can set up an online account using a single name and password to access a variety of services.
2. By phone: contact our support centre on 0876 578943. We will need your address, postcode and phone number. All calls are free of charge.
3. At one of our offices: you can complete a form and hand it in personally to a member of staff.

For questions 1 to 10, choose True, False or Not Given.

1. You should use the Bulky Waste collection service for heavy goods in your home.
2. Bulky Waste collection is always free if you live in a flat.
3. You can ask for a collection date to suit you.
4. You can leave the objects to be collected on the pavement.
5. You can use the service for free if you want to remove building supplies.
6. You can use the service to remove your gas cooker and oven.
7. Charities will take some soft furniture without fire labels.
8. Waste collection won't help you donate items to charity.
9. You need to tell the service what exactly you would like collected.
10. Completed request forms can be posted.

Reading: Part 3

Read the text below and answer questions 1 to 10.

Buying your first house

At the moment, the price of houses in Britain is very high, and this is especially so in London. When young people want to buy their first house, it's often very difficult. Some areas were once seen as natural locations for first-time buyers. In the city, these were usually former poorer districts, with quite small houses, which were becoming popular. Now, the prices of these houses have risen and they are typically second or later buys.

So, how do you find a cheaper house? Well, three things can change the price. The first is its location. Generally, the further you move out of any city, the cheaper the houses become. This may be your best option. Of course, this may mean you have to travel to work every day, and that costs money and takes time. There are always houses in less attractive areas of town, but these areas may not change much for years to come and so buying here is risky.

The second thing is size. A small house is normally cheaper, and some builders have responded to this by building very tiny flats, some with just 30 square metres of living space. These flats suit young professionals living on their own, people who are out and about enjoying everything that a big city can offer them. Young families may find that they run out of space quickly. But if you can put up with this for a while, it may give you the chance to move to something bigger.

The third thing is the condition of the house. Estate agents can be quite shy about this. They may say the house 'has potential for development' or 'requires some work'. Anything like this means the place is likely to be in a poor condition, but if you're prepared to get your hands dirty, there are possibilities here. You can decorate the house to suit your taste and needs. And if you do the work yourself, you can later sell it for more money.

Once you have selected the area and the property you want to buy, what next? Here is some advice for first-time buyers.

Find out as much as you can about the property. Buying a house is probably one of the most stressful things you will ever do, so don't be afraid to ask questions. The first question everyone asks is: why is the owner selling the house? It may be that they are moving because of their job or to be closer to family, but another reason could be noisy neighbours or because the local transport is poor.

Think about whether there is enough space for you and your family and always ask about how much interest there has been in the house. If lots of people have come to see it and are interested in buying it, then you may have a competition on your hands, and that means you may not be able to negotiate a good price.

You may also want to find out about traffic in general. You should ask what the traffic is like at different times of the day and if people have trouble parking on the road. If there is a school nearby, then you can be sure that parents driving their children to school will block the roads. You should also ask if there is a regular bus service to your work or town centre.

Before you buy, you may want to consider the advantages of renting. Buying your house does mean that you have invested in something that may go up in value. So you could sell the house in the future for more money than when you bought it. Houses also cost a lot to maintain. However, renting gives you the flexibility to move when you need to. Renting might be a good option, especially if you don't know the location very well, or you think you may want to change jobs. It can also be cheaper and you won't have to look after the property. Rented properties may also be furnished, which means that you don't have the initial cost of buying furniture. This is a huge benefit, especially when buying a property might involve you in having to get essentials like carpets, washing machines and fridges.

Questions 1 to 4

For questions 1 to 4, choose a, b or c.

1. Which kinds of houses did young people buy in the past?
 - a. Houses in areas where people with less money used to live.
 - b. Houses in areas of natural beauty.
 - c. Houses in areas which are now cheap.

2. What advice does the writer give to young people in the second paragraph?
 - a. Move to a house in the centre of the city.
 - b. Be prepared to travel for work.
 - c. Buy in an area that is not very attractive.

3. Who are very small flats most suitable for?
 - a. Single working people.
 - b. Families with young children.
 - c. People visiting the city.

4. What does the writer say about buying a house that needs some work?
 - a. It is likely to be in a poorer area.
 - b. Estate agents will advise you not to buy it.
 - c. The price of the house will increase.

Questions 5 to 10

For questions 5 to 10, complete each sentence with a word from the table.

space	parking	family	neighbours
driving	location	furniture	cost
interest	value	carpets	job

5. One reason people sell their house is to move away from their _____.
6. If there is enough _____ in a house, it could become more expensive.
7. You should ask local residents if they have difficulties with _____.

8. You should buy a house if you think that the _____ will increase.
9. Renting is useful if your _____ might change.
10. Rented properties that include _____ can save you money.

That is the end of the B1 Reading Test.

Answer key

Part 1

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. a
6. c
7. c
8. a
9. a
10. c

Part 2

1. T
2. F
3. F
4. NG
5. F
6. F
7. F
8. T
9. T
10. NG

Part 3

1. a
2. b
3. a
4. c
5. neighbours
6. interest
7. parking
8. value
9. job
10. furniture

Practice Test 1: B1 Writing Test

There are 2 parts to the Writing test.

You must write a response to the task in both Part 1 and Part 2.

You have 1 hour for the B1 Writing Test.

We recommend you spend 20 minutes on Part 1 and 40 minutes on Part 2.

Writing: Part 1

You are organising a picnic on the beach for a group of friends.

Write an email to your friends to give them some information.

In your email:

- tell them why you want to have a picnic
- say where and when you will meet
- explain what they need to bring

Write your email here. You should write between 70 and 100 words.

Part 1 sample answer

Hi everyone!

It is Margaret's birthday on Saturday, and I am organising a picnic on the beach to celebrate.

Let's meet at 14.00 by the tourist information office. Please bring some food to share, maybe sandwiches, and don't forget to bring some water too. We can buy ice-creams for dessert.

We can go for a swim in the sea or just play ball on the sand. I will bring my football. The weather is going to be sunny so you will need your sun cream and hat too.

See you there!

Tahir

[92 words]

Comments

The test taker responds to all the bullet points of the task. The test taker can write a simple email and present their ideas clearly.

The length of the answer is within the required word count.

There is a good attempt to use different structures to talk about future events (*I am organising, we will need, I will bring, the weather is going to be*) and they use a range of tenses correctly.

The response shows a good range of everyday vocabulary, simple fixed expressions and prepositional phrases used appropriately and accurately (*go for a swim, play ball on the sand, to celebrate, let's meet at*).

Writing: Part 2

The way people like to do their shopping is changing. More people prefer to shop online.

Describe how shopping habits are changing where you live. Write about:

- how people do their shopping and why
- the kinds of shops people like
- why shopping is a popular hobby

Write your answer here. You should write between 110 and 130 words.

Part 2 sample answer

Most young people prefer to shop online because they can buy what they want more cheaply. Lots of young people prefer to do their shopping using their mobile phones.

Older people, like my parents, still prefer to go to shops. They like shopping in town because they can meet their friends at the same time.

Clothes shops are very popular, especially amongst teenagers who like to follow fashion. Older people like garden centres and hardware shops where they can buy things for their homes. Shops which sell anything to do with technology are also becoming more popular because everyone needs computers now.

Shopping is a popular hobby because there is so much choice. And fashion means that everything in the shops is changing all the time to keep it interesting.

[130 words]

Comments

The test taker makes a good attempt to address the task fully. They present their ideas clearly; they cover all the prompts and explain their views.

The text is well organised and follows the order of the prompts. The ideas are well connected, using some basic cohesive devices and linking words (*but, because, and, so, though*).

The test taker uses simple grammatical structures (*prefer to, like shopping, are also becoming*) and chooses the correct verbs to agree with the subjects (*everything in the shops is changing*).

The response shows a good range of everyday vocabulary (*their favourite shop, become, cheaply, like my parents, means, there is so much choice*).

The length of the answer is within the required word count.