



# B2 Practice Tests

## Test preparation answer key

### Speaking Part 1 Page 8

#### 1 1, 2, 4, 6, 8

In Speaking Part 1, you have to answer eight questions about topics which relate to your everyday life. These questions may be factual, like questions 1, 2, 6 and 8, or evaluative, like question 4. You would not be asked questions 3, 5, 7, 9 or 10 in Part 1 as these do not ask about your personal experience (question 3), consist of more than one question (question 5), test you on your knowledge of the world rather than your English (question 7), or require too much evaluation (questions 9 and 10).

#### 2 Possible answers:

##### Travel

- 1 What kinds of things do you enjoy doing when travelling?
- 2 Tell me about a place you visited recently.
- 3 How often do you travel abroad?

##### Family

- 1 Can you describe a member of your family?
- 2 Which members of your family do you like spending time with?
- 3 When do you like going out with your family and when do you like going out with friends?

#### 3 Possible answers:

##### Travel

- 1 When I am travelling, I enjoy going to the beach.
- 2 Recently, I visited London. I thought it was a great city.
- 3 I usually travel abroad once a year.

##### Family

- 1 My father has dark hair and blue eyes.
- 2 I like spending time with my brother.
- 3 I prefer to go out with my friends most of the time, but sometimes I would rather spend time with my family.

#### 4 Possible answers:

##### Travel

- 1 When I am travelling, I enjoy going to the beach. Sometimes, I also like to visit a few museums.
- 2 Recently, I visited London. It was really busy and noisy, but I thought it was a great city.
- 3 I usually travel abroad once a year, in the summer holidays.

##### Family

- 1 My father has dark hair and blue eyes. He also has a really good sense of humour.
- 2 I like spending time with my brother because we have a lot in common. For example, we like to go and watch the football together.
- 3 I prefer to go out with my friends most of the time, but for big celebrations, such as Christmas, or my birthday, I would rather spend time with my family.

## Speaking Part 2 Page 9

1	Formal expressions	Informal expressions
	Please call me as soon as possible.	I think that's awesome!
	I'd prefer you to ...	Well done!
	Thank you very much for ...	That sounds great!
	I intend to ...	It's Juanita here.
	I'm very unhappy about ...	How do you fancy ...?
	I'd be grateful if you could ...	Text me.
	I would like you to ...	Anyway, give me a call.
	I'd far rather ...	What a fantastic idea!

2	Function	Expression
	Giving advice	If I were you, I'd ...
	Expressing opinion	As far as I'm concerned ...
	Inviting	Would you like to join me for dinner?
	Explaining plans	I hope to be there by six o'clock.
	Asking for permission	Would it be OK if I borrowed your camera?
	Expressing preference	I'd much rather go to the cinema.
	Making a suggestion	How about just ordering in a pizza?

## Speaking Part 3 Page 11

### 1 A

This sample answer identifies the advantages and disadvantages of place A and then identifies the advantages and disadvantages of place B. It would also be possible to use structure B here, however – the important thing is to think about how you will structure your answer during the 30 seconds before you start speaking.

### 2 1 purchase, pick up, pay

### 2 crowded, hectic

### 3 Personally, I believe that ...

However, I think that ...

3 This response will last between 30 seconds and a minute, depending on how fast you speak. You should avoid trying to prepare answers for the Speaking module before the test, as you need to respond to the questions you hear and the photos you are shown. The sample answer is designed to give you an idea of approximately how much you need to say for Part 3.

## Speaking Part 4 Page 12

### 1 1 making a comparison

The expression '... much more ... than ...' shows that this sentence is making a comparison.

### 2 explaining advantages

The expression 'The best thing about ...' is used to introduce an advantage.

### 3 agreeing

The expression 'I think exactly the same ...' tells us that the speaker is agreeing with someone.

### 4 making a prediction

The expression '... will almost certainly ... in the future' tells us that this is about the probability of something happening in future, e.g. a prediction.

2 1 C

'I think ...' introduces an opinion and 'unhealthier than ...' is a comparison.

2 D

'As far as I'm concerned ...' is used to introduce an opinion, and this is not an option here, so D is correct.

3 A

These statements are not supported by any evidence, so they are opinions, not information.

4 C

'That's not how I see it', shows that the speaker is disagreeing and this is followed by their opinion:

'Parents have to decide ...'

## Listening Part 1 Page 14

1	<b>Food</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Leisure</b>	<b>Transport</b>
	calorie	flexitime	getaway	deck
	portion	profession	recreation	lane
	consume	bonus	hang out	brake
	ripe	reference	spectator	delay
	buffet	promotion	amuse	terminal
	chew	trade	social	hold-up

2 1 A

You are not likely to hear 'theatre', as this word is associated with plays, not with films.

2 C

Since the two cousins are planning activities for the weekend, you are not likely to hear 'academic', as this word is associated with studying, not leisure.

3 C

'Democracy' is unlikely to be the topic of a work meeting – it is more likely to be associated with political discussion or debate.

4 A

A 'bestseller' usually refers to a book that sells many copies, so it is unlikely a hotel receptionist would leave a message about this.

5 B

A 'boarding card' is associated with air travel, so you are unlikely to hear it in a conversation about a shopping trip.

## Listening Part 2 Page 16

1 1 **last year / three months ago / just a few weeks back**

These expressions all relate to past time, so you are likely to hear them after a past simple verb such as 'opened'.

2 **marketing / budgets / sales**

These words all relate to aspects of business, so they are all things Pedro could have learned a lesson about.

3 **part-time / in the evenings / during the day**

These are all time expressions used for events which occur more than once, such as going to work.

4 **nationwide / globally / in neighbouring towns**

These expressions all relate to place, so they tell us where Pedro opened stores.

2 **Possible answers:**

1 store, department store, boutique, supermarket

2 shoppers, customers

3 crucial, critical, greatest, biggest, most significant, most essential

4 most

5 team, workforce, employees, workers

6 aims to, plans to, wants to, is going to, expects to

### Listening Part 3 Page 18

- |       |     |     |      |
|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 1 1 D | 4 D | 7 A | 10 A |
| 2 A   | 5 D | 8 D | 11 D |
| 3 A   | 6 A | 9 D |      |
| 2 1 D | 3 B | 5 F |      |
| 2 E   | 4 A | 6 C |      |

### Listening Part 4 Page 20

- 1 The portions could have been larger.**

'Just as well' means 'It is a good thing', so the husband is saying it is a good thing he wasn't very hungry, implying that the portions of food were small.
- 2 She agrees to go, but is unenthusiastic.**

The sister says she hasn't had a 'better offer', implying that she thinks there are better things to do than go to the theatre, so she is 'unenthusiastic'.
- 3 He's been doing that a lot recently.**

The fact that the husband says 'again' implies that he has already walked the dog 'a lot recently'.
- 4 She's unable to help on this occasion.**

The woman says she'd 'better watch her back', implying that she is not able to help because of the risk of injury, not because she doesn't want to.
- 5 Enrique deserves to be in this role.**

'There's no better man' implies that Enrique is the person most suited to the job and he therefore deserves it.
- 6 She's flexible in her approach to this task.**

'Whatever time works for you' implies that the woman is willing to do the task at the time that best suits her friend and is therefore 'flexible in her approach'.

### Reading Part 1 Page 22

- Your ID was used at 10:05 today to download a podcast from a computer not previously associated with your account. If you recognize this activity on your account, you **can** disregard this email. However, if you were not responsible, you **should** click on My Details in the top right-hand corner of the homepage. You **must** then change your password as soon as possible.
- |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 C | 3 B | 5 E |
| 2 F | 4 A | 6 D |
- 1 S**

'... on production of ...' means 'when you show' and you show photo ID to 'prove who you are', so these two sentences have a similar meaning.
- 2 D**

'No cycling' means people on bicycles 'shouldn't use' the path – people who are walking ('pedestrians') are the only ones allowed to use it.
- 3 D**

'... on the door' means 'at the entrance to the concert' and tickets are 'only' available here, which means you cannot buy them 'in advance'.
- 4 S**

'... a maximum of' means 'the highest number allowed', so it is correct that 'no more than ten people can go in the lift'.
- 5 S**

The first sentence advises people to 'book early' if they want to go on the sightseeing tour because 'there are a limited number of places'. If they do not book early they 'may not be able to go'.

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## Reading Part 2 Page 25

1 1 T

*Buzz* is described as 'the place to visit if you're hunting down a track that's difficult to get', which means the same as 'music that is hard to find elsewhere'.

2 DS

According to the third sentence of the article, 'online interviews' are available on the *Buzz* site, but it does not say whether there is any information about 'how musicians learnt to play an instrument'.

3 T

*Buzz* has 'predictions about who'll be the next big thing'. In other words, you can find out who is 'likely to gain recognition' in the future.

4 F

According to the last sentence of the text 'In terms of sheer range, there are few other sites that can compete' with *Buzz*. In other words, *Buzz* has 'a greater variety of music' than most other sites.

2 5 DS

The first sentence of the description tells you that *Listen in* 'started life as a music magazine but has now become an interesting experiment in digital publishing.' However, it does not explain why this happened.

6 F

According to the second sentence of the description, *Listen in* offers 'a wide variety of musical genres to download.' Therefore, it does not specialize in a particular genre such as 'pop'.

7 T

*Listen in* includes reviews in which 'different journalists' rate 'a selection of trending tracks'. It is therefore possible to find out whether they think 'one musician's work is considered better than that of another.'

8 F

According to the description, the *Listen in* site does not sell concert tickets – it has 'links to sites selling tickets'.

## Reading Part 3 Page 27

1 1 which

The pronoun 'which' is being used to introduce a defining relative clause, adding extra information about the subject of the sentence, 'competition'.

2 them

The pronoun 'them' refers back to 'the ingredients she was supplied with.'

3 who

The pronoun 'who' is used to introduce the defining relative clause to explain which 'three young chefs.'

4 they

The pronoun 'they' refers back to Sara and the other three chefs.

5 since

The preposition 'since' is needed here, because Sara is still cooking.

6 until / till

The preposition 'until' or 'till' is being used to refer to the point in time up to 'recently' ('till' is a less formal version of 'until').

7 ago

'Ago' is used to refer to the fact that Sara read about the competition in the past – we know this is the case because the verbs which follow this in the sentence are all in the past simple.

8 It / This

The pronoun here refers back to Sara having 'the opportunity to train alongside internationally respected chefs' Both 'This' and 'It' are possible.

## Reading Part 4 Page 29

### 1 1 one nautical mile

According to the first paragraph, the speed record is measured over one nautical mile – this is the distance White will have to travel.

### 2 (the) high costs

According to the first paragraph, the costs involved in sailing have resulted in its reputation as an elitist sport.

### 3 sponsors

According to the first paragraph, White's budget of £250,000 a year is provided by sponsors.

### 4 (a) (school) friend

According to the second paragraph, a school friend invited White to the Isle of Wight on a family holiday.

### 5 (as) (a) competitor

According to the second paragraph, White was at Cowes as a spectator on her first visit, but on her second visit she wanted to take part in the competition.

### 6 solo (race)

According to the third paragraph, the race White entered was 'a race to cross the Atlantic solo'.

### 7 (television) broadcasting

According to the fourth paragraph, White has been involved in television broadcasting for a variety of sailing events.

### 2 1 A

White says that on her first visit to Cowes, she thought it was 'a great social event'.

### 2 D

White thought that getting cold and wet 'didn't seem so glamorous'. In other words, she did not like the idea.

### 3 A

At the time of the transatlantic race, White believed the 'hype' about herself, but she realizes now that she was overconfident.

### 4 D

White says that during the race 'the cracks' soon appeared, but this refers to not having enough experience. It does not refer to any problems with the boat.

### 5 D

White 'brushes ... aside' the negative comments that have appeared in the press. This means she does not pay any attention to them.

## Writing Part 1 Page 31

### 1 1 C

'I'm happy to ...' means you are willing to do something. It is often used when making an offer.

### 2 E

'I'm not sure that's ... + adjective' is a way of disagreeing with an opinion.

### 3 H

'This is because ...' is a phrase that is often used to introduce an explanation.

### 4 A

'Is it possible to ...' is one way of making a request. Another is: 'Would you mind ...'

### 5 F

'Would you like to ...' is a common way of giving an invitation.

### 6 D

'Why don't we ...' is a useful, informal phrase for making a suggestion.

### 7 G

'I'd rather ...' is one way to express a preference. Another is: 'I'd prefer to ...'

### 8 B

'I'm afraid I ...' is one way to make an apology. 'I'm sorry I ...' is another.

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## Writing Part 2 Page 33

- 1 1 Not everyone, **however**, considers a gap year to be a good thing.
  - 2 **In this respect**, a gap year provides young people with experiences that help them become more independent.
  - 3 **For example**, some people think it delays the time when a young person becomes qualified and starts a career.
  - 4 **First of all**, they think it gives them the opportunity to travel or do voluntary work.
  - 5 There is **also**, they point out, the risk that a young person will not return to their studies at the end of the year.
  - 6 **To sum up**, there are different views on the benefits of taking a gap year, and each individual should decide what is best for them.
  - 7 **Above all**, it is thought to be good preparation for life at university.
  - 8 **In addition to this**, people believe it gives them a welcome break from studying.
- 2 Most people think that taking a gap year between school and university benefits young people in several ways. **First of all**, they think it gives them the opportunity to travel or do voluntary work. **In this respect**, a gap year provides young people with experiences that help them become more independent. **In addition to this**, people believe it gives them a welcome break from studying. **Above all**, it is thought to be good preparation for life at university.
- Not everyone, **however**, considers a gap year to be a good thing. **For example**, some people think it delays the time when a young person becomes qualified and starts a career. There is **also**, they point out, the risk that a young person will not return to their studies at the end of the year.
- To sum up**, there are different views on the benefits of taking a gap year, and each individual should decide what is best for them.