

Cambridge B2 First (FCE) Practice Paper

B2 | Total: 110 marks

Paper 1 · Reading and Use of English

Part 1

8 marks

1	A (rise)
2	A (whereas)
3	A (interested)
4	D (meet)
5	D (turn)
6	D (date)
7	C (reach)
8	B (glance)

Part 2

8 marks

9	AT
10	BEFORE / AROUND / AT / BY
11	WITHOUT
12	BUT / AND / THEN / YET
13	FOR
14	FROM
15	IN / DURING / OF / THROUGHOUT
16	OF

Part 3

8 marks

17	CONNECTION
18	EVENTUALLY
19	DECISION
20	CONSTANTLY
21	SUCCESSFULLY
22	DIFFERENT

23	ESSENTIAL
24	REPLACE

Part 4

12 marks

25	IT TOOK THREE HOURS
26	IS IN NEED OF
27	UNLESS YOU HURRY UP
28	LOOK INTO THIS / ENQUIRE INTO THIS / INQUIRE INTO THIS
29	DESPITE THE RAIN / DESPITE IT RAINING / DESPITE THE FACT IT RAINED
30	ADVISED HIM TO GO / ADVISED THAT HE GO / ADVISED THAT HE SHOULD GO

Part 5

12 marks

31	A The passage says "She believed the village needed a place to gather and enjoy fresh treats once more."
32	A The passage says "Everyone missed the daily bread and the friendly chats inside."
33	C The passage says "First she needed to check the ovens and the walls inside. Many repairs would be necessary before baking could begin."
34	A The passage says "She wanted to offer both traditional bread and some modern cakes."
35	C The passage says "Many people said they had not eaten such fresh bread in years."
36	D The passage says "The shop brought a sense of community back to Maplewood once again."

Part 6

12 marks

37	C
38	D
39	E
40	G
41	B
42	A

Part 7

10 marks

43	D
44	A
45	A
46	C
47	E
48	D
49	E
50	C
51	B
52	B

Assessment Criteria

Content (5 marks)

The essay fully addresses the question with a clear thesis, relevant arguments on all three notes, a developed counterargument and a conclusion that restates the writer's position.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

The text uses a consistent formal register, presents a coherent argument and engages the reader through well-supported opinions and appropriate tone for an academic essay.

Organisation (5 marks)

Ideas are organised into five clear paragraphs with logical progression, topic sentences introducing each main point and a range of cohesive devices linking ideas within and between paragraphs.

Language (5 marks)

A suitable range of B2-level vocabulary and both simple and complex grammatical structures is used accurately, with appropriate collocations and generally good control of punctuation and spelling.

Model Answer

Many people today consider apps to be the ideal way to learn new skills. However, I believe that learning from a person is far more effective. Human teachers provide essential support that applications simply cannot offer.

One important aspect is personal feedback. A skilled instructor can observe your attempts and give immediate, specific advice. This helps you correct mistakes quickly and understand the reasons behind them in depth.

Practice opportunities also improve with a human teacher. They demonstrate the correct methods in real time and create exercises that match your current level. As a result, you build confidence and ability steadily.

Of course, apps allow learning at any time and often cost less than classes. Even so, they rarely maintain your motivation over weeks or months. Without encouragement from another person, most students give up before achieving real progress.

To sum up, although apps seem practical, learning a skill from a person leads to better results. The combination of detailed feedback, suitable practice and personal motivation makes the traditional approach more successful overall.

(173 words)

The candidate answers **ONE** of the following. A model answer and criteria are given for each; mark only the one attempted.

Part 2 · Question 2

20 marks

Assessment Criteria

Content (5 marks)

All parts of the task are addressed with relevant details about the overlooked place, its features and appropriate recommendations.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

The report maintains an objective tone and uses headings to present information clearly to the intended reader.

Organisation (5 marks)

The text is organised into sections with headings, and ideas are logically sequenced with clear paragraphs.

Language (5 marks)

A range of vocabulary and grammatical structures is used accurately with appropriate formality for a report.

Model Answer

Purpose

This report has been prepared following a request to examine an overlooked place in our town that most visitors fail to notice during their stay here. It outlines the main reasons for this oversight based on observations and puts forward several practical suggestions for increasing its popularity among tourists.

Findings

The place in question is the old stone bridge located just beyond the main residential area. Although it features impressive architecture from the nineteenth century and offers scenic views of the river, it is missed by visitors due to the lack of signposts and poor access paths. Tourists tend to remain in the town centre where attractions are better promoted.

Recommendations

To attract more visitors, clear directional signs should be installed along the main roads leading to the bridge. Additionally, an information board explaining its history could be placed at the site, and local tour operators might be encouraged to include it in their walking routes. These steps would help highlight this hidden gem without major expense.

(168 words)

Part 2 · Question 3

20 marks

Assessment Criteria

Content (5 marks)

The letter suggests a specific overlooked place, describes its features in detail and explains why it should be promoted to visitors.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

The letter maintains a formal register throughout, addressing the tourist board politely and stating its purpose clearly in an appropriate tone.

Organisation (5 marks)

The letter is organised into clear paragraphs with an introduction stating the purpose, a detailed description and a concluding request, using linking words to connect ideas.

Language (5 marks)

The letter uses a range of B2-level vocabulary and structures accurately, including complex sentences and appropriate formal expressions without errors that affect communication.

Model Answer

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in response to your notice about places in the town that visitors always miss. I would like to suggest the old railway station on the edge of town as one such place. It has an interesting history and a calm atmosphere that many tourists would appreciate if they knew about it.

The old station is built of red brick and has stood there for more than a century. No trains stop anymore, but the platforms are covered in flowers and attract many birds. People can stroll along the former tracks, now a path, and experience a quiet part of town that is far from the crowds.

This place deserves more attention because it gives an insight into the history of the town while providing a relaxing environment. I recommend that you add it to your list of attractions and put up some signs pointing the way for tourists. I hope my suggestion will be useful for promoting the town.

Yours faithfully,
Jordan Hale

(170 words)

Part 2 · Question 4

20 marks

Assessment Criteria

Content (5 marks)

All required elements are covered with relevant supporting detail and the writer's opinions are clearly expressed throughout.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

The semi-formal register is consistent, the review format is appropriate and the reader is addressed directly with suitable engagement.

Organisation (5 marks)

The text follows the required paragraph structure with clear progression of ideas and effective use of linking devices between and within paragraphs.

Language (5 marks)

A range of B2-level vocabulary and both simple and complex grammar are used with a good degree of control and only occasional minor errors.

Model Answer

A Hidden Oasis in Town

Most visitors rush to the high street and castle, missing the botanical gardens by the river. I believe this peaceful spot offers a calm escape and a look at local plants that you won't find elsewhere.

The gardens feature winding paths lined with colourful flowers and tall trees providing shade. Visitors can also enjoy a small pond full of ducks, as well as benches for relaxing to the sound of birds singing.

On the positive side, entry is free and the atmosphere is relaxing, perfect for a quiet break. However, the lack of nearby cafes means you must bring your own refreshments if staying for a while.

I would definitely recommend this place to other readers who want to experience something different from the usual tourist sites. It is a wonderful way to see a more authentic side of the town and enjoy some peace and quiet.

(152 words)