

Cambridge B2 First (FCE) Practice Paper

Paper 1 · Reading and Use of English

B2 | Total: 70 marks

Time 1 hour 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

Write your name on your answer sheet.

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer all the questions.

Write your answers on the answer sheet.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer sheet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

There are 52 questions in this paper.

Questions 1–24 and 43–52 carry one mark.

Questions 25–30 carry up to two marks.

Questions 31–42 carry two marks.

Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

All the tickets for the concert were (0) _____ out within an hour.

A sold **B** spent **C** used **D** paid

Answer: **0 A**

Learning to Drive Later in Life

Many people who start driving after forty still make a mistake that younger learners rarely repeat: they wait too long before booking their first lesson. Confidence can (1)_____ once regular practice begins, (2)_____ fear often grows if weeks pass without any time on the road. Adults who are (3)_____ in passing quickly sometimes try to (4)_____ a deadline for a work trip that requires a licence. Instructors, however, may (5)_____ down requests for an early test if basic control is still weak. Few candidates to (6)_____ have succeeded after only a handful of hours, so it is wiser to build skill slowly. When a learner finally does (7)_____ a decision about taking the practical exam, extra practice in busy streets is usually essential. Older students often listen more carefully than teenagers, and they tend to ask clearer questions. That patience usually leads to safer habits, even if the process takes extra months. Just before the test, a brief (8)_____ at the checklist on the dashboard can prevent panic. Local driving schools now offer evening sessions for people with full-time jobs, which has helped many late starters pass on the second or third attempt.

1 A rise **B** raise **C** lift **D** arouse

2 A whereas **B** whether **C** wherever **D** whenever

3 A interested **B** keen **C** fond **D** eager

4 A catch **B** fulfil **C** keep **D** meet

5 A break **B** set **C** sit **D** turn

6 A day **B** moment **C** time **D** date

7 A go **B** arrive **C** reach **D** come

8 A watch **B** glance **C** view **D** notice

Part 2

For questions 9–16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

I have lived in this town (0) _____ I was a child.

Answer: **0 SINCE**

Dawn Market Delights

The market that opens (9)_____ dawn provides an opportunity for people to purchase the freshest goods available in the city. Vendors arrive (10)_____ sunrise to arrange their products neatly on the tables and stands. Customers who come early can select the best quality items (11)_____ having to rush through the crowds later in the day. The atmosphere is calm at first (12)_____ gradually becomes lively as more shoppers appear. Many families have been visiting this market (13)_____ years because they appreciate the personal service they receive from the sellers. In addition, buying directly (14)_____ producers helps support the local economy and reduces the distance food travels. However, one must be prepared for the cold temperatures (15)_____ the early morning hours. Despite the challenges, the rewards include tasting fruits that are perfectly ripe and full (16)_____ flavor. This practice continues in various cultures where fresh markets play an important role in daily life. Overall, it offers a glimpse into the traditions that have shaped communities over time.

Part 3

For questions 17–24, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the gap.

Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS** on the separate answer sheet.

Example:

The castle is a popular (0) _____ for tourists in the summer. **ATTRACT**

Answer: **0 ATTRACTION**

Why Habits Form and Are Hard to Break

Habits form when actions are repeated in the same context over and over again.

For instance, drinking coffee every morning at the same time creates a (17)_____ in the brain between that time and the drink.

CONNECT

(18)_____, the action happens without any conscious (19)_____.

**EVENTUAL
DECIDE**

It is hard to break habits because they allow the brain to operate on autopilot.

This saves time and energy since the brain does not have to make new choices (20)_____.

CONSTANT

However, this also means that unwanted habits continue even when we want to stop them.

To break a habit (21)_____, one must recognize the cue that starts it and substitute a (22)_____ action that leads to a similar reward.

**SUCCESS
DIFFER**

Patience is (23)_____ as it can take several weeks for a new habit to (24)_____ the old one.

**ESSENCE
PLACE**

Many experts believe that understanding the structure of habits helps people make lasting changes in their lives.

Part 4

For questions 25–30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between 2 and 5 words, including the word given.

Example:

0 A very friendly taxi driver drove us into town.

DRIVEN

We a very friendly taxi driver.

The gap can be filled by the words 'were driven into town by', so you write:

Example: 0 WERE DRIVEN INTO TOWN BY

Write only the missing words IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

25 Three hours were needed to paint the room.

TOOK

..... to paint the room.

26 She really wants a holiday.

NEED

She a holiday.

27 If you do not hurry up, you will be late.

UNLESS

....., you will be late.

28 I will investigate this matter carefully.

INTO

I will matter carefully.

29 Although it rained, the match continued.

DESPITE

....., the match continued.

30 'You should go to the doctor,' she told him.

ADVISED

She to the doctor.

Part 5

You are going to read a story. For questions 31–36, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Anna moved to the small village of Maplewood after working in a busy city office. One afternoon she walked past the closed bakery on the main road. The building looked sad with boarded windows and faded paint. She thought about her childhood visits to shops where the smell of bread filled the air. Perhaps she could use her savings to start something new here. The thought stayed with her during her walk through the quiet streets.

She spoke to several villagers about the old bakery. They explained that Mr. Harris had baked there for many years before his health failed. Since his retirement the shop had remained empty and silent. Everyone missed the daily bread and the friendly chats inside. Anna felt excited by the idea of reopening it herself. She believed the village needed a place to gather and enjoy fresh treats once more. Her mind filled with plans for the future.

Anna visited the local council to learn who owned the building. After some research they told her it was for sale at a reasonable price. She decided to buy it and turn it back into a working bakery. First she needed to check the ovens and the walls inside. Many repairs would be necessary before baking could begin. She felt ready to take on the challenge with help from local workers.

With the papers signed Anna began the hard work of renovation. She hired carpenters and painters from the village to help her. Together they cleaned the floors and fixed the broken shelves. The old ovens needed special attention from an expert engineer. Anna spent hours choosing new equipment that would suit her plans. She wanted to offer both traditional bread and some modern cakes. The villagers watched with growing interest as the changes appeared.

Anna practiced her baking skills every day in a small kitchen at home. She tried different recipes for loaves and pastries that she hoped would please the customers. Some days the results were perfect while other attempts needed more work. She asked friends to taste her creations and give honest opinions. Slowly her confidence grew as the flavors improved each time. She felt sure the bakery would succeed.

The day of the grand opening finally arrived after months of effort. Anna had invited everyone in Maplewood to come and try her bread and cakes. Tables stood outside with samples of warm rolls and sweet pies. Children ran around while adults chatted and tasted the new offerings. Many people said they had not eaten such fresh bread in years. Anna smiled as she served each person with care and pride. The event lasted until the evening.

After the opening the bakery quickly became a popular spot in the village. People stopped by each morning to buy fresh bread for their families. Anna got to know her customers and learned their favorite items. She introduced new products based on their suggestions and requests. The shop brought a sense of community back to Maplewood once again. Local events sometimes used the bakery for meetings and celebrations. Business proved better than Anna had expected.

Anna felt happy that her dream had come true in such a wonderful way. She enjoyed getting up early to prepare the dough and bake the goods. The village seemed more lively with the bakery open every day. Neighbors often stopped to chat and share news while buying their items. Anna sometimes thought about how empty the street had looked before. Now it was full of activity and friendly faces. Her choice changed the village.

The bakery continued to thrive as months turned into years. Anna trained a young assistant to help with the daily tasks. Together they kept the tradition of fresh baking alive in Maplewood. The woman who had reopened the shop felt proud of her achievement. Villagers often thanked her for bringing back an important part of their life. The once empty building now stood as a center of warmth and community. Everyone agreed Anna made a lasting difference.

31 The passage suggests that Anna wanted to reopen the bakery in order to

- A** create a place for the community to gather
- B** make a lot of money from tourists
- C** move away from the quiet streets
- D** continue Mr. Harris's exact recipes

32 What do the villagers' comments suggest about the old bakery?

- A** It had been popular for its friendly atmosphere.
- B** No one had visited it for many years.
- C** It was too expensive for most people.
- D** Mr. Harris had closed it because of low sales.

33 What challenge did Anna face right after buying the building?

- A** Finding enough customers in the village.
- B** Getting permission from the council again.
- C** Making many repairs to the ovens and walls.
- D** Learning to bake from local workers.

- 34** What did Anna plan to offer customers in the bakery?
- A** Both traditional bread and some modern cakes.
 - B** Items chosen by the carpenters and painters.
 - C** Recipes that the engineer had suggested.
 - D** Only traditional bread like before.
- 35** What does the passage suggest about the villagers at the grand opening?
- A** They complained about the warm rolls.
 - B** They asked Anna to close the bakery again.
 - C** They said they had not eaten such fresh bread in years.
 - D** They only tried the sweet pies and left.
- 36** What long-term effect did the bakery have on Maplewood?
- A** It became less popular after several months.
 - B** It caused many people to leave the village.
 - C** It made the streets quieter than before.
 - D** It helped bring back a sense of community.

Part 6

You are going to read a text from which 6 sentences have been removed. Choose from the sentences A–G the one which fits each gap (37–42). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Night Trains Return Across Europe

I took the new service from Paris to Vienna to find out why they are popular again.

After planning my holiday in Europe I decided that flying was not the best choice for me this time. The return of night trains across the continent seemed like an exciting and relaxing way to travel. I picked the overnight train which connects Paris directly with the city of Vienna in Austria. The prices for a private cabin were quite reasonable and within my budget for the trip. **37** Everything was confirmed quickly and I received all the details by email the same day.

On the morning of departure I checked the latest weather reports for my route across several countries. Then I packed a light bag with clothes and a book for the long night ahead of me. The station in Paris was simple to reach using the underground system from my hotel. I arrived early and found the correct platform without any difficulty at all. **38**

My compartment turned out to be small but very well designed with everything I needed. The bed looked comfortable after my busy day of walking around the French capital. An attendant came by to explain the safety features and the meal options available. **39** I watched the lights of Paris fade away slowly through the window beside my bed.

Dinner was brought to my cabin on a tray later in the evening. The food was simple but filling and I enjoyed the convenience of eating on board. After the meal I prepared for bed and closed the curtains for privacy. I read for a short time before switching off the light. **40**

When I opened the door the corridor was quiet and peaceful in the morning. I went to the bathroom to freshen up before breakfast was served. The dining car offered a nice selection of hot drinks and fresh pastries. Other passengers chatted about their destinations in a friendly way. **41**

The train slowed down as it approached the final station in Vienna. **42** Stepping off the train I felt happy with my choice of transport. Vienna looked beautiful in the morning sun from the platform. This experience convinced me to use night trains more often in future.

After leaving the station I took a short walk to my hotel near the centre. The streets were already busy with people starting their day in the Austrian capital. I dropped my bag and went out to explore some of the local sights. The public transport system was easy to use and very efficient. I enjoyed a traditional lunch in a small cafe near the main square.

Overall the night train had offered a calm and interesting alternative to flying. I would recommend the experience to anyone who wants a different kind of journey. The comfort and convenience made the trip feel special from beginning to end. Many more routes are planned across Europe in the coming years. I am already looking at another night train for my next holiday abroad.

Sentences:

- A. I gathered my belongings and waited for the doors to open.
- B. The views of the mountains were spectacular as we entered Austria.
- C. I completed the booking two weeks before the date of travel to make sure I got a good cabin.
- D. Checking in took only a few minutes at the special desk for night trains.
- E. We left the station exactly on schedule as the sun was setting over the city.
- F. I had to change trains three times during the night to reach my destination.
- G. I did not wake up until the early morning light appeared.

Part 7

You are going to read an article. For questions 43–52, choose from the paragraphs (A–E). The paragraphs may be chosen more than once.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Volunteers Rescue Surplus Food in Riverside City

Urban Food Link relies on local people to collect and share food that shops cannot sell.

- A** In Riverside City, Urban Food Link has created an effective way to deal with surplus food. Volunteers collect items from shops and restaurants that would otherwise be discarded. They use vans to transport bread, vegetables and dairy products back to their center. There, the team checks dates and quality to make sure everything is safe. The rescued food is then packed into boxes for distribution to families and local groups. This work reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and provides nutrition to those in need. The idea began with a small group of friends but has grown into a large operation. Many people in the area now know about the project and support it.
- B** Volunteers come from all walks of life and include students, office workers and retired teachers. They give up their free time because they want to help reduce waste and feed people. Some have been with the group since it started while others joined more recently after hearing about it from friends. Training is provided so that everyone knows how to handle food safely and drive the collection vans. The atmosphere at the center is always friendly and busy as people chat while they work. Many volunteers say that they feel part of something important when they see the smiles on the faces of those who receive the food. This sense of purpose keeps them coming back week after week.
- C** A normal day begins early when the first volunteers arrive to plan the routes. They divide into teams and head out to different locations around the city to collect the donations. Back at the hall, others wash and sort the fresh produce while someone prepares simple meals using the ingredients. Everything must be done quickly because some items need to reach their destinations before they spoil. The volunteers work together to load the delivery vans with care. During breaks, they share stories about why they started volunteering and what they have learned. By the end of the shift, hundreds of meals have been prepared and sent out. The team feels satisfied knowing that their efforts have made a real difference that day.
- D** The work of these volunteers has a big effect on the local community. Families who receive the food packages often say that it helps them save money for other important things like rent or school supplies. Schools and shelters also benefit because they can offer better meals without spending extra. In addition, the project teaches everyone about the problem of food waste and how to avoid it at home. Volunteers themselves gain new skills such as cooking in large quantities and

organizing events. They also make new friends and feel more connected to their city. Without this group, much of the surplus food would simply be lost. The success of Urban Food Link shows what can happen when people decide to act together for a good cause.

E Looking ahead, Urban Food Link plans to expand its operations to reach even more people in need. They hope to partner with more businesses so that less food is wasted each week. New volunteers are always welcome and the group offers flexible times to fit around work or study. Events are held to raise awareness and to thank everyone who takes part. The founders believe that this model could work in other cities too if enough people get involved. By continuing this important task, the volunteers are not only helping today but also building a better future for the whole community. Their dedication proves that ordinary citizens can create positive change through simple but consistent actions.

Which paragraph mentions

the project teaching about the problem of food waste and how to avoid it at home	43	
the transportation of bread, vegetables and dairy products using vans	44	
checking dates and quality to ensure everything is safe	45	
the need to work quickly to prevent some items from spoiling	46	
flexible times offered to new volunteers to fit around work or study	47	
families saving money for rent or school supplies	48	
plans to partner with more businesses to reduce weekly waste	49	
the day beginning early with planning the routes	50	
volunteers from all walks of life including students, office workers and retired teachers	51	
training provided for safe food handling and driving collection vans	52	

Answer sheet

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Name

Date

Class

Score

 / 70

Part 1

/ 8

1 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

5 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

2 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

6 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

7 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

4 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

8 A B C D
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Part 2

/ 8

9 _____

13 _____

10 _____

14 _____

11 _____

15 _____

12 _____

16 _____

Part 3

/ 8

17 _____

21 _____

18 _____

22 _____

19 _____

23 _____

20 _____

24 _____

Part 7

/ 10

43 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

44 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

45 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

46 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

47 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

48 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

49 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

50 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

51 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

52 **A** **B** **C** **D** **E**
 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Cambridge B2 First (FCE) Practice Paper

Paper 2 · Writing

B2 | Total: 40 marks

Time 1 hour 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

Write your name on your answer sheet.

Read the instructions for each part of the paper carefully.

Answer the Part 1 question and one question from Part 2.

Write your answers on the answer sheet.

Write clearly in pen, not pencil. You may make alterations, but make sure your work is easy to read.

You must complete the answer sheet within the time limit.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer sheet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Each question in this paper carries equal marks.

Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

- 1 In your English class you have been talking about learning a skill from a person or from an app. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Learning a skill from an app is better than learning from a person. Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

1. personal feedback
2. practice opportunities
3. (your own idea)

Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2–4** in this part. Write your answer in **140–190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet. Put the question number in the box at the top of the answer sheet.

- 2** Your group leader has asked you to write a report on a place in your town that visitors always miss suggesting ways to promote it to tourists.

In your report you should:

- describe the place and why visitors miss it
- explain its main attractions and features
- recommend ways to make it better known

Write your report.

- 3** You see this notice about places in your town that visitors always miss:

Hidden Treasures in Our Town

Many visitors only see the main sights. There are wonderful places they miss, such as quiet parks and historic alleys. Share your suggestions for these hidden gems.

Write a letter to the Local Tourist Board suggesting a place that visitors miss, describing it in detail and explaining why it deserves more attention.

Write your letter.

- 4** You see this announcement in an English-language magazine:

Reviews wanted!

Have you visited a place in your town that visitors always miss?

Write a review of a place in your town that visitors always miss, telling us what makes this place worth visiting and how it compares to the usual tourist attractions, and say whether you would recommend it to other readers.

The best reviews will be published next month.

Write your review.

Answer sheet

Cambridge B2 First (FCE) Practice Paper · Paper 2 · Writing

Name

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Date

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Class

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Score

/ 40

Part 1 - Question 1

/ 20

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Part 2 · Question

/ 20

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