

Cambridge C1 Advanced (CAE) Practice Paper

C1 | Total: 118 marks

Paper 1 · Reading and Use of English

Part 1

8 marks

1	D (take)
2	C (feasible)
3	B (balance)
4	A (comply)
5	C (rule)
6	B (skin)
7	B (come)
8	C (convey)

Part 2

8 marks

9	ALTHOUGH / THOUGH / WHILE / WHILST / WHEREAS
10	HAVE
11	THAT
12	TO
13	DO
14	HAS
15	ON
16	DESPITE / NOTWITHSTANDING

Part 3

8 marks

17	EXPOSURE
18	INTERNALIZE
19	IMPRESSION
20	EVALUATION
21	COMPETITIVE
22	EXTENSIVE

23	EXPERIENTIAL
24	THEORETICAL

Part 4

12 marks

25	IN SPITE OF
26	PUT UP WITH HIS
27	NEEDN'T HAVE BROUGHT AN
28	ACHIEVED RAPID EXPANSION LAST / ACHIEVED A RAPID EXPANSION LAST
29	IT WAS HER DETERMINATION THAT / IT WAS HER DETERMINATION WHICH
30	ACCUSED ME OF CAUSING / ACCUSED ME OF HAVING CAUSED

Part 5

12 marks

31	A The passage says 'The work demands great patience and precision because any mistake could result in permanent loss of unique sound.'
32	A The passage says 'Preserving these details matters because they allow future listeners to understand the social and cultural background of each recording without relying on guesswork or incomplete records.'
33	B The passage says 'Temperature and humidity in the storage vaults remain strictly regulated yet some items still require gentle cleaning or baking to restore flexibility.'
34	A The passage says 'During playback she monitors the waveform continuously and makes real time notes about any anomalies that might require later correction through software.' and 'She adjusts azimuth and tension settings for each individual tape'.
35	C The passage says 'Such finds remind her why the project continues despite the slow pace and occasional technical setbacks.'
36	D The passage says 'Without sustained commitment many tapes would continue to degrade on the shelves until recovery becomes impossible. Her advocacy highlights the urgency of acting while the materials are still viable'

Part 6

8 marks

37	B
38	C
39	B
40	C

Part 7

12 marks

41	C
42	A
43	F
44	E
45	B
46	G

Part 8

10 marks

47	D
48	A
49	C
50	B
51	B
52	C
53	D
54	B
55	A
56	A

Assessment Criteria

Content (5 marks)

Fully addresses the task by selecting and discussing two points, clearly arguing which matters more with relevant reasons and support.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

Uses an assured, persuasive style suited to a tutor, incorporating and rephrasing discussion opinions naturally within a coherent argument.

Organisation (5 marks)

Organises the essay into five clear paragraphs with logical progression from thesis through arguments and counterargument to conclusion.

Language (5 marks)

Demonstrates C1 range through precise, less common lexis, complex structures, modality and varied sentence length with minimal errors.

Model Answer

The panel discussion addressed whether universities should teach fewer subjects in more depth. Although both expertise and flexibility matter, I contend that developing deep knowledge is more important. Specialised mastery leads to greater innovation and professional competence, outweighing the advantages of a broader but shallower education.

Focusing on fewer subjects enables students to gain genuine expertise in their field. This depth of understanding equips them to tackle intricate challenges effectively and contribute original ideas to their discipline. Consequently, such graduates often achieve more substantial results in both research and industry settings.

Although career flexibility prepares graduates for diverse roles in a fluctuating job market, it proves less vital than specialised expertise. Broad knowledge without depth may leave individuals ill-equipped for demanding positions. Experts, by contrast, can readily acquire new skills while relying on their profound foundational understanding.

Critics argue that limiting subjects reduces students' adaptability and hampers creative thinking across disciplines. Nevertheless, this perspective ignores the fact that deep expertise often facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration, as specialists bring unique insights to joint ventures. Thus, the gains from focused learning surpass these supposed drawbacks.

In conclusion, the development of expertise is considerably more important than career flexibility in university education. Teaching fewer subjects in more depth allows students to build the advanced competencies essential for innovation and effective problem-solving, thereby benefiting both their future careers and wider societal advancement.

(227 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)

The response fully addresses the task by expressing clear views on the arts centre reopening supported by reasons and by proposing specific initiatives for engaging younger people.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

A formal register is maintained throughout, and the letter successfully puts forward a persuasive case to the editor with appropriate tone and precision.

Organisation (5 marks)

Ideas are logically organised in three well-developed paragraphs, with effective paragraphing and a range of cohesive devices linking points smoothly.

Language (5 marks)

The language demonstrates a wide lexical resource and complex grammatical structures used accurately, with good control of formality and stylistic features suitable for C1 level.

Model Answer

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in response to the article which I read recently about the reopening of the arts centre in our city. This informative piece drew attention to the newly refurbished building and the wide array of performances and exhibitions scheduled to take place over the coming year. The purpose of my letter is to express my strong support for this project and to put forward some practical proposals aimed at increasing participation from younger members of the community.

The reopening of this facility marks an important milestone in the cultural development of our city. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and featuring an impressive architectural design, the arts centre is now capable of attracting internationally acclaimed artists and companies. Such events will not only provide residents with enriching experiences but will also stimulate tourism and local businesses. Moreover, the centre serves as a focal point for community gatherings, promoting social cohesion and offering a platform for local talents to display their creations.

To attract a younger audience, I recommend that the management establish collaborations with schools and universities to organise regular workshops and masterclasses. Introducing affordable ticket schemes and featuring more modern art forms, such as street art or electronic music events, would also be beneficial. I would appreciate it if these ideas could be highlighted in your newspaper to encourage public debate and influence the decisions of those responsible for the centre's future programming.

Yours faithfully,
Alexandra Rivera

(242 words)

Assessment Criteria**Content (5 marks)**

Fully addresses the task with well-developed ideas covering the purpose, current situation, specific proposals and their benefits in a relevant and detailed manner.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

Consistently uses formal persuasive language suited to a proposal for a committee, with clear focus on achieving the intended effect on the reader.

Organisation (5 marks)

Ideas are logically organised into clearly headed sections with effective use of paragraphs and cohesive devices linking points throughout the text.

Language (5 marks)

Employs a wide range of advanced vocabulary and complex grammatical structures accurately, with varied sentence patterns and appropriate stylistic choices.

Model Answer

Purpose

The purpose of this proposal is to recommend effective ways in which the college might collaborate with the recently reopened arts centre in the city. With substantial council funding now available for educational partnerships, the college has a timely opportunity to expand its cultural offerings and integrate professional arts experiences into the curriculum for the benefit of all students.

Current situation

Currently, the college's arts programme suffers from limited resources and outdated facilities that fail to meet students' evolving needs. There is a noticeable lack of opportunities for meaningful engagement with professional artists or access to modern exhibition spaces. Consequently, students miss out on essential creative development, and the college struggles to maintain its standing within the local community.

Proposal

It is recommended that the college organises regular artist-led workshops, student exhibitions and joint theatre productions at the arts centre. In addition, a mentorship programme pairing students with experienced professionals and a series of specialist lectures should be introduced. These concrete measures would utilise the funding to establish sustainable and inspiring activities throughout the academic year.

Benefits

Such initiatives would provide students with invaluable practical experience and boost their creative confidence, thereby enhancing their academic performance and career readiness. The college would benefit from an improved public image as a progressive institution, likely leading to higher student numbers and further partnerships. Overall, this represents a worthwhile investment in educational quality and community engagement.

(234 words)

Part 2 · Question 4

20 marks

Assessment Criteria

Content (5 marks)

The review fully covers the reopened arts centre with a clear overall view, detailed description of facilities and events, balanced evaluation of positives and negatives, and a justified recommendation.

Communicative Achievement (5 marks)

The text uses a semi-formal register to address readers directly, evaluates the experience effectively and achieves its purpose of informing potential visitors with engaging tone.

Organisation (5 marks)

Ideas are organised into four well-balanced paragraphs with a logical progression from introduction through description and evaluation to recommendation, using varied linking devices.

Language (5 marks)

A wide range of advanced vocabulary and complex grammatical structures are employed accurately, with effective use of modality and varied sentence lengths for fluency and precision.

Model Answer

Revitalised Arts Centre Delights Visitors

Having visited the newly reopened arts centre in my city, I must say that the experience was largely positive. The management has clearly invested considerable effort into making it a premier destination for culture lovers. While some minor issues persist, the overall impression is one of renewal and excitement. This venue now stands as a testament to the city's commitment to the arts.

The centre boasts a spacious exhibition hall featuring works from both local and international artists. Its state-of-the-art theatre hosts a variety of performances, from classical concerts to experimental plays. The lighting in the galleries has been carefully designed to enhance each piece. Additionally, the interactive workshops for children and adults provide engaging educational opportunities, while the café offers organic refreshments with panoramic views.

On the positive side, the acoustics in the main auditorium are exceptional, allowing every note to resonate perfectly during concerts. The diverse programme ensures there is something for everyone. However, the ticket prices for some events seem rather steep, and the booking system can be cumbersome at times. Furthermore, parking facilities remain inadequate for peak hours. This might deter some potential visitors from attending regularly.

In conclusion, I would recommend visiting the arts centre, particularly if you appreciate modern cultural experiences. Despite the drawbacks mentioned, the benefits far outweigh them, making it a valuable addition to our city. Whether you are an art enthusiast or simply looking for a new outing, this venue promises memorable moments. Do give it a try soon. It certainly deserves your attention and support.

(260 words)