

Certificate of Proficiency
in English
Practice Tests 2

*University of Cambridge
Local Examinations Syndicate*

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To the student

This book is for candidates preparing for the University of Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English examination and provides practice in all the written and oral papers.

The examination consists of 5 papers, as follows:

Paper 1: Reading Comprehension (1½ hours)

Section A consists of 40 multiple-choice items in the form of a sentence with a blank to be filled by one of five words or phrases below.

Section B consists of 20 multiple-choice items based on passages of between 250 and 600 words.

Paper 2: Composition (3 hours)

Section A You are asked to write two compositions out of a choice of four, of about 350 words each.

Section B consists of a passage followed by questions relating to the text.

Paper 3: Use of English (3 hours)

Section A contains exercises which test your control of English usage and grammatical structure.

Section B consists of a passage followed by questions which test your comprehension and skill in summarising.

Section C is a directed writing exercise where you have to present information in an appropriate form and style.

Paper 4: Listening Comprehension (20–30 minutes)

You answer 5 multiple-choice items on each of three passages.

Paper 5: Interview (approx. 12 minutes)

Section A You look at a photograph for a few minutes, and then you are asked some specific questions on it before leading on to general topics.

Section B You are asked to read part of a dialogue aloud.

Section C You select and make notes on a topic before being asked to talk about it for a short time.

Section D you are asked to respond to three situations.

The *FCE/CPE Practice Tests Answer Pad*, published by Cambridge University Press, is available for practice in recording answers to Papers 1 and 4 in the form required by the examination.

This is the second collection of past papers from the Certificate of Proficiency in English examination. The first collection in the series, *CPE Practice Tests*, consists of five more examinations for additional practice.

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Practice Test 1

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE

Certificate of Proficiency in English

PAPER 1: READING COMPREHENSION

1½ hours

Answer all questions. Indicate your choice of answer in every case on the separate answer sheet. Follow carefully the instructions about how to record your answers.

Section A

In this section you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. On your answer sheet, indicate the letter A, B, C, D or E against the number of each item 1-40 for the word or phrase you choose.

- 1 He arrived at a most _____ moment; I was just getting into the bath.
A importunate ✓ B inopportune C uncomfortable D incongruous
E unfitting
- 2 This road is _____ to flood in winter.
A leading B unprotected ✓ C conducive D liable E susceptible
- 3 Buying in bulk _____ one to make substantial savings.
A enables B facilitates ✓ C means D ensures E empowers
- 4 This village is only _____ by river.
A attainable B available ✓ C accessible D obtainable E achievable
- 5 The _____ wind in this area is from the south-west.
A controlling ✓ B prevailing C persisting D continuous E reigning
- 6 One can become a member of this club only on paying the _____ fee.
A enroled ✓ B regulated C requisite D legitimate E subscribed
- 7 The children performed a very _____ dance for their parents.
A distracting B gracious ✓ C graceful D smart E precise
- 8 After the rain, a bullder was called to repair the roof, which was _____.
A oozing B leaking C trickling D dripping ✓ E seeping
- 9 The man's face was _____ from his infected tooth.
A bulging ✓ B swollen C dilated D expanded E distended
- 10 The new town development has begun to _____ on the surrounding green belt.
A enter ✓ B encroach C intrude D impress E reach
- 11 The success of the film shows that the reviewers' fears were completely _____.
A fallacious B misguided C misunderstood D misfired ✓ E unjustified

Practice Test 1

- 12 The team's recent wins have now _____ them for the semi-finals.
A fitted B promoted C matched D qualified E selected
- 13 As my exam is next week, I'll take advantage of the day off to _____ on some reading.
A catch up B clear up C hurry up D make up E pick up
- 14 Many local authorities realize the need to make _____ for elderly people in their housing programmes.
A assistance B conditions C admittance D provision E rooms
- 15 The curator of the Museum was most _____ and let me actually examine the ancient manuscript.
A favourable B gratifying C obliging D pleasing E promising
- 16 For parents, one of the problems _____ by rising prices is the continual demand for more pocket money.
A given B posed C pressing D provided E forced
- 17 After speaking for two hours, the lecturer found he could scarcely talk, as he had become _____.
A hoarse B dumb C inarticulate D speechless E tongue-tied
- 18 I was informed by the police constable that he would be forced to take me into _____.
A guardianship B remand C custody D confinement E detection
- 19 There is pressure on the British government to _____ the number of immigrants permitted to settle in the U.K.
A confine B depress C decrease D restrain E limit
- 20 The reception was attended by various _____ members of the local community and representatives of regional industries.
A protuberant B projecting C conspicuous D prominent E pronounced
- 21 It was suggested that all government ministers should be forced to _____ information on their financial interests.
A discover B uncover C admit D disclose E unfold
- 22 In recent years there has been a _____ increase in the cost of living.
A powerful B ponderous C wide D significant E violent
- 23 We had agreed to meet in the _____ of the cinema, near the box office.
A porch B lobby C foyer D anteroom E hall
- 24 The latest economic analysis includes a grim _____ for the next ten years based on recent further falls in currency values.
A production B forecast C anticipation D reckoning E calculation
- 25 The drunken couple did nothing to keep the flat clean and tidy and lived in the utmost _____.
A pollution B decay C corruption D contamination E squalor
- 26 The giant corporation was making a take-over _____ for a property company.
A control B bid C tender D proposal E proposition
- 27 She was extremely lucky: when her great-uncle died, she _____ a fortune.
A came by B came about C came into D came through E came over
- 28 The accused man was able to prove his innocence at the trial and was _____.
A forgiven B pardoned C excused D acquitted E absolved

Practice Test 1

- 29 Share prices on the Stock Exchange plunged sharply in the morning but _____ slightly in the afternoon.
✓ A recovered B recuperated C regained D retrieved E restored
- 30 The business man had a(n) _____ interest in a new supermarket being erected near his factory.
A established B compound C settled D invested ✓ E vested
- 31 A good boss always _____ responsibility to his assistants.
A relegates ✓ B delegates C removes D consigns E refers
- 32 Although nobody _____ his presence, Mr. Smith knew he had been recognized.
✓ A acknowledged B admitted C assented D attributed E required
- 33 He tries to _____ himself with everyone by paying them compliments.
A gratify B please ✓ C ingratiate D commend E placate
- 34 He was _____ from the competition because he had not complied with the rules.
A banished B forbidden C outlawed ✓ D disqualified E precluded
- 35 He thanked me _____, too much I thought for the little I had done.
A significantly ✓ B profusely C prolifically D luxuriantly E sumptuously
- 36 The police managed to _____ down the owner of the car.
A trace ✓ B track C catch D search E pursue
- 37 The party's reduced vote was _____ of lack of support for its policies.
✓ A indicative B confirming C positive D revealing E evident
- 38 Although most of the rooms are small, the hall is _____.
A extending B extended ✓ C spacious D expansive E abundant
- 39 Your latest project has little _____ of success.
A prediction B outlook C preview ✓ D prospect E forecast
- 40 My enquiries did not _____ any information of value.
A extort ✓ B elicit C arouse D affect E induce

Section B

In this section you will find after each of the passages a number of questions or unfinished statements about the passage, each with four suggested answers or ways of finishing. You must choose the one which you think fits best. **On your answer sheet**, indicate the letter A, B, C or D against the number of each item 41–60 for the answer you choose. Read each passage right through before choosing your answers.

First passage

Any social structure, particularly that of Victorian England, is so much a matter of sentiment and prejudice that the descriptions given by contemporary novelists may be as worth studying from one point of view as statistics are from another. Novels begin by reflecting the structure, and end by confirming or modifying it. Our own ideas of our dissolving and re-forming society are affected by novels and films, which help to set or change the tone as well as capture it. Victorian novelists worked within a more established social framework; they had less scope for evaluating social importance differently and their accounts, however slanted, tally more closely with each other than those of modern novelists are likely to do a century from now. Some of the Victorian novelists were more at home with certain segments of society than with others, and their personal reactions to the system differed; but the social world in which their creatures moved is real, solid and essentially one. The classic age of English society—as it seems in retrospect—was also the classic age of English fiction. Except for a few uncharted areas, the novelists knew where they stood (whether or not they liked it) and so did their readers.

Practice Test 1

The half century from roughly 1830 to 1880 excludes the later Victorian novelists with their more private, or at least more highly contrasting, pictures of society. It also allows some unity of theme. During these decades the aristocracy and landed gentry, although less powerful than they had been, were still predominant in government and the countryside. Their social prestige, which had substantially survived the changes of the thirties and forties, was to weaken under agricultural depression, electoral and military reform, the opening of the Civil Service to competitive examination, and the growing power of finance on the one hand and organized labour on the other. But this decline did not really set in until the closing years of the century.

- 41 Victorian novels are a useful guide to Victorian social structure because they
- A are sentimental.
 - B contain statistics.
 - ✓ C reflect prejudices.
 - D are prejudicial.
- 42 Modern novelists give a less exact picture of their society than Victorian novelists do because
- A they wish to re-form society.
 - B their society is less stable.
 - C they are affected by films.
 - D they change their tone too often.
- 43 An essential characteristic of the classic age of fiction was that
- A there was only one realistic character in each novel.
 - B the novelist and the reader reacted differently to the system.
 - C the novelist was content with his position in society.
 - ✓ D the novelists depicted the whole of society.
- 44 The novels of the late nineteenth century differed from mid-century novels in that they
- A presented a wider section of society.
 - B observed the classical unities.
 - C isolated novelists in society.
 - ✓ D were more subjective.
- 45 During the years 1830-1880, the upper classes
- A declined in power in the countryside.
 - B no longer controlled society.
 - ✓ C were still powerful.
 - D lost their social prestige.
- 46 In the later years of the century
- A the aristocracy weakened agriculture.
 - ✓ B changes were made in the voting system.
 - C organisation of labour caused economic decline.
 - D the aristocracy advocated military reform.
- 47 It was in the latter half of the nineteenth century that the Civil Service
- A began its administrative work.
 - B was closely examined.
 - C was open only to people with money.
 - ✓ D offered more opportunities for jobs.

Second passage

So you want to fight your own case in court? Then take heart: Litigants in Person, as the official term has it, are not to be looked down upon any more. This is not to say that all civil disputes are suitable for personal treatment. Those involving abstruse points of law are usually best left to lawyers and in some cases baffle even legal minds.

The obviously suitable case is that of the aggrieved consumer who is involved in a claim arising out of the sale or hire-purchase of goods, or the provision of services. But straightforward debt cases, some landlord and tenant matters, road traffic cases

involving damage to vehicles only, claims for wilful damage to vehicles only, claims for wilful damage to property or for minor assaults, and claims for wages and salaries owing in lieu of notice may all present feasible scope for the layman. Whether a case lies within the confines of simplicity is not always clear but no solicitor should mind being consulted on the question of whether given circumstances might admit of personal action. County court work is notoriously unremunerative and he is unlikely to feel aggrieved or think that you want to do him out of business.

Saving a bill from your own solicitor is, of course, the first but not the only financial aspect to consider before taking solo action. The general rule in county court litigation is that the loser pays the legal costs of the winner, or at least so much of those costs as are approved by the court. The latter are rarely as much as the total bill presented by the solicitor to his client but will be large none the less.

It is almost always impossible to guess how much the costs will be in a contested case—the total depends on so many variable factors. But it is probably no exaggeration to say that even when suing in person for £200 you could put almost the same sum at risk in respect of the other side's legal costs and your own expenses. In smaller claims, however, a special rule applies. Where the sum in dispute does not exceed £100 the legal costs recoverable by the winner are normally limited to those of starting proceedings; no costs are usually recoverable for representation at the trial or arbitration of the matter. The loser will thus rarely pay more than a few pounds for the winner's expenses. It is, therefore, sensible when considering self-help in the county court to keep that figure of £100 well in mind: below it the risks as to costs are much reduced.

Litigants in Person who win have had until now a frequent grievance. Their bills for costs payable by the other side have not been allowed to include any recompense for the time and energy expended in the preparation of their case. The recent Litigants in Person (Costs) Act has, however, ensured that this situation will be rectified; new rules are to be brought into force.

A further financial consideration is whether it is worth bringing even a cast iron case against someone who may be without the means to meet the judgement. Admittedly it is often difficult to know the extent of a defendant's resources, but if he is patently a man of straw there is little point in adding irrecoverable expenses to the sum of your original grievance.

Finally, a personal judgement. While your case may not require the stamina necessary to struggle on to the end of a long protracted battle, time, patience and perseverance are required of all litigants, and of the inexperienced in double measure. Read *How to sue in the County Court*, published by the Consumers' Association, and get hold of the official guide from your local court. If you are not put off altogether, you will need them.

- 48 What does the passage say used to be the attitude towards people conducting their own lawsuits in a British court?
 - ☐ A It was not encouraged.
 - ☐ B It was not practicable.
 - ☐ C It was not allowed.
 - ☐ D It was not discouraged.
- 49 The author suggests that people conducting their own lawsuits
 - ☐ A can expect to be treated with suspicion.
 - ☒ B should always leave legal matters to lawyers.
 - ☐ C should not be too nervous of taking action.
 - ☐ D may be deliberately confused by legal experts.
- 50 The most usual do-it-yourself cases are those concerning
 - ☒ A debts involving landlords.
 - ☐ B damage to property.
 - ☐ C damage resulting from road accidents.
 - ☐ D unsatisfactory sales and service.
- 51 A solicitor who is consulted but not commissioned may be
 - ☐ A annoyed at having his time wasted.
 - ☒ B quite willing to give helpful advice.
 - ☐ C ready to attend the county court.
 - ☐ D unsure about the complexity of some cases.

Practice Test 1

- 52 In county court litigation, approved costs are normally
- ☐ A greater than the fee the solicitor requires.
 - ☐ B smaller than the fee the solicitor requires.
 - ☒ C less than the solicitor anticipates.
 - ☐ D more than the client anticipates.
- 53 When suing for £200, you might end up paying
- ☐ A half the amount sued for.
 - ☒ B more than £400 in all.
 - ☐ C nearly as much as you are contesting.
 - ☐ D £200 plus your opponent's legal cost.
- 54 In a case involving a claim for up to £100, the loser has to pay
- ☐ A the cost of arbitration.
 - ☐ B the cost of bringing the case.
 - ☐ C the total of the winner's expenses.
 - ☒ D anything up to that figure.
- 55 The changes in the law which are mentioned will
- ☒ A compensate winners more realistically.
 - ☐ B increase grievances among losers.
 - ☐ C allow winners to reclaim solicitor's fees.
 - ☐ D provide time for litigants to prepare their cases.
- 56 The costs of litigation are usually
- ☐ A unpredictable.
 - ☒ B recoverable.
 - ☐ C proportionate.
 - ☐ D over-estimated.
- 57 Before bringing an action in the county court a litigant should ensure that
- ☐ A his case is absolutely sound.
 - ☒ B a successful claim can be met.
 - ☐ C the defendant is without means.
 - ☐ D he has the means to go through with the case.
- 58 If the person you want to sue is very poor, you may well decide not to
- ☐ A go to court.
 - ☐ B act as your own lawyer.
 - ☐ C meet the judgement.
 - ☒ D recover expenses.
- 59 The author claims that as regards personal qualities a litigant needs to
- ☐ A have quick powers of judgement.
 - ☐ B be prepared to fight against time.
 - ☒ C be persistent and determined.
 - ☐ D have more than the usual amount of experience.
- 60 The author recommends two publications on the ground that they
- ☐ A present the problems realistically.
 - ☐ B are given official sanction.
 - ☐ C will deter many would-be litigants.
 - ☒ D are compulsory reading for all consumers.

PAPER 2: COMPOSITION

3 hours

Write clearly, in ink, and arrange your work so that it can be easily read.

Answer questions 1, 2 and 3. You should spend about the same amount of time on each.

Section A

1. Describe **Either** (a) The way in which one particular person or event has had a significant influence on your life.
or (b) A quarrel in which you were involved.
2. Discuss **Either** (a) The arguments for or against the abolition of marriage.
or (b) "The competitive spirit is essential to human progress".

Section B

3. Read the following passage, and then answer the questions which follow.

As they turned into Upshot Rise where his parents lived, Jack let go of Ruth's hand. Upshot Rise was not a hand-holding street. When you turned into it, you wiped your feet and minded your manners. Each house was decently detached, each privet hedge crew-cut and correct. Each drive sported a car or two, and the portals of most of the houses were framed by white pillars that had probably been delivered in polythene bags. Behind each set of white curtains lived people who touched each other seldom. Some had retired and moved into the suburb for the landscape and the silences. Whilst others had begun there, sprouting from the white sheets in the white beds behind the white curtains, who knew nothing of dirt except that of conception and delivery.

Jack's parents fitted neither of these categories. They were

refugees from Nazi Germany. Not the mattress-on-the-donkey- 15
 cart type of refugee, winding in tracking-shot down the inter-
 minable highway, but respectable well-heeled emigrants. The
 flight of the Müllers had been in the early days, without panic
 and with all their possessions. Jack's father's business had been
 an export affair to England so that there was little upheaval in 20
 their change of address. Both his father and his mother spoke
 English fluently, and through the business were already well
 connected with the upper strata of English social life. They
 travelled first class from Ostend to Dover, and early in the morning
 when only the white cliffs were looking, they made a deft spelling 25
 change to their name, and landing as the Millar family, they
 spoke to the customs officer in faultless English, declaring their
 monogrammed silver. Upshot Rise was a natural home for
 them. It was almost a duplicate of the Beethovenstrasse where
 they had lived in Hamburg. Quiet, silent, and reliable. 30
 Like Upshot Rise, it lay in a dream suburb, a suburb of dream
 houses, a spotlessly clean nightmare.

Jack and Ruth walked unjoined up the hill. They turned into
 the house that took in the bend of the road. Jack tried to
 silence the click of the gate as he opened it to let Ruth through. 35
 He knew that his mother would be waiting for the noise behind
 the bedroom window. It was the first time she would see Ruth
 and Jack wanted to give her no time advantage. He wanted
 them to meet at the door and see each other at the same time.

BERNICE RUBENS (adapted)

- (a) What is the point of the phrase "delivered in polythene bags" (lines 7-8)?
- (b) What other phrases in the same paragraph convey a similar idea, and what phrase later in the passage summarises the impression given?
- (c) What are the two categories referred to in line 14?
- (d) What is the "interminable highway" referred to in lines 16-17, and why is this phrase used?
- (e) What differences are suggested in the second paragraph between Jack's parents and the "mattress-on-the-donkey-cart" type of refugee?
- (f) Why was Upshot Rise a "natural home" (line 28) for Jack's parents?
- (g) Comment on the first sentence of the last paragraph.
- (h) Of which phrase elsewhere in the last paragraph is the last sentence of the passage an explanation?

Practice Test 1

PAPER 3: USE OF ENGLISH

3 hours

Answer all the questions.

SECTION A

1. Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage with one suitable word.

In recent years, especially since (1) the end of the Second World War, the impression has been created that the social services are no longer (2) directed at the particular needs (3) of individuals, and in (4) part this is due to the introduction of the concept of the universality of welfare provisions. There (5) was a transfer of (6) attention from the few to the (7) many, and the turning-point (8) was probably the publication of the Beveridge report in 1942. Hitherto the statutory social provision had been confined to (9) particular occupational and income groups, but (10) the Beveridge proposals applied (11) to all the adult population regardless (12) of occupation or income. For example, payment of National Insurance benefits, interruption or cessation of (13) income was not henceforth to (14) be restricted to low income or specified occupational groups, and a National Health Service was (15) to be made available (16) to everyone from the cradle to the grave (17). The emphasis on (18) universality obscured the fact that the benefits obtainable (19) were still limited to persons having specified needs in (20) specified contingencies.

Practice Test 1

2. Finish each of the following sentences in such a way that it means exactly the same as the sentence printed before it.

Example: I expect that he will get there by lunch-time.

Answer: I expect him to get there by lunch-time

1. It is possible that he is telling the truth.

He might well

2. He speaks very little English.

His knowledge

3. 'What time is it?' he asked me.

He asked me what

4. It is easy to please John.

John

5. I have never been a member of that club.

At no time

6. Nobody knows much about that primitive tribe.

Little

7. John inherited the business from his father.

John's father

8. He has not been to the College since May 3rd.

He last

9. Surely you haven't forgotten already!

You can't

10. However easy this technique looks, it takes years of practice.

Easy

Practice Test 1

3. Fill each of the numbered blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

Example:

Even if I had stood on a chair, I wouldn't have been able to reach the light bulb.

1. Never a worse meal.

2. You'd him the truth: he's sure to find out, anyway.

3. He was always late: by the time he everyone else would be ready to leave.

4. He doesn't like dogs, and his wife.

5. Mr. Smith has a three son.

6. I was just thinking about you. It's strange that rung me up.

7. If he passes this examination, it will be the first he

8. It's just as well plenty of money: it's more expensive than I expected.

4. For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the words given in capital letters; **these words must not be altered** in any way.

Example: John inflated the tyres of his bicycle.

BLEW

Answer: John blew up the tyres of his bicycle

1. He never stops asking questions.

LIMIT

2. The cost of hiring a car doesn't depend on the number of passengers.

IRRESPECTIVE

Practice Test 1

3. He paid more than he should have for that car.

WORTH

4. It is not my habit to get up early.

USED

5. His impersonation of the Prime Minister was very good.

TOOK OFF

6. The doctor's error of judgment killed the patient.

LED

7. He is the 100-metres champion.

RECORD

8. I can't imagine what the answer is.

REMOTEST

9. Don't use too much of that paper.

ECONOMICAL

10. There are trains to London every hour.

INTERVALS