

PRACTICE TESTS FOR PROFICIENCY

FIRST
SERIES

Margaret Archer

Enid Nolan-Woods



Nelson

Teacher's Edition,
with Answers

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FOREWORD

The object of this book is to provide students preparing for the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English with complete practice in the Written and Oral papers. Each of the five tests consists of three Written and two Oral papers as follows:

WRITTEN PAPERS

Paper 1 **Composition** (3 hours)

Section A A selection of Composition subjects is given based on description, narrative, argument and discussion. Students are normally required to write two compositions, one of each type, in the examination.

Section B A passage on which the questions asked are designed to test the student's understanding and perception of different styles of writing.

Paper 2 **Reading Comprehension** (1½ hours)

Section A Forty multiple choice questions testing vocabulary and usage.

Section B Twenty multiple choice questions based on two texts. These can be used as testing material or as a means of expanding the student's vocabulary and general comprehension.

Paper 3 **Use of English** (3 hours)

Section A This consists of a number of Units offering practice in a variety of English structures and usage.

Section B One or more prose passages selected to test the student's ability to understand, interpret and summarise.

Section C A composition to be written in a style appropriate to a given form i.e. a report, newspaper article, reply to letter, advertisement etc.

ORAL PAPERS

Paper 4 **Listening Comprehension** (45 minutes approx.)

Four unseen passages with five multiple choice questions on each passage. The student should be given time to study the relevant questions before each reading. Each passage is read to the student twice at normal speed, allowing time between and after the readings to answer and check the questions.

Paper 5 **Interview** (12 minutes)

Section A (5 mins. approx.) The student is asked to look at a photograph. He will then be expected to answer questions about it and discuss points arising from them.

- Section B** (2 mins. approx.) The student will be asked to speak on one of three topics presented to him before the Interview. He will be allowed about 15 minutes to prepare this beforehand. He may make a few written notes, but must not write a prepared speech.
- Section C** (2–3 mins. approx.) The student reads one part of a dialogue, the other part being read by the teacher. The student should be given time to prepare his part before reading. Particular attention should be paid to intonation, stress and rhythm.
- Section D** (2–3 mins. approx.) In this part of the examination the student will be expected to make a suitable response to *three* different situations. In these Tests *five* situations have been given to enable the teacher to cover a wider variety of situations when preparing students for the examination.

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TEST ONE

PAPER 1: COMPOSITION (3 hours)

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

Section A

1. **Either** (a) Write an account of any experience that has been decisive in influencing your way of life.
- or** (b) Loneliness – its problems and how to combat them.
2. **Either** (a) Discuss the problem of living in high rise flats in cities and how this might be solved.
- or** (b) Sex and Violence: Comment on the influence such films may or may not have on present day society.

Section B

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

It would be interesting if some real authority investigated carefully the part which memory plays in painting. We look at the object with an intent regard, then at the palette, and thirdly at the canvas. The canvas receives a message dispatched usually a few seconds before from the natural object. But it has come through a post office en route. It has been transmitted in code. It has been turned from light into paint. It reaches the canvas a cryptogram. Not until it has been placed in its correct relation to everything else that is on the canvas can it be deciphered, is its meaning apparent, is it translated once again from mere pigment into light. And the light this time is not of Nature but of Art. The whole of this considerable process is carried through on the wings or the wheels of memory. In most cases we think it is the wings – airy and quick like a butterfly from flower to flower. But all heavy traffic and all that has to go a long journey must travel on wheels.

In painting in the open air the sequence of actions is so rapid that the process of translation into and out of pigment may seem to be unconscious. But all the greatest landscapes have been painted indoors, and often long after the first impressions were gathered. In a dim cellar the Dutch or Italian master recreated the gleaming ice of a Netherlands carnival or the lustrous sunshine of Venice or the Campagna. Here, then, is required a formidable memory of the visual kind. Not only do we develop our powers of observation, but also those of carrying the record – of carrying it through an extraneous medium and of reproducing it, hours, days, or even months after the scene has vanished or the sunlight died.

I was told by a friend that when Whistler guided a school in Paris he made his pupils observe their model on the ground floor, and then run upstairs and paint their picture piece by piece on the floor above. As they became more proficient, he put their easels up a storey higher, till at last the *élite* were scampering with their decision up six flights into the attic – praying it would not evaporate on the way. This is, perhaps, only a tale. But it shows effectively of what enormous importance a trained, accurate, retentive memory must be to an artist; and conversely what a useful exercise painting may be for the development of an accurate and retentive memory.

There is no better exercise for the would-be artist than to study and devour a picture, and then, without looking at it again, to attempt the next day to reproduce it. Nothing can more exactly measure the progress both of observation and of memory. It is still harder to compose out of many separate, well-retained impressions, aided though they be by sketches and colour notes, a new, complete conception. But this is the only way in which great landscapes have been painted – or can be painted.

- (a) "It reaches the canvas a cryptogram." (l. 6)
Why is the writer's use of the word "cryptogram" particularly apt in this context?
- (b) "And the light this time is not of Nature but of Art." What does the author mean by saying this?
- (c) What distinction does the writer make between "the wings" and "the wheels" of memory?
- (d) Comment on the writer's statement that "all the greatest landscapes have been painted indoors".
- (e) In the sentence "... till at last the *élite* were scampering with their decision up six flights of stairs ..." why is the word *scampering* used by the writer?
- (f) Explain the difference between the two statements:
 - (a) "But it shows effectively of what enormous importance a trained, accurate, retentive memory must be to an artist."
 - (b) "... what a useful exercise painting may be for the development of an accurate or retentive memory."
- (g) "Nothing can more exactly measure the progress both of observation and memory."
What is the connection of this statement with the writer's general theme?

PAPER 2: READING COMPREHENSION (1¼ hours)

Section A

In this section you must choose the word or phrase, A, B, C, D or E which best completes each sentence. Give one answer only to each question.

- 1 John says that his present job does not provide him with enough _____ for his organising ability.
A scope B space C capacity D range E extension
- 2 Accuracy is _____ to the programming of computers.
A elemental B elementary C fundamental
D characteristic E influential
- 3 The Government's motion on Pension Increases _____ by a large majority.
A was dismissed B was defeated C was discarded
D was deposed E was dispersed
- 4 The vacuum cleaner is a valuable labour-saving _____ for the busy housewife.
A piece B motor C engine D device E instrument
- 5 I have no hesitation in saying that Miss Jones is a most responsible and _____ worker.
A conscientious B consequential C conscious
D conclusive E considerable
- 6 If you don't lift that saucepan carefully, it will spill and you may _____ yourself.
A skim B peel C scald D skin E singe
- 7 The generation _____ makes it difficult for parents to understand their children's opinions.
A division B gap C partition D interval E separation
- 8 The completion of the new Town Hall has been _____ owing to a strike.
A held off B held down C held in D held up
E held on
- 9 Colour-blind people often find it difficult _____ between blue and green.
A to separate B to compare C to contrast D to relate
E to distinguish
- 10 Most great artists are exceptionally _____ people.
A sensitized B sensitive C sensuous D sensory
E senseless
- 11 Mr Sanders has been asked _____ the next meeting of the Library Committee.
A to present B to preside C to chair D to deal
E to lead
- 12 It has always been the _____ of our firm to encourage staff to take part in social activities.
A policy B plan C campaign D procedure E plot

- 13 The statue in the city square _____ the soldiers who lost their lives in the Great War.
A celebrates B commemorates C reminds D recaptures
E remembers
- 14 On religious feast days _____ of the local saint is carried in procession through the streets of the town.
A a copy B a prototype C a design D an effigy
E a reproduction
- ✓ 15 It is a pity that George is so _____ in his choice of friends.
A indifferent B undefined C undistinguished
D indiscriminate E indistinguishable
- 16 Inflation is the first problem that the new Government will have _____.
A to grip B to tackle C to seize D to grasp
E to clasp
- 17 Simon has never had a settled career, he has always lived _____.
A at the ready B on the turn C round the bend
D by his wits E up his sleeve
- ✓ 18 The diamond in my grandmother's ring was quite _____. It was a perfect specimen.
A spotless B refined C unstained D flawless
E untarnished
- 19 When his father died, John _____ a great deal of money.
A went into B looked into C made into D brought into
E came into
- 20 Our Borough Council has increased our _____ by 45% this year.
A levies B dues C rates D capitations E accounts
- 21 Reminders must be sent out to all customers whose accounts are more than a month _____.
A indebted B overdue C unpaid D unbalanced
E insolvent
- 22 The burglar was taken to the Police Station and _____ with breaking and entering.
A indicted B prosecuted C accused D tried
E charged
- 23 The sea was so _____ that some of the passengers in the pleasure boat felt seasick.
A gusty B breezy C runny D wavy E choppy
- 24 It has been decided to hold a Public _____ into the cause of the accident.
A Inquiry B Autopsy C Interrogation D Trial
E Examination
- 25 Peter is always _____ about how well he plays football.
A vaunting B puffing C flaunting D parading
E boasting
- 26 The deer in the Park are so accustomed to being fed by visitors that they are quite _____.
A trained B tame C servile D nerveless E domestic

- 27 The lecturer spoke so fast that I found it hard _____ what he was saying.
A to take in B to take out C to take over D to take up
E to take away
- 28 Visitors to the Zoo are asked not _____ the monkeys.
A to fret B to nag C to tease D to bite E to peck
- 29 Owing to the warm weather, there has been _____ of strawberries this year.
A a swarm B an overflow C a redundancy D an affluence
E a glut
- 30 I like classical music, but I don't _____ to know anything about it.
A assume B pretend C imagine D simulate E believe
- 31 Georgina will never become a good actress until she stops taking _____ to any form of criticism.
A reproach B exemption C exception D resentment
E indignation
- 32 We are forwarding the goods in _____ with your instructions.
A agreement B accordance C accord D concord
E assent
- 33 In response to our advertisement, two couples are coming _____ the flat tomorrow afternoon.
A to turn over B to get over C to run over D to see over
E to pass over
- 34 The ambulance men took the injured climber down the mountain on _____.
A a stretcher B a cot C a couch D a hammock
E a bedstead
- 35 Many essential foods had _____ during World War II.
A to be divided B to be allotted C to be rationed
D to be proportioned E to be separated
- 36 Mr Stevens assured me that he never bought _____ that were advertised on TV.
A productions B products C projects D prospects
E projections
- 37 While he was in hospital, the soldier's wound _____ twice a day.
A was healed B was changed C was dressed D was cured
E was relieved
- 38 The President's personal _____ never left his side during the State Visit.
A sentinel B protector C defender D bodyguard
E lifeguard
- 39 The condition of the castle walls _____ over the years.
A has deteriorated B has depreciated C has decomposed
D has degenerated E has declined
- 40 Manufacturers hope that the Motor Show will _____ car sales in Britain.
A lift B inflate C boom D advance E boost

Section B

After each of the passages in this section there are a number of questions or unfinished statements about the passage, each with four suggested answers. Choose the one you think best. **Give one answer only** to each question. Read each passage right through before choosing your answers.

First Passage

The train began to slow down among the fields. I looked out and saw a wooden platform, and a board with "Aberdovey" on it. And there, too, was Arthur looking anxiously up and down the train. With him was a large vicar, overflowing with boisterous greetings, as I got out.

- 5 "We may as well walk up," said Arthur, "I fear there's no taxi to be had." As we left the station he pointed to a black box on wheels, drawn by an unbelievably old horse, driven by an unbelievably old man. "That is the Aberdovey bus plying between station and town. You tell old Rushell where you want to be put down, climb in, bang the door as a sign that you are safe, and in time
10 he starts. We shall see him presently on the road; it's about all the traffic we have."

- It was a goodish walk from the station, for the town straggled along between the hills and the estuary, including on its way a real port with a bright-funnelled little steamer tied up at the quay. I was amused with the walk and glad to stretch
15 my legs after being cooped up so long. The vicar accompanied us most of the way, not from parochial duty, as I at first imagined, but, as I learned later, because he had nothing else to do, and my arrival was a bit of an event, a trifle to add to the gossip. I was amazed at the way in which both he and Arthur turned on Welsh, as though from a tap, whenever they met an acquaintance, which
20 was about every hundred yards.

- At last the vicar said good-bye. He was very stout and didn't want to do our final climb. The tiny house that Arthur had obtained for his mother was at the end of a tiny row, lodged precariously on a tiny ledge of the hillside. We could reach the house only by a rough and very steep path. At the open door stood
25 Mrs Hughes, with a "Well, well, well, and here you are at last!" It is curious how a mere tone of voice can make you feel at home at once. A meal was all ready, and as I fell upon it heartily I was able to amuse Arthur and his mother with the story of my journey; he, poor fellow, had been at the station since two o'clock, off and on.

- 41 The vicar who met Arthur at the station

A was bursting with news
B was overwhelmed with emotion
C welcomed him exuberantly
D greeted him unenthusiastically

- 42 The writer and his friends didn't think it was worth taking the bus because

A it didn't go far enough
B it only went from the station
C they didn't want to ride in a black box
D the horse was too old to walk uphill

- 43 According to Arthur, if you wanted to take the Aberdovey bus you had to
- A be content to go when the driver was ready
 - B be ready to start on time
 - C get in and give directions to the driver
 - D signal to the driver when to get in
- 44 In line 12 of the passage the expression “a goodish walk” refers to
- A the pleasant scenery
 - B the distance covered
 - C the winding roads
 - D the healthy air
- 45 From the passage we understand that the writer was glad to walk as
- A he liked walking long distances
 - B he found walking amusing
 - C he had long legs
 - D he was stiff after his long journey
- 46 The writer first thought that the vicar accompanied Arthur and him
- A from boredom
 - B from politeness
 - C out of a sense of duty
 - D to obtain information
- 47 The house that Arthur’s mother lived in was
- A on a by-pass
 - B on the highway
 - C in a lay-by
 - D off the beaten track
- 48 From information given in the passage, it would appear that
- A Arthur and the vicar spoke only Welsh
 - B Only Arthur and the vicar spoke Welsh
 - C Arthur and the vicar only spoke Welsh sometimes
 - D Arthur and the vicar only spoke Welsh to each other
- 49 How do we know that Mrs Hughes was glad to meet the writer?
- A from the words she said
 - B by the way she spoke
 - C from her homely appearance
 - D from her curious voice
- 50 What makes us think that the writer arrived later than expected?
- A she said the train had been delayed
 - B Arthur had been waiting at the station since two o’clock
 - C Arthur had had to make frequent trips to the station
 - D she said the journey had been amusing

Second Passage

I assume that the desirability of a school book stall needs no urging. Many schools sell food and toys. If we do not sell books it is surely strange? Many schools serve areas where book shops do not exist and the only books brought before children for buying are the dubious selections of supermarkets. More-
5 over even in communities where a good book shop is available the guidance which can be given at the book stall is valuable, as we soon found.

Essentially the school book stall is an extension of the encouragement and guidance in private reading which is part of the work of the English teacher. The first essential then, in setting up shop is a teacher particularly interested in
10 children reading and in building up as wide as possible a knowledge of books to suit the school's range of pupils.

Given the teacher, the next requirement is a bookseller willing to supply you. In some cases you will be able to obtain your books on credit, paying as you sell, but if the school can find a sum to purchase its stock, or at least a part of
15 it, this is a great help.

Having found your supplier you then approach the Publisher's Association for a Book Agent's licence. The licence entitles you to a discount on your purchases through your chosen supplier, the usual discount being 10 per cent with service. Service usually consists of delivery and a sale or return arrange-
20 ment, the latter essential in allowing you to be enterprising and experimental in your stock. Without service a slightly higher discount is given but the former arrangement is clearly preferable.

The biggest, indeed the only considerable, cost in running the book stall is the occasional theft of a book and this may well vary from school to school but the
25 presence of the teacher and the alertness of the assistants is largely deterrent, and the discount should cover this and any other smaller expenses. Browsing is essential. The books must be handled. You cannot keep them safe and immaculate behind glass.

For equipment the only essentials are some tables on which to display the
30 books and a cupboard to store them in. Incidentally an arrangement of books with covers rather than spines visible seems to be vastly more attractive and accessible to children who have not the habit of browsing. A single way out past the cash desk is helpful to security and we record details of each purchase including the age of the buyer both for reordering and as interesting information
35 on reading habits.

Initially we stocked two hundred titles and the selection has grown to close on a thousand. It is convenient if cash or credit allow you to have duplicate copies of popular titles. What is stocked must depend on the teacher in charge. What you are prepared to sell in the cause of encouraging interest in reading
40 will obviously be an individual judgment. Sales for their own sake are in the school context obviously purposeless and the teacher needs to be able to explain to interested parents why he thought a given book valuable for a certain child.

There are always more offers of help from pupils than we can accept. The assistants serve, recommend, order, make posters and arrange displays. Some
45 of the least able pupils have worked devotedly at the book stall.

Publicity is vital. We have two display cases on the school approach containing forty books changed fortnightly and they arouse a lot of interest. Teachers' recommendations, book lists, beginnings of stories read to classes, do much. Some classes buy a book a week between them. The book stall is always open
50 on such occasions as Parents' Evenings.

We open twice a week in the lunch hour and we sell twenty to forty books a week, commercially not much but in our opinion well worth the effort.

- 51 The writer implies that the reason why a school needs a book stall is
A because children always choose the wrong books
B children find it difficult to choose books in a supermarket
C because children only like strange books
D children find it difficult to choose the right books
- 52 According to the passage the teacher who runs a book stall should be
A interested in reading children's books
B interested in children's ability to read
C interested in reading to children
D interested in writing children's books
- 53 The writer suggests that it is advantageous for the school to
A invest in a reasonable stock at the outset
B invest in surplus stock from a bookseller
C be able to sell books on credit
D be able to pay cash on delivery
- 54 Having obtained a licence the buyer is then entitled to
A select the bookseller of his choice
B retail books at a lower price
C be a member of the Publisher's Association
D buy books below the retail price
- 55 To what does "this may well vary" refer (l. 24)?
A The expenditure on books
B The number of books stolen
C The vigilance of the assistants
D The number of books stocked
- 56 In the opinion of the writer children should
A only touch books with clean hands
B spend their spare time looking at books
C look at books at their leisure
D only touch clean books
- 57 What is one of the ways of discovering the books that children prefer?
A by observing the children as they leave
B by recording the children's ages
C by noting which children buy books
D by noting which books children buy
- 58 "What is stocked must depend on" (l. 38)
A good taste
B considered opinion
C unanimous decision
D indiscriminate judgment

- 59 The writer considered one of the contributing factors to the successful running of the book stall was assistance from
- A over eager children
 - B disabled children
 - C children of low potential
 - D children of all round ability
- 60 The school makes it possible for the children to know what books are available by
- A rearranging all of the books every two weeks
 - B arranging fortnightly visits to the book stall
 - C exhibiting books to advantage
 - D holding regular exhibitions of books

PAPER 3: USE OF ENGLISH (3 hours)

SECTION A

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

At the end of the slope he _____ (1) a thousand feet and came down in the _____ (2) of snow upon a slope even steeper than the one _____ (3). Down this he was whirled, stunned and insensible, but without a _____ (4) broken in his body; and _____ (5) at last came to gentler slopes, and rolled out and lay _____ (6), buried in a softening heap of the white masses that had accompanied and saved him. He came _____ (7) with a dim fancy that he was ill in bed; then _____ (8) his position with a mountaineer's intelligence, and worked himself loose and, after a moment or _____ (9), he saw the stars. He rested flat on his chest for a space, _____ (10) where he was and _____ (11) had happened to him. He explored his limbs and discovered that several of his buttons were gone. His knife had gone from his pocket and his hat was lost _____ (12) he had tied it under his _____ (13). He decided that he _____ (14) had fallen, and looked

_____ (15) to see, exaggerated by the ghastly light of the moon, the tremendous flight he had taken. For a while he _____ (16) gazing blankly at that vast pale cliff _____ (17) above. Its phantasmal, mysterious beauty held _____ (18) for a space, and then he was _____ (19) with a paroxysm of sobbing laughter. After a long interval, he became _____ (20) that he was near the lower edge of the snow.

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

Example: They say Mr Jones is a very good administrator

Answer: Mr Jones is said to be a very good administrator

Is it absolutely necessary to answer those letters today?

1 Do those letters?

It is impossible for me to catch an earlier train.

2 There is

How high do you think the tallest building in New York is?

3 What?

The Managing Director said very little about the proposed merger.

4 The proposed merger

I shan't accept that appointment if the salary is too low.

5 I shall only

Who is the owner of this briefcase?

6 Who does?

Increasing the tax on household goods is bound to cause trouble.

7 It's asking