

PRACTICE TESTS for PROFICIENCY

Kathy Gude

BELL & HYMAN

Teacher's Edition

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for
PROFICIENCY
Kathy Gude

BELL & HYMAN
LONDON

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Some of the above extracts have been adapted for educational purposes.

The author thanks her husband Peter for all his help during the preparation of this book and also Susie Koehne for applying for the permissions.

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18-20	Excellent	No mistakes, good length, varied material, resourceful.
16-17	Very good	Good selection of task, ambitious and natural in style.
13-15	Good	Selection appropriate, freedom from basic error to maintain theme.
8-11	Pass	Clear selection of task, reasonably correct and natural.
3-7	Weak	Hard to pass level, is general topic, but with either numerous errors or too elementary or translated in style.
0-4	Very poor	Basic errors, narrowness of vocabulary.

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18-20	Excellent	Very good, varied, and controlled in language and expression.
16-17	Very good	Good, varied, and controlled in language and expression.
12-15	Good	Good, varied, and controlled in language and expression.
8-11	Pass	Clear, varied, and controlled in language and expression.
5-7	Weak	Basic, varied, and controlled in language and expression.
0-4	Very poor	Basic, varied, and controlled in language and expression.

Author's Note

*based on information published by the University of
Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate*

These test papers are in line with the current syllabus for the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency. They are designed to be international in subject matter and to have a communicative approach. There are five tests in this book and each is made up of the five papers in the examination. A total of 180 marks is awarded for the whole exam.

Paper One Reading Comprehension

This paper consists of multiple choice lexical and passage items. One mark is awarded for each correct lexical item and two marks for each correct passage item. Although the key to each item is the only possible correct answer, to a non-native speaker some distractors may seem plausible. There is, however, only one correct item to be selected on the grounds of what is semantically correct and appropriate in the context. The 25 lexical items usually test areas of language roughly as follows:

<i>Number of items</i>	<i>What is being tested</i>
8	grammatical rules and constraints
8	semantic sets and collocations
9	semantic precision; synonyms and antonyms; adverbial phrases and connectives; prefixes and affixes; phrasal verbs

The passages in Section B consist almost entirely of authentic material. It is important that students are exposed to as much 'genuine' English printed matter as possible, i.e. newspapers, magazines and advertising matter, in their preparation for this exam. The total marks for this paper will be 40.

Paper Two Composition

Here students will choose two essays only, one of which may be on a prepared literary text. The essays will be marked for fluency, accuracy, naturalness and appropriateness of language. The relevance and organisation of the material will also be taken into account. The table below shows how the marks are classified and what is expected at each level.

18–20	Excellent	No mistakes, good length, varied material, resourceful and controlled in language and expression.
16–17	Very good	Good realisation of task, ambitious and natural in style.
12–15	Good	Sufficient assurance and freedom from basic error to maintain theme.
8–11	Pass	Clear realisation of task, reasonably correct and natural.
5–7	Weak	Near to pass level in general scope, but with either numerous errors or too elementary or translated in style.
0–4	Very poor	Basic errors, narrowness of vocabulary.

Paper Three Use of English

This paper is semi-objective in its approach to testing and tests both the usage and the use of the language. Section A consists of a cloze exercise based on a passage, a transformation exercise testing the use of tenses, inversions, prepositions etc. and two other exercises which vary in form. They may test vocabulary, dialogue sequences, reported speech, etc. Section B provides a systematic test of ability to interpret and summarise and carries 20% of the total marks. 40 marks in all are awarded for this paper.

Paper Four Listening Comprehension

This section represents the greatest innovation in the 1984 syllabus. The texts are all recorded and the tasks set for the students consist of anything from box-ticking to marking routes on maps. The text itself can be a dialogue, an announcement or a radio broadcast and gives the student what is possibly the most challenging task in the whole exam. Texts will be heard twice and students will be given time to mark in their answers. A total of 20 marks will be given for this paper.

As much exposure as possible to radio broadcasts and taped dialogues is advisable in the preparation of students for this part of the exam.

Paper Five Interview

Pictures are used as a conversation stimulus. Students should be able to describe a variety of pictures easily and fluently and answer questions put to them regarding the example given. The second task will be to identify in a short piece of dialogue who might be speaking and in what circumstances. The dialogue is then read aloud, paying particular attention to stress and intonation as well as pronunciation. The role-play may take any of the following forms:

- 1 Eliciting information by question and Yes/No answer on a chosen theme.
- 2 Offering definitions, or opinions on specific objects.
- 3 'Problem solving' discussion on situations described or pictured.
- 4 Short talk on a briefly prepared topic leading to questions and opinions.
- 5 Discussion on one of the optional texts.

Candidates may choose to be examined in groups of three with an examiner. Candidates should show that they are able to participate in a serious discussion and show competence and confidence in doing so. 40 marks are allocated for this section and will be awarded in the following way:

<i>Picture conversation</i>	Fluency Grammatical accuracy
<i>Reading passage</i>	Pronunciation of individual points Stress and linking of phrases
<i>Structured communication</i>	Communicative ability
<i>Exercise</i>	Vocabulary

It is hoped that these practice tests will serve to give teacher and students alike useful practice in preparing for the Cambridge Proficiency examination of 1984 and beyond.

Kathy Gude
London
September 1984

TEST ONE

Time allowed
1 hour

PAPER 1 Reading comprehension

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 or D against the number of each item, 1 to 25, for the word or phrase you choose.

1 What he told me was a _____ of lies.

A pack B load C mob D flock

2 We can only give you the _____ number of refugees crossing the border at the moment.

A suggestive B nebulous C approximate D unclear

3 We regret to inform you that the materials you ordered are _____.

A out of work B out of stock C out of reach D out of practice

4 The _____ listened attentively to every word the vicar said in his sermon.

A sightseers B congregation C spectators D audience

5 In order not to jerk the vehicle you must release the _____ gently.

A windscreen B dashboard C clutch D indicator

6 _____ I realised the consequences, I would never have contemplated getting involved.

A Had B If C When D Unless

7 Look, Officer. I'm not drunk. I'm as _____ as a judge.

A calm B steady C clear D sober

8 Well, we did have a terrible row but we've _____ it up now.

A turned B cleaned C sorted D made

9 There are five _____ mistakes in this picture. Can you find them and win a prize?

A presumptuous B intensive C deliberate D instrumental

10 We cannot judge a person simply on the _____ of his education.

A condition B basis C principle D theory

11 I'm afraid I know nothing about the fight for independence. It was _____.

A behind the times B at the same time C before my time
D for the time being

12 Picasso, _____ works inspired many artists, lived until he was a ripe old age.

A who B which C what D whose

13 We believe that the cumulative effects of renewed prosperity will _____ expectations.

- A overcome B surpass C undermine D succeed

14 It is _____ pity that you cannot come to the wedding.

- A such a B so C such as D many a

15 In a _____ of rage he tried to kill his own brother.

- A temper B period C fit D mood

16 At this stage we cannot tell you _____ you have been selected for the job or not.

- A unless B although C whenever D whether

17 His application for a visa was turned _____ by the consulate.

- A aside B down C out D over

18 The relationship that matters most in the life of a _____ is the one between him and his constituency party.

- A captain B politician C manager D judge

19 The _____ question in this case is whether the accused had a motive for this crime or not.

- A forcible B supreme C valuable D crucial

20 There is an increasing _____ nowadays to make films portraying violence.

- A trend B surge C direction D tradition

21 Unfortunately not all of us obtain our just _____ in this life.

- A demands B gains C deserts D wins

22 At this hour the street was _____ as everyone was fast asleep in bed.

- A wretched B deserted C devastated D denuded

23 This is _____ the most difficult job I have ever tackled.

- A by rights B by all means C by the way D by far

24 I'm afraid, Mr Jones, that the bank is obliged to refuse your application for an extended _____.

- A estimate B overdraft C compensation D balance

25 A policeman should never drink alcohol _____ duty.

- A during B with C on D at

SECTION B

In this section you will find after each of the passages a number of questions or unfinished statements about the passage. You must choose the one which you think fits best: A, B, C or D.

First
passage

International airlines have rediscovered the business traveller, the man or woman who regularly jets from country to country as part of the job. This does not necessarily mean that airlines ever abandoned their business travellers. Indeed, companies like Lufthansa and Swissair would rightly argue that they have always catered best for the executive class passenger. But many lines could be accused of concentrating too heavily in the recent past on attracting passengers by volume, often at the expense of the regular traveller. Too often, they have seemed geared for quantity rather than quality.

Operating a major airline in the 1980s is essentially a matter of finding the right mix of passengers. The airlines need to fill up the back end of their wide-bodied jets with low fare passengers, without forgetting that the front end should be filled with people who pay substantially more for their tickets.

It is no coincidence that the two major airline bankruptcies in 1982 were among the companies specialising in cheap flights. But low fares require consistently full aircraft to make flights economically viable, and in the recent recession the volume of traffic has not grown. Equally the large number of airlines jostling for the available passengers has created a huge excess of capacity. The net result of excess capacity and cut-throat competition driving down fares has been to push some airlines into collapse and leave many others hovering on the brink.

Against this grim background, it is no surprise that airlines are turning increasingly towards the business traveller to improve their rates of return. They have invested much time and effort to establish exactly what the executive demands for sitting apart from the tourists.

High on the list of priorities is punctuality; an executive's time is money. In-flight service is another area where the airlines are jostling for the executive's attention. The free drinks and headsets and better food are all part of the lure.

Another development has been the accent on seating arrangements. Regular travellers have become well versed in the debate about seat pitch – the amount of room between each passenger. And first-class passengers are now offered sleeperette seats, which, for long journeys, make it possible to snatch a proper night's sleep. Sleeperettes have proved so popular that they will soon become universal in the front end of most aircraft.

The airlines are also trying to improve things on the ground. Executive lounges are commonplace and intended to make the inevitable waiting between flights a little more bearable. Luggage handling is being improved. Regrettably, there is little the airlines can do to speed up the boring immigration and Customs process, which manages to upset and frustrate passengers of all classes in every continent.

Although it is the airlines' intention to attract executive passengers from their rivals, the airlines themselves would none the less like to change one bad habit of this kind of traveller – the expensive habit of booking a flight and then failing to turn up. The practice is particularly widespread in Europe, where businessmen frequently book return journeys home on one of several flights.

As a result, the airlines throw away a perishable commodity – the empty seat – which cannot be resold. Some airlines have attempted to thwart the practice by offering discounts to passengers who travel on their booked flight. But this inevitably means that the structure of air fares, already highly complex, becomes even more baffling.

- 26 One criticism levelled against many international airlines is that they have, in the recent past,
- A catered for the more elitist elements of society.
 - B given preferential treatment to executive clients.
 - C pampered to the needs of the regular traveller.
 - D marketed their services with the masses in mind.
- 27 One of the reasons why two major airlines went bankrupt in 1982 was that
- A the recession had reduced the overall number of air passengers.
 - B the companies failed to attract an adequate number of passengers.
 - C competition from other airlines creamed away all their trade.
 - D they introduced cheap travel for all categories of passengers.
- 28 With the intention of attracting a somewhat different type of passenger, the airlines have now begun to concentrate on
- A ensuring that the facilities offered to the executive are indeed superior.
 - B providing facilities enabling business travellers to work on board.
 - C organising activities in which first-class passengers can participate.
 - D installing sleeping compartments where more privacy is ensured.
- 29 There is, however, little hope of improvement when it comes to
- A waiting in uncomfortable airport lounges.
 - B retrieving baggage after the flight.
 - C undergoing routine clearance checks.
 - D mingling with all kinds of different passengers.
- 30 One problem which particularly frustrates the airlines arises when
- A executive passengers fail to book their seats in advance.
 - B passengers do not travel on seats they have booked.
 - C executive passengers receive large discounts on bookings.
 - D rival airlines offer empty seats to be resold.

Second
passage

At a rather sombre gathering a few years ago I was shown a photo of an enormous salmon, taken in British Columbia, which seemed to be as tall as the lady holding it. 'What a marvellous fish,' I said, 'did you have it smoked?' The reply was: 'No, it made 72 tins, the best ever result.'

This utilitarian attitude to the noblest fish in Canadian waters took my breath away. There are hundreds of ways of consuming a salmon. But to shut it in a metal box to secure something you could buy on a grocery shelf seemed a poor sort of result. It reduces fishing to the level of farming in which results are recorded in cash terms or in units of protein. It is not that I believe the angler in this case needed the food because of economic stress. He was not even in the position in which I found myself in my young days, when the odd pheasant I shot was sold to buy sausages to feed my hungry family. Pheasant might have given them ideas above their station.

Record fish are to be cherished and treated with the greatest of respect. But there are times when they are essential to life. Negley Farson, a famous journalist of his time, tells the story of how, when he was broke, he moved to a lake in British Columbia in the twenties and sustained himself with rod, gun and a typewriter until ambition or some other base motive compelled him to seek the bright lights. The picture he paints of life on his lake is idyllic. He fished and shot by fair means or foul to feed his wife and his neighbours.

It's not that I didn't have my chance. At 19 I could have slipped away from the sheep farm I was working on in New Zealand into a bush cabin surrounded by deer, trout rivers, and with rabbits to fall back on. But unlike him I had no wife at the time prepared to share the really simple life. And do the cooking which I disliked. But Farson managed to have the best of several worlds. He combined his work with fishing in a way for which I have the greatest admiration.

- 31 The salmon in the photo which the writer was shown

A was the largest the writer had ever come across.

B filled the greatest number of tins ever recorded.

C was served out of tins at a party attended by the writer.

D had been cooked by the hostess giving the party.
- 32 The writer was stunned when learning of the fate of the salmon for, in his opinion,

A it would fetch a meagre price on a grocery shelf.

B it is possible to buy more sophisticated items at a grocer's.

C record fish ought to be regarded as something special.

D salmon could be reared much more effectively on fish farms.
- 33 The writer admits that in his younger days he sold the pheasants he shot because

A the consumption of pheasants was at that time forbidden.

B he made enormous profits by trading in pheasants illegally.

C the pheasants were not considered suitable for eating.

D he regarded pheasants as food for the upper classes.
- 34 Negley Farson was a famous journalist who moved to a lake in British Columbia because he

A found himself without any money.

B wanted to discover the simple way of life.

C discovered that he was an excellent hunter.

D wanted to escape from the modern world.

- 35 Although the writer envies Farson's way of life, he felt unable to avail himself of the same kind of opportunity as

- A he was incapable of making himself a meal.
- B he disapproved of blood sports.
- C he was tied to his mundane existence on the sheep farm.
- D he would have felt too isolated in the countryside.

Third passage

'In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree.' That much everybody knows. Everybody also knows what Kubla Khan's tastes in pleasure were. But a man who decrees a pleasure-dome, be the pleasures to be indulged within it never so innocent, is asking for trouble. Ever since pleasure was discovered there have been people to disapprove of it. For my part, the most unjustifiable of all my pleasures is that which I take in what is widely regarded as the most extravagantly absurd and useless activity the human race has yet devised to waste its time on: opera.

I saw one only the other night. It had been adapted from a play, a silly enough tale to start with, which did not get any less silly by being sung instead of spoken.

And yet the pleasure it gave me on this occasion, more intensely than any production of the work has done for many years, is as great, as profound and as enriching as any of the delights that this world affords.

- 36 The quotation in the opening line seems to be from

- A a famous poem.
- B an advertising jingle.
- C a nursery rhyme.
- D a news bulletin.

- 39 According to the writer the majority of people seem to find opera

- A expensive.
- B comical.
- C futile.
- D energetic.

- 37 '... be the pleasures to be indulged within it never so innocent' means

- A because the pleasures to be enjoyed are harmless.
- B even though the pleasures to be enjoyed are harmless.
- C whenever the pleasures to be enjoyed are harmless.
- D if only the pleasures to be enjoyed are harmless.

- 40 The writer seems to find his own appreciation of opera

- A indefensible.
- B sublime.
- C unique.
- D embarrassing.

- 38 The passage suggests that

- A pleasure is universally frowned upon.
- B the writer feels that he alone understands pleasure.
- C pleasure was condemned as evil long ago.
- D certain individuals are unable to appreciate pleasure.

Time allowed
2 hours

PAPER 2 Composition

Write two only of the following composition exercises. Your answers must follow exactly the instructions given. Write in pen, not pencil. You are allowed to make alterations, but see that your work is clear and easy to read.

- 1 Write a balanced discussion on the theme 'All traffic should be banned from urban areas'. You may write in the form of a dialogue between two people, or in essay form. (About 350 words)
- 2 Write a letter applying for the job advertised below, stating your relevant qualifications and experience. Your answer should not exceed 200 words.

PHARMACIST

Currently the Company has a vacancy for a part-time Pharmacist, male or female, to work two days per week, at our branch in

CHISWICK

Benefits include:- Competitive salary, staff discount, and profit sharing bonus after a qualifying period.

Apply to the Manager in writing, giving details of qualifications and experience.

**ROOTS THE CHEMIST LTD.,
16-18 Pulton Road,
Chiswick**

Roots

- 3 Write a descriptive account of a visit to a famous historic monument. (About 350 words)
- 4 Write a report for a news item on TV or radio news about a serious fire which took place last night. (About 200 words)

Note The following is a typical literature question:

- 5 Based on your reading of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, answer the following question:
Discuss the use of the supernatural in *Macbeth*, with particular consideration of its effectiveness in a modern performance.

Time allowed
2 hours

PAPER 3 Use of English

SECTION A

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

Almost _____ (1) a year ago, in a small village in Northern India, Andrea Milliner was _____ (2) on the leg by a dog. 'It must have fancied your nice white flesh', joked the doctor _____ (3) he dressed the wound. Andrea and her husband Nigel were _____ (4) not to let _____ (5) spoil their holiday, and thought no more _____ (6) the dog, which had meanwhile quietly disappeared from the _____ (7). 'We didn't realise there was _____ (8) wrong with it', says Nigel. 'It was such a small, likeable dog that rabies _____ (9) enter my mind.' _____ (10), six weeks later, 23-year-old Andrea was dead. The dog had been rabid. No one had thought it _____ (11) to give her anti-rabies treatment. When, back home in England, she began to _____ (12) the classic symptoms – unable to drink, catching her breath – her own doctor put it _____ (13) to hysteria. Even when she was loaded into an ambulance, hallucinating, recoiling in terror at _____ (14) sight of water, she was directed _____ (15) the nearest mental hospital. But _____ (16) her symptoms received little attention in life, in death they achieved a publicity close to hysteria. Cases _____ (17) Andrea are rare, but rabies is still one of the most feared diseases _____ (18) to man. The disease is transmitted by a bite _____ (19) a lick from an infected animal. It can, in very _____ (20) circumstances, be inhaled – two scientists died of it after inhaling bat dung in a cave in Texas.

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

EXAMPLE: Someone should take care of him now that he is old.

ANSWER: He should be taken care of now that he is old.

- a) She just had time to put up her umbrella before the rain came down in torrents.
No sooner _____
- b) 'Why didn't you report the incident to the police last week?' the officer asked the frightened witness.
The officer wanted to know _____
- c) The Presidential visit attracted such an enormous crowd that all traffic came to a standstill.
So many _____
- d) A fire destroyed most of the old city of London in the 1600s.
The destruction _____
- e) He hasn't been back to his home town for over 20 years now.
It is _____