

A new
**CERTIFICATE OF
PROFICIENCY
ENGLISH COURSE**
with
PRACTICE AND TEST PAPERS
THIRD EDITION

ONALOW

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ONA LOW



Edward Arnold

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**First Certificate in English Course for
foreign students**

Speak English Fluently, 1 & 2.

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Preface to the First Edition

The student who embarks on a course leading to the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English Examination should already have an adequate command of English to be able to deal simply but reasonably correctly with most everyday situations.

Preparation for the Certificate involves above all two aspects of more advanced language study:

(i) An extension of the student's vocabulary and power of comprehension to cover a wide variety of subjects ranging over cultural, scientific, all kinds of intellectual and utilitarian topics.

(ii) The acquisition of such facility in expression that he is able to present his ideas not only in correct English but in the language best adapted to his subject and likewise to appreciate the skilful use of language in the texts he studies.

A student who passes the Proficiency Examination at a satisfactory level should be sufficiently at home in the language to derive from any kind of study course in English a benefit equal to that of an English student of comparable educational background.

While this book has the primary purpose of preparing the student for the examination, it should prove useful to any advanced learner who wishes to achieve the foregoing aims.

Throughout the text there is no attempt at simplification as at this stage the student should be learning new words of all kinds in their contexts the whole time and should be developing confidence in his ability to understand fully English of a reasonably advanced level.

Preface to the Third Edition

Considerable changes now introduced into the Certificate of Proficiency examination syllabus have necessitated the replacement of a good deal of the material in the existing edition of this book.

Here is a summarised version of the requirements of the new syllabus:

1. COMPOSITION (3 hours)

A Two compositions

B A passage to test understanding of its contents and the writer's technique

2. READING COMPREHENSION (1½ hours)

A Forty multiple-choice vocabulary items

B Twenty multiple-choice items based on 2 or 3 passages

3. USE OF ENGLISH (3 hours)

A Exercises to test control of English usage and structure

B Prose passage(s) to test the ability to understand, interpret and summarise

C A composition (letter, report, etc.) based on information provided

4. LISTENING COMPREHENSION (30 minutes)

5. INTERVIEW (12 minutes)

A Questions based on or related to a photograph

B A two-minute speech

C Reading aloud of a character part in a play

D An appropriate and socially acceptable response to a situation.

With the exception of Listening Comprehension exercises, and of essay-writing (Composition A), the latter fully covered in existing chapters, material representative of all other sections of the examination is provided in the eight new Practice Papers. In addition model Composition, Reading Comprehension and Use of English test papers now conclude the book.

A Key to this course is published separately.

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8 READING, VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION

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Part I Comprehension and Practice

PRACTICE PAPER 1

I READING COMPREHENSION

Section A

In this section you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. Write down each number and beside it the letters A, B, C, D and E. Then in each case cross through the letter before the word or phrase you choose. Give one answer only to each question.

- Only hotel guests have the — of using the private beach.
A occasion B possibility C privilege D habit
E permission
- The lorry was travelling at a high —.
A rate B quickness C acceleration D speed
E rapidity
- The children were having a wonderful time — on the frozen lake.
A slipping B gliding C slithering D skidding
E sliding
- Our new house is very — for the office as I can get there in five minutes.
A comfortable B suitable C available D convenient
E pleasant
- Beside washing that cut, put some — on it in case you have got some dirt in it.
A medicine B disinfectant C antiseptic D antidote
E deodorant
- The Fosters believe so firmly in family equality that they never go to visit their friends without their children's —.
A allowance B permit C admission D concession
E permission
- She had just — the shell of the hard-boiled egg and was starting to peel it off.
A snapped B cracked C fractured D shattered
E burst
- New mineral resources may be discovered during the forthcoming Antarctic —.
A excursion B voyage C expedition D migration
E campaign

9. Although he was neat and well-groomed, he was slightly unattractive in ____.
- A outlook B look C appearance D expression
E feature
10. The bishop preached a farewell sermon to a(n) ____ that filled the church to overflowing.
- A congregation B audience C procession D crowd
E reunion

II READING COMPREHENSION

Section B

In this section you will find after the passage a number of questions or unfinished statements about it, each with four suggested ways of answering or finishing it. You must choose the one which you think fits best. Write the numbers 1-10 and beside each, the letters A, B, C and D. Then in each case, cross through the letter you choose. Give one answer only in each case. Read the passage right through before choosing your answers.

One of the oldest seafaring ships in the world has been reconstructed after seven years' patient archaeological work. The ship, a 60-foot sailing vessel, sank off the coast of Cyprus in the days of Alexander the Great around the year 300 B.C. Its discovery and restoration have now thrown new light on the

5 ancient trade routes and shipbuilding techniques.

What makes the Cyprus ship so informative is the remarkable state of preservation—mainly due to an unusual feature of its design. The hull was sheathed on the outside with lead that was fixed to the timber with bronze tacks which helped the wooden frame survive 2000 years under the sea.

10 The first clue to the wreck's existence came in 1964 when a sponge diver from the present-day resort of Kyrenia came across a pile of amphorae (ancient storage jugs). Unfortunately his diving air supply ran out just at that moment, so that he had no time to mark the spot. It took him three more years and hundreds of dives before he chanced upon them again.

15 He reported his find to an underwater archaeological team from the University of Pennsylvania, which was surveying the Cypriot coasts for wrecks. After checking his description, the team decided to concentrate their resources on the Kyrenia ship, and over the next two years a team of no fewer than 50 archaeologists and divers took part in the excavation.

20 With the help of a metal detector, the team discovered that wreckage lay scattered over a 2000-square-foot area, often buried beneath sand and seaweed. Each item was carefully photographed in its place, and a system of plastic grids stretched over the whole site so that it could be accurately mapped.

25 More than 400 amphorae lay buried in the sand. The ship had been carrying a cargo of wine and almonds. More than 9000 of these were found in or nearby the amphorae, their outer shells still perfectly preserved. As well as

these, there were 29 stone grain mills, being carried both as cargo and as ballast. These were carefully stowed in three rows parallel to the axis of the keel.

30

As well as the main cargo, there were other small finds. Four wooden spoons, four oil jugs, four salt dishes and four drinking cups suggested the number of crew on the ship's last voyage. There was an axe, and near the intricately carved mast lay a wooden pulley, used to raise and lower the yard. A bronze cauldron, used perhaps to prepare the crew's meals, was also lying in the wreck.

Of five bronze coins found, none dated earlier than 306 B.C. Carbon-14 analysis of the almond cargo pinpointed their date at about 288 B.C., but that of the ship's planking suggested an earlier date of 370 B.C. Thus the Kyrenia ship was more than 80 years old the day she sank—a long life for a wooden hull and proof of the good craftsmanship of her builder.

40

Raising the delicate timbers of the ship presented grave problems. The archaeologists decided that trying to lift them out in one piece would be too risky. Instead the hull was cut into sections on the site by an electric underwater saw. Then each carefully labelled piece was raised to the surface by a lifting balloon. Once out in the air again, each timber section was treated with a preservative called polyethylene glycol. This replaces the water in the weakened wood so that the timbers do not disintegrate when they dry.

45

Until the discovery of the ship, little was known of the Eastern Mediterranean trading vessels, their routes or their cargoes. Thanks to the different shaped amphorae, the Kyrenia ship's last voyage can be traced. She had been threading her way southwards along the coast of Anatolia, stopping at the islands of Samos, Kos and Rhodes, before continuing eastwards to the north coast of Cyprus.

50

What calamity caused her to sink about a quarter of a mile east of the horseshoe harbour of Kyrenia remains a mystery. There are no traces of fire on board, which rules out the possibility of lightning. Perhaps a sudden autumn storm simply caught her four-man crew unawares. They seem to have abandoned ship, for no human remains were found on board.

55

1. The discovery of the ship is important to students of early ships and their routes because

A as the oldest surviving ship it is a valuable source of information
B it is a useful means of extending their existing knowledge
C its discovery has changed completely their existing ideas
D this provides the only information about early Mediterranean trading ships that has come their way.

2. Archaeologists were able to learn a lot about the construction of the ship because

A it was discovered only a short distance from land
B there were various forms of tools and equipment
C it was in a surprisingly good condition
D a lot of its cargo still remained

3. How was the first discovery of the ship made?
 - A by chance
 - B as a result of an archaeological survey
 - C with the help of a metal detector
 - D by underwater photography
4. When informed of the discovery the archaeological team decided
 - A to narrow down their investigation to this ship
 - B to include this research in their programme
 - C to organise a team to search for other wrecks in this area
 - D to examine at the same time other nearby wrecks
5. Which of the following tasks is not stated as having formed part of the research?
 - A recording pictures of the finds
 - B making an exact plan of the position of the finds
 - C locating all the parts of the ship and its cargo in that area
 - D storing everything carefully in rows
6. The stone grain mills were being carried to
 - A provide flour for food for the crew
 - B contain stores of corn
 - C keep the ship low enough in the water
 - D strengthen the structure of the ship
7. The approximate date of the shipwreck could be decided from
 - A the dates on the coins found
 - B the analysis of the age of the materials from which the ship was built
 - C the scientifically-determined age of some of the cargo
 - D a knowledge of the date of the building of the ship together with her known age
8. The archaeologists faced a considerable problem in raising the ship because
 - A the structure would be extremely heavy to bring to the surface as a whole
 - B raising all the separate parts would be a long and tedious job
 - C the materials were very frail and could be damaged
 - D the raising of such a large structure might involve some of the men in accidents
9. The ship's route could be determined from
 - A the discovery that she had been travelling southwards and eastwards
 - B the various containers she was carrying
 - C the types of wines on board
 - D the fact that she had sunk just near Kyrenia

10. Which of the following items of information is quite certainly correct?
- A there were no survivors of the shipwreck
 - B the disaster took the crew by surprise
 - C no member of the crew was drowned as a result of the wreck
 - D a considerable amount of the cargo remained on board

III USE OF ENGLISH

Section A

1 Fill each of the numbered blanks in the passage with one or two suitable words.

We were having such — (1) weather in London that Roberta suggested — (2) Christmas week in an Italian seaside resort we had visited the previous summer. We thought this idea — (3) for — (4) day or two and then — (5) our minds to go. When I asked my brother whether I could — (6) some money from him, he advised me — (7) anywhere — (8) that time of year but finally — (9) help us when I promised faithfully — (10) him back the loan from my next month's salary. The manager of a local tourist office gave us some advice and a lot of useful — (11) about our — (12) from London to Italy, hotels and the type of clothes — (13) with us for Christmas week. "You'd better — (14) London at — (15) two days before Christmas if you can, if not earlier, so — (16) be — (17) plenty of time for the Christmas Eve celebrations," he said. "I hope you enjoy — (18) much."

Now we are looking forward — (19) in a warm sunny country for a few days. But we have just heard — (20) radio that icy gales are sweeping Southern Europe while London is now enjoying blue skies and warm sunshine.

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

Example: Everybody present found fault with the committee's decision.

Nobody present

Answer: Nobody present approved of the committee's decision.

He had never been on board a ship before.

1. This was the
He kept making angry comments during the reading of the radio news.
2. While
It was your father's wish that you should become an engineer.
3. Your father wanted
"Let's take some flowers to Aunt Penelope," June suggested.
4. June suggested
Someone has stolen the Chief Constable's car.
5. The Chief Constable
As he grows older he becomes increasingly cheerful.
6. The older.
He painted his letter-box so that it looked more conspicuous.

7. He painted his letter-box red so as.
She asked a policeman the distance to the nearest post office.
8. "How
He went upstairs less quietly than he could have.
9. He went upstairs more.....
Permission for you to use the school library can be taken for granted.
10. It can be taken for granted

3 Each of the following pairs of sentences can be combined, while retaining the original meaning, by changing the first sentence so that it can form part of the second sentence. Write the new single sentence in each case.

Example: My friends offered accommodation immediately. This relieved my anxiety.

Answer: My friends' immediate offer of accommodation relieved my anxiety.

- a) He failed to complete the course. This spoilt his chances of promotion.
- b) He criticised the plan repeatedly. This exasperated everybody.
- c) The public received the news enthusiastically. This surprised no one.
- d) He signed his father's name on a cheque. This was regarded as forgery.
- e) The party tried to seize power by force. This resulted in disaster.
- f) The Government devalued the pound a second time. This caused a new monetary crisis.
- g) The workers are dissatisfied with the new wage rates. This has led to a strike threat.
- h) My friend attacked his previously-held convictions fiercely. This left me speechless.

Reading, Vocabulary and Comprehension

The World Invades London

The British may have long been a nation of shopkeepers but they are coming late to the business of tourism. For the past century it has been they who have done the touring while their own hotels have slumbered in atmosphere and inefficiency and even the pubs have closed before eleven. Now, somewhat to their bewilderment, they are having to act as hosts to a vast throng of guests, who, with dollars, francs and marks in their pockets and handbags, are the most successful invaders since the Normans and considerably more welcome. They come to enjoy the antique and traditional but are often less enchanted by the accommodation and catering, which may share the antiquity. At last, even the surprised tourist industry is beginning to open its eyes. Unfortunately it sees only insoluble problems.

For very many years London has been a business centre with hotel accommodation mainly for visiting businessmen together with other well-to-do travellers and completely inadequate for the swarms of short-stay tourists landing at Heathrow or disembarking at Dover. Some new luxury hotels have soared skywards and a fair number of Victorian houses have been combined to form 'private hotels' of standards from the comfortable to the repellent. Most hotels are expensive—beyond the means of the young teacher or secretary from abroad. The student on holiday fares worst and often finds his accommodation under the unreliable night sky.

Every morning the guard is changed at Buckingham Palace with faultless precision and gay military music. The average spectator, squeezed among thousands of others, can glimpse an occasional bearskin and touch of scarlet and at least enjoy the music. Suggestions for a second performance later in the day have been scotched by the guards' acid comment, 'We're doing a job, not acting as performing seals.' It has also been suggested that visitors should be whisked in a given time in groups through Westminster Abbey to relieve the congestion there and the same would apply to the equally-crowded St Paul's and the Tower. A vast football crowd ambles along Oxford Street and surges through the shops there, so that the Londoner leaves the field free for provincials, Americans, Australasians and a babel of exotic tongues.

As a second Westminster Abbey is impracticable and the glamour of (in fact) a slightly seedy Oxford Street remains unrivalled, this problem associated with tourism is indeed insoluble. Tourists are reminded of the charm of the West Country, the romance of Scotland, the historical interest of Stratford, Canterbury and Cambridge but to the once-in-a-lifetime visitor from Kansas City or Adelaide, London will obviously remain the three-day magnet. Other European capitals probably share these problems, and the homeward-

- 40 bound traveller must revel in swinging his arms, expanding his chest and having time and space to examine and actually enjoy his surroundings.

Notes on the passage

Line

3-4 slumbered in atmosphere and inefficiency

ATMOSPHERE is a usually pleasant feeling of the past derived from one's surroundings.

The hotels are said to have this atmosphere but to have remained too old-fashioned to do satisfactorily their job of looking after visitors.

4 pubs—public houses, places licensed for the sale of alcohol where people can get a drink usually in comfort.

21-22 with faultless precision—moving with perfect control and accuracy

23 a bearskin—a guard's high black fur hat

27 a whisk is a kitchen utensil used for beating mixtures; it is moved quickly—as the visitors would be

28 a vast football crowd—actually a crowd of shoppers, but (apparently) as big as a crowd watching a football match.

31 Australasians—people from Australia and New Zealand.

31 a babel, derived from the Tower of Babel, during the building of which, according to the Bible, everyone started speaking different languages.

Metaphors

The following words are not to be understood literally or exactly but a certain quality or meaning expressed by the word is being referred to. The tourist industry is beginning to open its eyes, which it can hardly do literally. The suggestion is that after a long period of inertia, attention is being paid to what is happening.

Here are some other examples of metaphors in the passage:

their own hotels have *slumbered* (l. 3)

the guards' *acid* comment (l. 25)

a vast *football* crowd (l. 29)

the three-day *magnet* (l. 38)

Comment on the suitability of the metaphor in each case.

Prepositions

Notice the following:

to their bewilderment (surprise, delight, etc.);

act *as* hosts; inadequate *for* the swarms; *on* holiday;

in a given time (but: start *at* a given time);

the same would apply *to* St Paul's; the tourists are reminded *of* the charm;

the traveller must revel *in* swinging his arms.