

Cambridge  
Proficiency

Examination  
Practice 3

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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. It contains 5 complete tests, based on the Proficiency examinations set in 1986 and 1987, and incorporates the modifications made to Paper 5 (the Interview) in December 1985. The examination consists of 5 papers, as follows:

### Paper 1 Reading Comprehension (1 hour)

*Section A* consists of 25 multiple-choice items in the form of a sentence with a blank to be filled by 1 of 4 words or phrases.

*Section B* consists of 15 multiple-choice items based on 2 or more reading passages of different types.

### Paper 2 Composition (2 hours)

There are 5 topics from which you choose 2. The topics include discursive, descriptive and narrative essays, a directed writing exercise and an essay based on optional reading. (In these practice tests the questions based on optional reading are set on the kind of books that are prescribed each year. These are *not* the actual books prescribed for any particular year: they are just given as examples.)

### Paper 3 Use of English (2 hours)

*Section A* contains exercises of various kinds 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.

### Paper 4 Listening Comprehension (about 30 minutes)

You answer a variety of questions on 3 or 4 recorded passages from English broadcasts, interviews, announcements, phone messages and conversations. Each passage is heard twice.

### Paper 5 Interview (15 to 20 minutes)

You take part in a conversation based on a photograph, passage and other material from authentic sources linked by theme, either with a group of other candidates or with the examiner alone. The exercises in these tests include some of the type set in the examination on optional reading.

# Practice Test 1

## PAPER 1 READING COMPREHENSION (1 hour)

Answer all questions. Indicate your choice of answer in every case on the separate answer sheet already given out, which should show your name and examination index number. Follow carefully the instructions about how to record your answers. Give one answer only to each question. Marks will not be deducted for wrong answers: your total score on this test will be the number of correct answers you give.

### 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 He told his father a long and ..... story to explain his lateness.  
A inconceivable B unconvincing C unimaginable D incredulous
- 2 He ..... me to believe that they had left the district.  
A made B led C assured D confirmed
- 3 We sat on after the meal, ..... the taste of the fine brandy.  
A indulging B sensing C sipping D savouring
- 4 That minister's ..... of party politics is well known to the public.  
A disgust B objection C dislike D opposition
- 5 At school he had a good academic record, and also ..... at sports.  
A prevailed B achieved C surpassed D excelled
- 6 But ..... some countries have ruined their agriculture, squandering money on uneconomic factories, the Ivory Coast has stuck to what it is good at.  
A after B during C when D while
- 7 Old houses have a ..... to be draughty.  
A tendency B habit C problem D characteristic
- 8 He lost his job ..... no fault of his own.  
A through B by C with D over

[2]

- 9 He was completely ..... by her tale of hardship.  
A taken away B taken down C taken in D taken up
- 10 The lecture was rather boring, but the ..... discussion proved fruitful.  
A subsequent B latter C consecutive D successive
- 11 After leaving school, Nigel decided to ..... in the army.  
A enlist B enrol C register D sign
- 12 The painting was a valuable family possession, which had been ..... from generation to generation.  
A handed over B handed down C handed out D handed across
- 13 By an unfortunate ....., the bride's sister was not invited to the wedding.  
A insult B oversight C neglect D disregard
- 14 ..... a fire, hotel guests are asked to remain calm.  
A As a result of B In the event of C By reason of D In the time of
- 15 When I went into the dining room next morning, the ..... of the dinner were still on the table.  
A remains B results C remnants D relics
- 16 There's a tiny ..... in the diamond; that's why the ring is so cheap.  
A deformity B error C flaw D scar
- 17 Too many hotels have been built and this has ..... down prices, making holidays cheaper.  
A forced B cut C slowed D reduced
- 18 Because of the shortage of water there is a ..... on the use of hose-pipes.  
A ban B veto C taboo D boycott
- 19 She can't be interested in the lessons, ..... that she always arrives late.  
A viewing B seeing C noting D judging
- 20 When his business failed, he started again from .....  
A scratch B blank C introduction D beginning
- 21 The lecture ..... from prehistory to modern times and gave the audience much to think about.  
A covered B included C ranged D dealt



Practice Test 1

- 22 I will keep your application ..... file for the time being.  
A in B with C on D at
- 23 It's a foregone ..... that he'll be top of the class again.  
A concept B proposal C conclusion D prediction
- 24 The number of tickets available will be ..... by the size of the stadium.  
A related B determined C dependent D consequent
- 25 After the accident, traffic had to be ..... away from the motorway.  
A diverted B deflected C dispersed D disposed

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 according to the passage. On your answer sheet, indicate the letter A, B, C or D against the number of each item 26-40 for the answer you choose. Give one answer only to each question. Read each passage right through before choosing your answers.*

FIRST PASSAGE

Cordelia said: 'Someone told me about the theatre. The present owner must be rich. It can't have been cheap, restoring the theatre and the castle and collecting the Victorian antiques.'

It was Miss Maudsley who replied: 'Oh, but he is! He made a fortune out of that bestseller he wrote, *Autopsy*. He's A. K. Ambrose. Didn't you know?'

Cordelia hadn't known. She had bought the paperback, as had thousands of others, because she had got tired of seeing its dramatic cover confronting her in every bookshop and supermarket. She had felt curious to know what it was about a first novel that could earn a reputed half a million before publication. It was fashionably long and equally fashionably violent and she remembered that she had indeed, as the advertisement promised, found it difficult to put down, without now being able to remember clearly either the plot or the characters. The idea had been neat enough. The novel dealt with an inquest on a murder victim and had told at length the stories of all the people involved, police surgeon, detective inspector, family of the victim, victim and, finally, the murderer. You could, she supposed, call it a crime novel with a difference, the difference being that there had been more sex than detection and that the book had attempted with some success to combine the popular family saga with the mystery. The writing style had been nicely judged for the mass market, neither good enough to spoil its popular appeal nor bad enough to make people

ashamed of being seen reading it in public. At the end she had been left dissatisfied, but whether that was because she had felt manipulated or because of a conviction that A. K. Ambrose could have written a better book had he chosen, it was hard to say.

Miss Maudsley was anxious to disclaim any implied criticism in her question. 'It's not surprising you didn't know. I wouldn't have known myself, only one of the members on our club outing has a husband who keeps a bookshop and she told us. Mr Ambrose doesn't really like it to be known. It's the only book he's written, I believe.'

- 26 Cordelia bought the book because
- A everybody else was buying it.
  - B it was easy to get hold of.
  - C she wanted to know what was special about it.
  - D she was fascinated by the subject.
- 27 What lasting impression did the book make on Cordelia?
- A It was a clever idea but badly handled.
  - B It was enjoyable but easy to forget.
  - C It had too many detailed descriptions of people.
  - D It was too long and too violent.
- 28 What characterized the style of the book?
- A It was not literary enough.
  - B It was too highbrow for most tastes.
  - C It was undemanding and readable.
  - D It was embarrassingly badly written.
- 29 Why was Miss Maudsley worried about her question?
- A She thought she might have seemed rude.
  - B She was afraid she had given away a secret.
  - C She wasn't sure of her facts.
  - D She thought Cordelia hadn't understood what she meant.

## SECOND PASSAGE

I must warn you that you may find parts of this article rather difficult to understand. Wait! The sentence you have just read is quite untrue. But that isn't why you were irritated by it. It was, of course, also insulting and few people enjoy being insulted. By reading this article you are making the claim that you are the sort of person who will understand it; my opening sentence questioned your claim, and that is what made it insulting. In other words, an insult occurs whenever one person denies some aspect of identity which another is claiming, explicitly or otherwise.



When describing the course of a disease, pathologists often talk of the body organising its defences in response to a biological insult. But in everyday life we use the term only when the rules which govern social encounters are breached in the manner described. For social interaction to work it is essential that the participants respect the 'face' of all involved. 'Face' refers to the public image which a person chooses to present in a particular situation. Its importance is obvious when two people are talking to each other, but it cannot be ignored by the writer who wishes to keep his readers.

If I wish to insult you, I must not merely threaten your face, but do so deliberately. Without malicious intent, I am guilty of a social blunder but nothing worse. Some people are famous for dropping bricks, but they are considered socially unskilled or naive rather than insulting; this can be seen from the fact that their remarks elicit laughter, admittedly strained, rather than anger.

What happens when face is lost? It is usually possible to avoid or overlook the insult ('I didn't hear that' / 'She's only a child'). If it is not overlooked, the next move is conventionally a challenge in which the victim draws attention to the violation ('What do you mean, I've got the manners of a pig?'). This is an invitation to the offender to restore order by making a response which indicates that the conventions have not after all been violated. He may apologise ('I don't know what came over me') or make compensation ('I'm always throwing my food all over the place'). Alternatively, he can attempt to change the meaning of his remark ('I was only joking' / 'I can't stand people who eat delicately'). Any of these ploys can repair the damage, so long as the wounded party accepts the explanation and the offender confirms his penitence by a display of suitable gratitude.

- 30 What is the author's intention in the opening sentence of this passage?
- A to prepare the reader for difficulties
  - B to make the article appear very impressive
  - C to discourage uneducated readers
  - D to demonstrate the nature of an insult
- 31 The author suggests that an insult is an attack on another person's
- A image of himself.
  - B good character.
  - C standard of intelligence.
  - D ability to understand himself.
- 32 According to the passage, why is it important for 'face' to be respected?
- A so that people can talk freely to each other
  - B to allow the adoption of new roles
  - C to maintain an acceptable pattern of behaviour
  - D so that people can understand one another better

- 33 People who are 'famous for dropping bricks'
- A are unintentionally rude.
  - B cannot control their behaviour.
  - C are trying to be funny.
  - D do not care what others think of them.
- 34 An insult will normally be challenged
- A when it is very obvious.
  - B to allow it to be withdrawn.
  - C to allow the victim to retaliate.
  - D if the offender was only joking.
- 35 'Face' can only be restored when
- A the victim learns to laugh at himself.
  - B the offender also receives an insult.
  - C the victim accepts the truth of the insult.
  - D the offender appears thankful for forgiveness.

### THIRD PASSAGE

The potential of computers for increasing the control of organisations or society over their members and for invading the privacy of those members has caused considerable concern.

The privacy issue has been raised most insistently with respect to the creation and maintenance of data files that assemble information about persons from a multitude of sources. Files of this kind would be highly valuable for many kinds of economic and social research, but they are bought at too high a price if they endanger human freedom or seriously enhance the opportunities of blackmailers. While such dangers should not be ignored, it should be noted that the lack of comprehensive data files has never before been the limiting barrier to the suppression of human freedom.

Making the computer the villain in the invasion of privacy or encroachment on civil liberties simply diverts attention from the real dangers. Computer data banks can and must be given the highest degree of protection from abuse. But we must be careful, also, that we do not employ such crude methods of protection as to deprive our society of important data it needs to understand its own social processes and to analyse its problems.

Perhaps the most important question of all about the computer is what it has done and will do to man's view of himself and his place in the universe. The most heated attacks on the computer are not focused on its possible economic effects, its presumed destruction of job satisfaction, or its threat to privacy and liberty, but upon the claim that it causes people to be viewed, and to view themselves, as 'machines'.

What the computer and the progress in artificial intelligence challenge is an ethic that rests on man's apartness from the rest of nature. An alternative ethic,

**Practice Test 1**

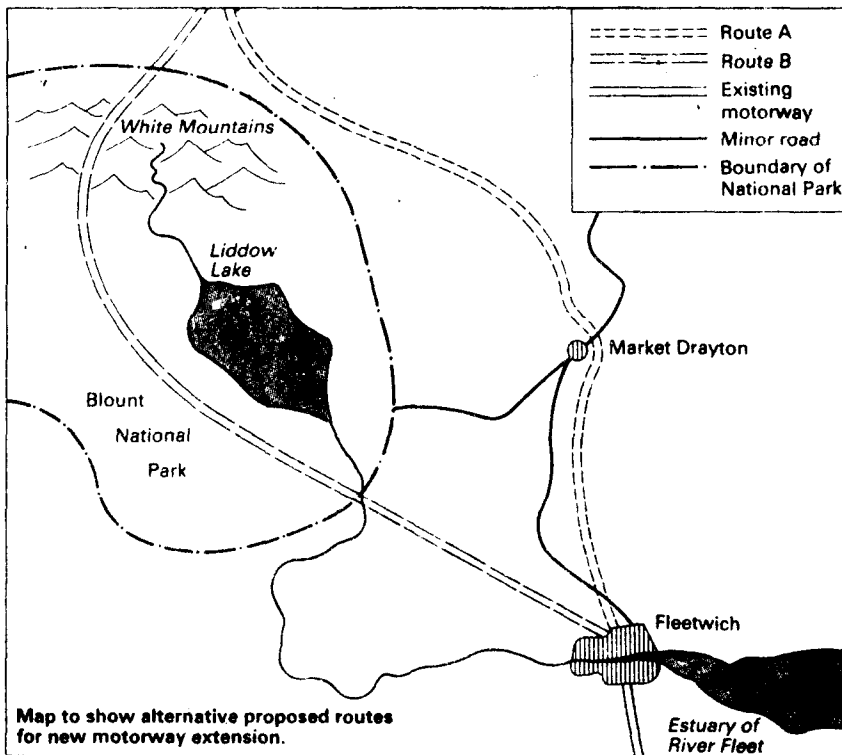
of course, views man as a part of nature, governed by natural law, subject to the forces of gravity and the demands of his body. The debate about artificial intelligence and the simulation of man's thinking is, in considerable part, a confrontation of these two views of man's place in the universe.

- 36 Why is it important to prevent the abuse of computer data banks?
- A to protect the rights of the individual
  - B to maintain discipline in society
  - C to encourage economic and social research
  - D to collect wide-ranging information
- 37 Too much caution in the use of computers will
- A prevent the solution of economic problems.
  - B cause more suppression of human freedom.
  - C lead to clumsy methods of protection.
  - D interfere with our study of society.
- 38 What lessons can be learned from the past in this debate?
- A Crime has always been associated with progress.
  - B Attacks on freedom are nothing new.
  - C The accumulation of data encourages oppression.
  - D Privacy has been a neglected issue.
- 39 The arrival of the computer has made man
- A have more difficulty understanding himself.
  - B think more like a machine.
  - C look at himself in a different way.
  - D gain less satisfaction from his work.
- 40 If you had to split this passage into two sections, where would be the best place to make the division?
- A after the first paragraph
  - B after the second paragraph
  - C after the third paragraph
  - D after the fourth paragraph

## PAPER 2 COMPOSITION (2 hours)

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 Describe how you would entertain a weekend visitor to your home. (About 350 words)
- 2 'Works of art and archaeological treasures should remain in their country of origin.' Discuss. (About 350 words)
- 3 Write the story of the 'most unloved person who ever lived'. (About 350 words)
- 4 A motorway is to be built. Two routes have been proposed as shown on the map, one through an area of outstanding natural beauty, the other through the residential outskirts of a small market town. At the enquiry, the local conservationists and the residents of the town argue in support of their chosen route. Write **two** speeches (about 150 words for each) expressing each point of view.



*Practice Test 1*

- 5 Basing your answer on your reading of the prescribed text concerned, answer *one* of the following. (About 350 words)

**PATRICIA HIGHSMITH:** *The Talented Mr Ripley*

To what extent does Tom Ripley's love of travelling cause him to commit murder?

**JOHN OSBORNE:** *The Entertainer*

'I'm dead behind the eyes.' Explain Archie Rice's comment about himself and say how far you agree with it.

**D. H. LAWRENCE:** *Selected Tales*

'One thing which Lawrence really understands is the suffering in women's lives.' Discuss how true you think this statement is, in relation to two or three of the stories.

## PAPER 3 USE OF ENGLISH (2 hours)

### SECTION A

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

The essence of chemistry consists of the making of new substances, and a chemical change is defined ..... (1) the changing of one substance ..... (2) another. Many ..... (3) chemical changes have been performed by man ..... (4) very early times, probably the ..... (5) being the heating of clay to make pottery, which has been known for 10,000 years. Even ..... (6) this, of course, man had discovered fire - another ..... (7) change - but here the importance of the reaction lies in the heat-energy produced ..... (8) than in the ashes, smoke and gases, which are the final products.

Progress ..... (9) chemistry was ..... (10) because of the absence of any adequate theory to explain these changes, and because the earliest theory ('alchemy') was so blindly optimistic ..... (11) to assume that ..... (12) could be changed into anything else. In particular, the alchemists thought that they could change a base metal ..... (13) lead into gold and so get rich quickly. Not until ..... (14) than 200 years ago were the true foundations of chemistry ..... (15) by painstaking researches ..... (16) the nature of air and water, in fact by pure disinterested curiosity, allied to the habit of mind which takes nothing for ..... (17). Chemists learned that before they could make new substances they must ..... (18) discover what ordinary things are made ..... (19); in technical language, analysis must always ..... (20) synthesis.

*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: Immediately after his arrival things went wrong.

ANSWER: No sooner *had he arrived than things went wrong.*

- a) It's such a pity your sister can't come as well.  
If only .....
- b) The house seemed to have been unoccupied for several months.  
It looked .....
- c) These new machines have put an end to queuing.  
Before these .....
- d) He was so tired he fell asleep before the end of the film.  
He was too .....
- e) Though my house was cheaper than Norman's, it is bigger and more attractive.  
Norman's house may .....
- f) Everyone heard about the accident before I did.  
I was the .....
- g) 'If you must go out tonight, at least finish your homework first!' said Sarah's father.  
Sarah's father said that if .....
- h) The instructions say you just add boiling water to the soup powder.  
The soup powder .....

3 Fill each of the 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.*

- a) Only when he removed his dark glasses .....  
..... who he was.
- b) Let's go home. There's ..... waiting any longer.
- c) After having had a chauffeur for so many years my brother took some time to ..... himself.
- d) If you had really wanted to succeed, you .....  
..... time on your studies and less on playing games.
- e) The more driving practice you have, the better chance you .....  
..... your test.
- f) He doesn't mind one way or the other; it makes .....  
..... him.



Practice Test 1

- 4 For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the word given. This word must not be altered in any way.

EXAMPLE: Not many people attended the meeting.  
**turnout**

ANSWER: *There was a poor turnout for the meeting.*

- a) Be sure to say goodbye to your grandmother before you leave.  
**without**

- b) That sort of behaviour is deplorable, in my opinion.  
**approve**

- c) The new lecturer was unpopular with his students.  
**take**

- d) The last political scandal of this kind took place fifty years ago.  
**since**

- e) Women are not allowed to enter the inner temple.  
**let**

- f) They'll have to take the dog on holiday with them.  
**behind**

- g) Don't run away with the idea that this job is easy.  
**conclusion**

- h) You must drive more slowly in town.  
**reduce**