

First Certificate English Practice Tests

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Cassell

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Test One

PAPER 1 READING COMPREHENSION

1 hour

Section A

In this section you must choose the word or phrase which best completes each sentence. For each question, 1 to 25, indicate on your answer sheet the letter A, B, C or D against the number of the question.

- 1 I shall do the job to the best of my _____.
A capacity B ability C knowledge D talent
- 2 During the boss's _____ his assistant took over.
A vanishing B disappearance C absence D loss
- 3 This school has the highest _____ standards in the area.
A learning B intelligence C academic D study
- 4 Mrs Smith always likes someone to _____ her to the bus stop at night.
A go B company C join D accompany
- 5 Dr Jones has received an award for her great _____ in treating leukemia.
A deeds B activities C achievements D undertaking
- 6 Although his work is not outstanding it is _____.
A enough B sufficient C well D adequate
- 7 She is interested in working in university _____.
A managing B organisation C registration D administration
- 8 When he was a boy he felt great _____ for his uncle.
A marvel B wonder C admiration D pleasure
- 9 Their neighbour was very _____ when they complained about the noise.
A aggressive B provocative C irritable D annoying
- 10 We _____ all your help in this matter.
A estimate B enjoy C appreciate D evaluate
- 11 Certain problems have _____, and so the meeting has been cancelled.
A risen B aroused C arisen D roused
- 12 Jane enjoyed the party, but as _____ Alex, he was simply bored.
A for B by C about D from
- 13 All the plans have been put _____ for the time being.
A down B aside C up D low
- 14 He said he would contribute money, but later he backed _____ of it.
A down B away C off D out
- 15 Can you recite the alphabet _____?
A reverse B around C backwards D returned
- 16 The nurse put a _____ on the wound.
A cloth B bandage C towel D material

- 17 If they're not careful with their accounts the firm will go _____.
A broken B poor C penniless D bankrupt
- 18 We found some real _____ at the sale.
A prizes B items C bargains D goods
- 19 The schoolboy _____ down to tie his shoelace.
A stooped B leaned C turned D went
- 20 They had a quarrel but now they're the _____ of friends again.
A best B most C surest D happiest
- 21 I _____ it'll rain this afternoon.
A bet B promise C warn D vow
- 22 She _____ regretted having been so unkind.
A awfully B severely C bitterly D fully
- 23 All their money is _____ up in the new house they have bought.
A connected B tied C trapped D limited
- 24 Shall we _____ our journey in Paris and continue the next day?
A stop B break C pause D interrupt
- 25 The audience _____ out laughing when the singer fell over.
A burst B shouted C called D broke

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. For each question, 26 to 40, indicate the letter A, B, C or D against the number of the question.

FIRST PASSAGE

Although party invitations no longer frightened me, I still found myself making careful preparations for this particular party. I got a hair-cut, laid out my best suit, selected a special shirt, tie, and cuff links. I had recently gone on a diet, but because I didn't want to look too thin, I discontinued it. What should I bring my hosts? Flowers? Wine? What kind of wine? Port? Sherry? Or possibly even champagne? Meeting new people was still a major undertaking.

It was scheduled for this Saturday and I decided to take a cab to the suburb where it was being held. It was early autumn and the weather had been mild, but that morning it turned cold and rainy, and as I listened to the steam hissing in my radiator, it already felt like midwinter. Trees, visible from my window, covered with foliage only yesterday, had become bare overnight. Churning clouds augured a further change in the weather. From my newspaper I learned that a hurricane which had already struck another state was on its way to New York, though it might veer out to sea. The storm left destruction in its wake. In one village an entire cottage was sheared from its foundation and blown into the ocean together with its occupants.

As I lay in bed the morning of the party, I envisioned a change also taking place in me. A loose tooth which hadn't bothered me suddenly sent a stabbing pain through my jaw. Ordinarily I'm not prone to headaches, but I awoke with a dull ache on the left side of my head. Several disturbing dreams had given me a restless night, though I could only remember them vaguely. In one dream I recalled shouting at someone and being involved in a fight. There was also something about an animal, but what it was I couldn't recollect. What did stay with me afterwards was the despairing knowledge that one leads a double life – each part hermetically sealed off from the other.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>26 The narrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A was afraid of parties. B went on a diet for this party. C bought a new suit when he had to meet new people. D was shy of meeting new people. <p>27 The party was to be held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A in midwinter. B in a few days. C in the morning. D in a village. <p>28 The storm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A destroyed a village. B was dying down. C might reach New York. D destroyed the tree outside his room. | <p>29 The narrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suffered from headaches. B always had toothaches. C had slept badly. D was stabbed in the jaw. <p>30 Why was the narrator upset?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A The storm was so bad. B He had had a fight with an animal. C He couldn't go to the party. D He couldn't understand his dreams. |
|--|--|

SECOND PASSAGE

Looking around the stamp dealers' showrooms, it is easy to gain the impression that things have not changed very much since today's parents were themselves introduced to philately as youngsters a generation ago. In stamp collecting there is a very strong adherence to tradition.

It is, however, possible to pick out some significant changes which have taken place over the last ten to 15 years. For mint stamps, particularly, collectors have tended to discard hinges, which can leave a slight mark on the back of the stamp, and go instead for stamp mounts.

These are plastic pockets, designed to take either individual stamps or rows of stamps, which are stuck on to the album page. They come with either white or black backgrounds. Some albums have the mounts already in position: they are known in the catalogues as hingeless albums.

A second alternative to the hinge is the stockbook, which usually has pages of stiff cardboard and retaining strips into which stamps can be tucked. This has traditionally been sold as an accessory, to be used for the temporary storage of stamps pending their transfer to an album.

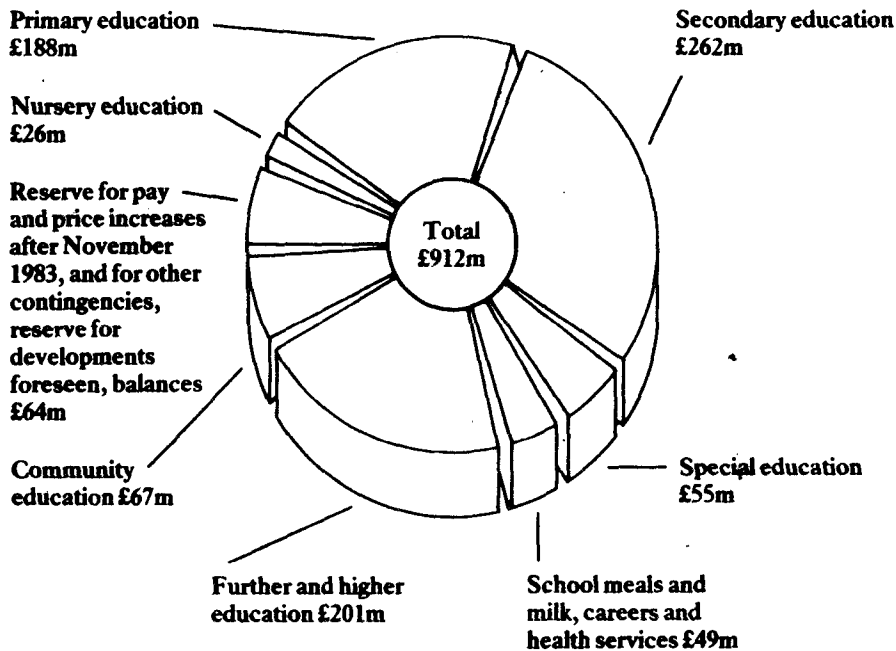
Some collectors, however, have come to look upon the stockbook not as a halfway house but as a substitute for the album. Stockbooks do away with the fiddle of fixing hinges and ensure there is no danger of marking the back of the stamp; and it is a simple matter to move the stamps if a new page layout is required.

All this being said, for the purist there is nothing to match the flexibility of hinging to allow him to plan the page the way he wants it and shape its distinctive appearance. The beginner will probably want to follow the majority, traditional line.

- 31 Stamp collecting
- A is a tradition passed from parent to child.
 - B has not changed for several generations.
 - C has seen changes in the methods of mounting stamps.
 - D is a hobby which always involves damage to stamps.
- 32 Plastic pockets are sometimes used
- A to avoid black and white contrasts.
 - B because they can be stuck on in rows.
 - C since they provide the only way to see the stamps.
 - D they do not mark the back of the stamp.
- 33 What are hingeless albums?
- A Albums using black or white backgrounds.
 - B Albums in which the collector can mount stamps with hinges.
 - C Albums in which the collector can mount plastic pockets.
 - D Albums in which plastic pockets are already mounted.
- 34 The stockbook has in some cases replaced the album because
- A it seems the most convenient way of storing stamps.
 - B it has always been sold as an accessory.
 - C it permits one to fix hinges more easily.
 - D it permits one to add new pages.
- 35 What is the main disadvantage of the stockbook?
- A The beginner is afraid to use it.
 - B It is not a traditional method of collecting.
 - C One cannot arrange stamps on the page creatively.
 - D One cannot plan what stamps to keep in it.

THIRL PASSAGE

FACTS AND FIGURES

**More details**

Details of the Authority's policies and expenditure plans can be found in "Capital and Revenue Estimates 1984-85" which will be available in main libraries from early April. It can also be purchased (price £2 plus 25p post and packing) from the ILEA, Finance Department, Room 296, County Hall, SE1 7PB.

COMPARISON OF 1984-85 WITH 1983-84

The rate precept has gone up by £42.7 million, made up as follows:

	£ million
Pay and price increases between November 1982 and November 1983	45.7
Higher provision for contingencies including pay and price changes between November 1983 and March 1985	5.0
New education developments (£5 million) and the full effect of last year's new developments, offset by savings	14.6
MINUS reduction in amount for balances compared with last year	-22.6
Total	42.7

Overall the budget for the Authority's gross expenditure in 1984-85 is 2.4 per cent below the budget for 1978-79 in real terms.

- 36 The diagram is intended to show
- A past expenditure on education.
 - B intended expenditure on education.
 - C a comparison of expenditure in different years.
 - D full details of educational policy.
- 37 The table explains
- A how new pay rises are shared out.
 - B money spent on educational developments.
 - C the division in education of rate rises.
 - D the profits made in education in 1984–85.
- 38 You can see full details of the Authority's plans
- A only at the local library.
 - B only at the Finance Department.
 - C in a booklet published by ILEA.
 - D in the education département.
- 39 The largest portion of the budget goes on
- A secondary and special education.
 - B further and higher education.
 - C primary and nursery education.
 - D community education and reserve for developments.
- 40 In 1984–85 the Authority will spend
- A less in real terms than in 1983–84.
 - B 2.4 per cent less than in 1978–79.
 - C less in real terms than in 1978–79.
 - D 2.4 per cent less than in 1983–84.

PAPER 2 COMPOSITION

1 hour 30 minutes

Write two only of the following composition exercises. Your answers must follow exactly the instructions given, and must be of between 120 and 180 words each.

- 1 Write a letter to a friend describing a new job you have just taken up in another town. Include an invitation to visit your new home. You should make the beginning and the ending like those of an ordinary letter, but the address is not to be counted in the number of words.**
- 2 Describe a dangerous situation you have been in.**
- 3 'The centres of all big cities should be gradually made free of cars.' Discuss ways in which this might be done, and give your own opinion.**
- 4 You are the secretary of a local charity group which wants to help the aged in your area. Write the speech you would give at a local public fete held to raise funds for the charity.**
- 5 Set books.**

PAPER 3 USE OF ENGLISH

2 hours

- 1 Fill each of the numbered blanks in the following passage. Use only **one** word in each space.

Once a record _____ (1) been made, _____ (2) the group and the company want it to sell _____ (3). It cannot do so _____ (4) people do not _____ (5) about it. _____ (6) the company spends a lot of money promoting record sales. _____ (7) company _____ (8) a publicity department with the _____ (9) of selling the product _____ (10) promoting it — getting as _____ (11) publicity as _____ (12) for the group and its new record. The group _____ (13) also hire a public relations man to _____ (14) sell the record. Most public relations men _____ (15) good contacts with _____ (16) media, and use _____ (17) contacts to get a record into _____ (18) public eye. _____ (19) is done mainly _____ (20) advertising.

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

EXAMPLE: I haven't enjoyed myself so much for years.

ANSWER: It's years since I enjoyed myself so much.

- a) 'Why hasn't Peter phoned?' she wondered.
She wondered _____
- b) I'm only interested in why he did it.
The only thing _____
- c) He tried to escape but the police stopped him.
The police prevented _____
- d) She has ordered a new outfit from her dressmaker.
She is having _____
- e) Couldn't you find a better hotel?
Is this _____

- f) John began playing the piano ten years ago.
John has _____
- g) They won't be able to come on Sunday.
It will be _____
- h) She needs to study harder.
She doesn't _____
- i) I only paid a few hundred pounds for the car.
The car _____
- j) My mother made these curtains.
These curtains _____

3 Complete the following sentences with an appropriate form of the word in block capitals.

EXAMPLE: Dogs are very *faithful* pets. FAITH

- a) Her _____ was so great that she broke a glass. ANXIOUS
- b) The audience burst into _____ at the end of the play. APPLAUD
- c) He felt very _____ when he saw he had failed the exam again. COURAGE
- d) The work is still at a very _____ level. ; EXPERIMENT
- e) It's the most _____ film I've ever seen. FRIGHT
- f) It's very _____ to live in a damp room. HEAL
- g) They have a big _____ shop in London. JEWEL
- h) How much does _____ of this club cost? MEMBER
- i) He promised to come but he's very _____. RELY
- j) How much do you _____? WEIGHT

- 4 Make all the changes and additions necessary to produce, from the following sets of words and phrases, sentences which together make a complete letter. Note carefully from the example what kind of alterations need to be made. Write each sentence in the space provided.

EXAMPLE: I/wonder/why you/not/reply/last letter.

ANSWER: I was wondering why you had not replied to my last letter.

Dear Peter,

- a) I/be/very surprised/get/letter.

- b) I/not know/you arrive back/England.

- c) You have/good time/New York?

- d) I look forward/hear/all about it.

- e) Thank you/invite/me/dinner next weekend.

- f) I be afraid/not able/come/Saturday.

- g) But I be/free/following weekend.

- h) Why/you call me/next few days?

Yours,
Mary

- 5 Susan Smith is going on a long train journey and would like to have a book to read. She likes short stories, historical novels and detective fiction, and especially enjoys solving mysteries. She does not like science fiction, books in which there is violence, or novels which are too long or have a great many characters. Below is the information from the back covers of four books. Using the information you have been given about Susan, complete the four paragraphs below in about 50 words each. Refer to the books by writing A, B, C or D.

A

'Can we even begin to understand the motivation of a completely nonhuman race ...'

United Earth needs strong colonies who can stand by her as allies, not rebellious subject planets.

Kepler III is peopled by colonists of Asiatic origin, their ruler prepared to lie and cheat for independence, their future threatened by monstrous mutations.

Decoyed into deep space, Commander Tom Bruce finds that the planet which his starship **Venturer Twelve** was to protect lies at the mercy of an unknown enemy.

On his actions depends the future of the human race ...

B

Edmund Crispin is one of the acknowledged modern masters of the detective story; 'Beware of the Trains' consists of sixteen short classics of their kind, told with impeccable wit and his usual brilliance. Once again the astonishing Gervase Fen, Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford University, applies his irresistible logic to a series of mysterious doings which have left the police completely baffled.

Crispin's stories are always original, often startling, and invariably entertaining. Equally important, every one of them is absolutely fair. As Mr. Crispin himself says, 'All of them embody the nowadays increasingly neglected principle of fair play to the reader – which is to say that the reader is given all the clues needed to enable him to anticipate the solution by the exercise of his logic and common sense'. This is entirely true, but it will be a rare reader who can, in every case, successfully match wits with Edmund Crispin.

C

Esther Marx, the wife of a dull Dutch sergeant, is killed in a dusty, dreary district. Machine-gunned during a TV gangster serial full of bangs to cover the noise. Leaving behind a daughter of doubtful parentage . . .

As Commissaire Van der Valk investigates, he finds strange links between this municipal murder and events in Dien Bien Phu in 1954: Esther had been more than a camp follower; dusty files, old soldiers and old scandals slowly surface to form a puzzling pattern of cowardice, blackmail, jealousy and revenge . . .

D

The Winds of War is to World War II as Gone With the Wind was to the American Civil War. From the siege of Warsaw to the attack on Pearl Harbour, Wouk recreates the tragedy and the folly that tore nations and their people apart.

People like the Henrys – with a tradition of service in the regular navy. People like the Jastrows – Jewish intellectuals caught in the European holocaust. Two American families whose lives are interwoven in a common cause and produce a saga of love, ambition, loyalties and danger.

Susan would not choose because

Susan would not choose because

Susan would not choose because

Susan would choose because

PAPER 4 LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Approx. 30 minutes

You will hear three extracts of spoken English (each twice on cassette or read twice by the teacher) and you will be given time to choose your answers to the questions or to write the answers. Before you listen to each extract, read the questions carefully. Read or look again as you listen and before the second reading or recording complete whatever you are asked to do. Check your answers while you are listening for the second time.

Part 1

Listen to the conversation about an Exotic Tours Ltd holiday and then fill in the young couple's comments on the questionnaire form below.

Exotic Tours Ltd				
Dear Holiday-maker, In order to maintain our popular holiday service, we are asking you to complete this questionnaire. Please give us your honest opinion and tick the appropriate box. If you have time, put your comments in the space provided. We hope you have enjoyed your holiday and look forward to seeing you again next year. Thank you for your help.				
Exotic Holiday Questionnaire				
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Weather				
Accommodation				
Food				
Sports facilities				
Tours				
Service				
Comments _____				

Part 2

For each of the questions, 1–5, put a tick in one of the boxes A, B, C or D.

- 1 The interview took place before

A a television audience.
B a theatre audience.
C a radio audience.
D a cinema audience.

A	
B	
C	
D	

- 2 The Professor said that

A he had always been clever.
B he had never been clever.
C he had never thought about being clever.
D he had never wanted to be clever.

A	
B	
C	
D	

- 3 How many teachers who helped the Professor to achieve fame are mentioned?

A three
B two
C six
D five

A	
B	
C	
D	

- 4 Professor McGregor says that

A the Nobel Prize is a great award.
B the interviewer thinks it is a great award.
C the Nobel Prize is not a great award.
D he does not care about the Nobel Prize.

A	
B	
C	
D	

- 5 The interviewer asked a lot of questions. How many direct answers did the Professor give?

A one
B three
C eight
D five

A	
B	
C	
D	

Part 3

Look at this map of Great Britain and study the list of weather conditions. Then listen to the weather forecast and put the appropriate numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6, next to the names of the regions marked.

Weather conditions

- 1 dry with sunny intervals
- 2 light winds
- 3 hill fog
- 4 strong winds
- 5 rain or drizzle
- 6 maximum temperatures above 10°C

