KEY

Practice Tests
for the revised CPE
Student's Book

Virginia Evans

Express Publishing
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Practice Test 1

Paper 1: Reading

Part 1

1   B  4   D  7   A  10  D  13  B  16  D
2   C  5   A  8   B  11  A  14  C  17  A
3   A  6   D  9   D  12  C  15  A  18  B

Part 2

19  B  22  C  25  D
20  C  23  C  26  C
21  A  24  D

Part 3

27  G  29  C  31  E  33  D
28  A  30  H  32  B

Part 4

34  C  36  D  38  A  40  B
35  B  37  C  39  A

Paper 2: Writing (Suggested Answers)

Part 1

Is there a future for papers?

Newspapers have certainly changed a lot in recent years, and this was a point that was strongly made during a debate at last week’s conference on the future of newspapers.

We heard the usual argument that newspapers are no longer concerned with reporting serious news but focus instead on gossipy items about the lives of the rich and famous. It is true that advances in technology have made it easier and cheaper to include colour photographs in a newspaper, and pictures of attractive-looking, glamorous people will catch the eye of the public. However, the fact that such articles and pictures appear in modern papers does not mean that more serious items are being neglected; newspapers have grown in size, so there are more pages to include items to suit all interests.

This was pointed out by those who argued that newspapers have to adapt to the demands of their readers if they are going to sell at all. A few years ago, a newspaper was set up with the policy of only printing good news. It was a failure. Apparently, people are not interested in the good things of the world; they really do want to learn about how other people’s lives are so much worse than their own.

Another point raised during the debate was that newspapers have to change in order to survive. They have had to compete with radio and television for many years, and now, with the growing popularity of the Internet, they are under threat again. Nevertheless, many major newspapers already have electronic versions which are available to anybody with a computer and a modem, and their popularity is growing. As long as we have conscientious editors and hard-working journalists and researchers, it seems that they will work with the new technology in order to deliver the information we demand.

It may be that the days of the newspaper delivery boys and girls are numbered, but newspapers themselves will always survive in one form or another.

Part 2 – 2

Dear Sir,

I am writing with regard to your series on ‘Changing Times’. I hope the following will prove to be of interest to your readers.

I grew up in Molesfield, which was then a new suburb on the outskirts of the city. My earliest memories are of sunny days spent in what seemed to me like a huge garden. At the end of the garden at the back of the house there was a small farm where the farmer kept a few cows. Beyond that, there were uninterrupted views of the city. The farm is long gone now, of course; the stream that we used to play in has been buried in a concrete pipe and the trees we loved to climb have been cut down to make way for a golf course.

There have been other changes too. I remember that, in those days, we could play safely in the street at the front of our houses. Now it has become a busy main road with cars and lorries thundering past day and night. Across the road, the open space has been swallowed up by the Fairford housing estate. The small football pitch on the estate is all that remains of the acres of fields that were once there. But not all the changes have been for the worse. I’m told by old friends who still live there, that the new library is a great asset to the community, and there are many more shops and other amenities which are all within walking distance.

I think all my childhood friends would agree with me that it was a wonderful area to grow up in. Speaking personally, I loved it as it was so quiet and we had so many places to play. I also think that, without the traffic
and all the problems that brings, it was healthier and safer for children than it is today. But then, progress always has its price.

Yours faithfully,

Basil Curtis

Part 2 – 3

Gladiator

Russell Crowe stars in Ridley Scott’s poor attempt at an epic movie, which should have been another masterpiece by this talented director but unfortunately fell far short of my expectations.

As far as the plot is concerned, it is predictable and shallow, and consequently we have a film lacking in any drama. Crowe portrays a Roman general who is betrayed and then enslaved after his family is murdered. As a gladiator, he finds himself in Rome where he seeks revenge on the emperor who is behind the plot to destroy him. For an action film, the pace is tediously slow and the ending was obvious from the start. A few more surprises are expected from the director who gave us great films like Blade Runner and Alien. And it is simply not plausible for a Roman emperor to enter the arena to fight against a common gladiator, so the very least I think this film needs is an alternative ending.

The photography, good though it is, is not enough to save this film. Apart from the problems with the plot, Crowe’s acting is terrible – he monotonously speaks his words as though he learnt them only half an hour earlier. To make matters worse, even though the supporting cast put in reasonable performances, they are let down by the problems mentioned above. The death of Oliver Reed during filming obviously posed problems for the director, but his remaining scenes, which are computer generated, have been clumsily dealt with.

Overall, though, it is the poor performance by Crowe which damages the film more than anything else. In my opinion, much could have been saved if his role had been filled by an actor who could more ably convey the pain of loss and the determination to get revenge.

It is a shame that directors are drawn to well known but less capable actors. I may be being cynical here but it would appear that, in this case at least, producers are more interested in drawing an audience than creating good cinema.
Paper 3: Use of English

Part 1
1 more 2 days 3 their 4 ago 5 with 6 past 7 together 8 instead
9 ages 10 so 11 which 12 it 13 of 14 are 15 called

Part 2
16 holidaymakers 17 unmistakable/unmistakable 18 awakening 19 unforeseen/unforeseeable
20 beneficial 21 likelihood 22 unfortunately 23 unfamiliarity 24 Undoubtedly/Doubtless
25 wisdom

Part 3
26 flat 27 tip 28 failure
29 reservation 30 rough 31 delivered

Part 4
32 no point in asking her 33 was taken in by the
34 all the same to me 35 goes without saying that this deal
36 was not put off applying for the job 37 is not cut out to be
38 took it for granted that everyone would
39 be worth your while to visit

Part 5
40 Because the group dictates the way we dress and
people follow so that they can fit in
41 Items of clothing worn by people who don’t want
to follow dress rules.
42 We tend to dress less formally in most situations
(except for some first encounters)
43 The appearance of an interviewee is often what an
interviewer uses to decide what sort of person they
are and how suitable they are for the job.
44 (Suggested answer)
Our appearance is important because it is the way
in which we conform or show allegiance to a group.
Conversely, we also use it to rebel or show our

individuality. In certain situations, such as an
interview, appearance is a means by which we can
judge a person. Finally, we can choose to dress in
a certain way in order to impress people.

Paper 4: Listening

Part 1
1 B 3 A 5 B 7 B
2 A 4 B 6 A 8 C

Part 2
9 role 10 police (force) 11 crime 12 whole (story/range/ process)
13 arrest 14 production/assembly line 15 listeners
16 court 17 prevention

Part 3
18 B 20 A 22 D
19 D 21 C

Part 4
23 C 25 B 27 P
24 C 26 B 28 P

Practice Test 2

Paper 1: Reading

Part 1
1 D 4 B 7 A 10 A 13 D 16 D
2 A 5 B 8 C 11 C 14 B 17 B
3 C 6 C 9 B 12 C 15 A 18 C

Part 2
19 A 22 D 25 C
20 C 23 A 26 A
21 B 24 C
Practice Test 2

Part 3
27 H 29 D 31 G 33 A
28 F 30 C 32 E

Part 4
34 D 36 C 38 D 40 C
35 B 37 A 39 A

Paper 2: Writing (Suggested Answers)

Part 1
Dear Sir,

As a film fan, I read your recent article concerning the future of the cinema with considerable interest. While I agree it is now possible to watch films with outstanding quality at home, I feel that your writer has forgotten why the cinema remains, and will continue to remain, popular.

To start with, one should remember that similar predictions were made when television, and then home video, first became available. The cinema survived and, in fact, although video rental shops were initially hugely popular, it is they that have seen a decline in business – despite the introduction of DVD and better equipment.

This suggests that there is something special about a trip to the cinema which no amount of innovation in home entertainment can replace. A night out at the cinema is a social event, and we should not forget that we are social beings with a need to meet up with others. With so much emphasis being placed these days on entertainment in the home, I feel that the cinema is likely to remain one of the many diversions that people enjoy which gets them out of the house. As for having to wait until the film is shown in your area, surely that is all part of the anticipation and suspense. If all you have to do is turn on your TV or rent a DVD, a great deal of this excitement is lost.

Besides, the atmosphere in a cinema is unique, and well worth the price of the tickets. Sitting with others in a darkened auditorium looking up at the huge screen helps to draw you into the action. Add to that surround sound and digital stereo and it becomes a very involving experience. It is this involvement which cannot be reproduced at home, however good your TV and sound system is.

Finally, seats in most cinemas can be booked in advance, thus avoiding the need for queuing. And can the writer of your article really be serious when he suggests that the need to eat could spoil your enjoyment of a film? I think that the many millions of cinemagoers around the world would disagree.

Yours faithfully,
Frederick Garson

Part 2-2
The phrase ‘Must have experience’ is very common in job advertisements in my country, and these three words make a lot of young job seekers like myself feel very frustrated. It seems an impossible demand: how can we have any work experience if we have never worked? In order to get a job you have to have experience, but to gain experience you first have to have a job!

Of course, a few companies do provide training, but I think all employers should be required to provide job training for school leavers. After all, nobody would expect schools to turn out experienced electricians, software developers, bank clerks and so on.

Nevertheless, I think schools could help in this matter. If they were to provide more vocational training as part of the curriculum, it would ensure that school-leavers were at least more prepared for the job market. Another thing that would help would be more work placement schemes, where students could, for example, spend a month in a local company learning specific skills and gaining experience.

The other major problem we face is the fact that so many jobs are given to the sons or daughters of the employer’s friends and relatives. You might be a brilliant, highly-qualified engineer, but if your father doesn’t know the right people, you will probably end up working in the local supermarket – if you find a job at all.

This is plainly wrong. All jobs should be advertised openly in special job centres for young people, staffed by trained advisers, so that we can find the job that suits us and employers can get the best young people to work for them. Then, if we were to enforce all this with tighter regulations and stricter employment laws, we could see to it that suitable candidates for a position stand a fair chance.

One thing is for sure, the situation needs addressing and action needs to be taken now if we are to give youngsters any hope of finding careers. Employers, educators and lawmakers please take note.

Part 2-3
For students on a limited budget, finding suitable accommodation for a summer holiday can be difficult to say the least – not all of us are prepared to camp in a muddy field or share a room with seven snoring
strangers in a hostel of dubious cleanliness.

But hotels are notoriously expensive, so I was very suspicious when I read last summer that the Golden View Hotel in the village of Balcombe on the south coast is not only a friendly establishment but that it offers special rates for students during June.

With some trepidation I decided to check it out. The person I spoke to indeed sounded friendly and, yes, they could let me have a room for two weeks at the unbelievably reasonable rate of £25 a week bed and breakfast. There had to be some catch. Would I have to share the room? No, the price was for a single room – a double would cost £45. I booked on the spot.

The hotel itself is up a steep climb inland from the village, which made me wish I could afford a car, as the bus service is very infrequent. But its position means that the views are magnificent. My room was rather small, but the bed was comfortable and everything was kept clean by the friendly staff.

The breakfast on offer is limited in range but you can have as much as you want. No meals are available at other times of the day but there is a small bar providing drinks and snacks in the evenings.

This is a place I would recommend to any student looking for peace and quiet and who doesn’t mind some physical exercise. There are only 12 rooms available, so book early!

The Golden View Hotel, Balcombe. Tel 0211 675634

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**Part 2 – 4**

To:       The Chair, Brockage City Council
From:    I. C. Walters
Subject: Improving facilities for teenagers
Date:    9th April 20...

**Purpose**
This document aims to review leisure facilities currently available to local teenagers, to report on their condition, and to make suggestions for their improvement.

**Sports Facilities**

**Present Situation**
Facilities consist of just two football pitches, one basketball court, and one volleyball court. The football pitches are bare earth and the open-air courts are of concrete. There are no indoor sports facilities, nor are there any provisions for tennis. In addition, youngsters wishing to swim have to use the pool in Conkerton, 40 miles away.

**Proposed Action**

- There is an urgent need for an indoor sports centre and swimming pool. Such a building could be located on the site of the disused tyre factory on Lansdowne Road and would help to provide year-round sports facilities.
- I would also recommend that a small percentage of the budget be set aside for two or three tennis courts to be built on wasteland overlooking the river.
- The football pitches should be grassed. This would serve to prevent injuries to people playing on the hard surface and would encourage local groups to stage tournaments.

**Social Facilities**

**Present Situation**
Unfortunately, the Youth Association has to share the use of one hall with the Senior Citizens’ Club. There are no clubs for special interest groups in the area, although teenagers have said they would welcome chess and computer clubs.

**Proposed Action**

- The disused warehouse in George Street could be converted, at little cost, into a youth centre which would accommodate the Youth Association and provide a venue for other clubs.
- As an alternative to the youth club, I would also recommend the setting up of an Internet café within walking distance of the two main secondary schools. This would give teenagers an element of choice in where they spend their free time. Such cafés have proved enormously popular in other areas and, after a small initial outlay, can be totally self-financing.

**Conclusion**

As I am sure you will agree, any facilities we provide for young people will improve conditions for the whole community. I hope, therefore, that the council will give its approval to my recommendations.

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**Paper 3: Use of English**

**Part 1**

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<td>their</td>
<td>into</td>
<td>basis</td>
<td>with</td>
<td>What</td>
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<td>9 longer</td>
<td>10 there</td>
<td>11 would</td>
<td>12 Were</td>
<td>13 a</td>
<td>14 up</td>
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### Practice Test 3

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<td>facial</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>psychological</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>incomparable</td>
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<td>additional</td>
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#### Part 3

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<td>the more distrustful I become of I am of</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>must be/have to be done up</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>was the strength of the competition</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>was subjected to heavy criticism</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>sense of relief when/once/after I (had)</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>believe our ears when we heard</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>light sleeper means he wakes up/light sleeper, he wakes up</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>dislike is having to call off</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>to comment on political or social situations/to influence people/to present important subjects in an amusing/entertaining way</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>it is a means of reaching an audience/advertising their work</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>advanced a great deal in a short time</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>1) it has a proven history/it is highly successful/popular</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>2) animation is an ideal medium for it</td>
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<td>(Suggested answer)</td>
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<td>First of all, caricatures have a longer history, and are often done by one person, whereas animation is comparatively recent and is done by a team. Secondly, in contrast to animators, who are usually anonymous, caricaturists frequently become well known. In addition, caricatures are static and often have a serious point to make. Animation, on the other hand, relies on moving images and is largely for entertainment purposes.</td>
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#### Paper 1: Reading

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| 3| C |
| 4| A |
| 5| C |
| 6| C |
| 7| C |
| 8| B |
| 9| 10 |
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| 13| A |
| 14| 15 |
| 16| A |
| 17| B |
| 18| D |
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| 27| J |
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<td>more durable</td>
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<td>good condition</td>
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<td>seven/7 times</td>
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<td>protect</td>
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#### Paper 4: Listening

| Part 1 |
|---|---|
| 1| C |
| 2| A |
| 3| A |
| 4| B |
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| 6| A |
| 7| C |
| 8| B |

| Part 3 |
|---|---|
| 27| D |
| 28| A |
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| 32| G |
| 33| C |
| 34| C |
| 35| D |
| 36| B |
| 37| B |
| 38| A |
| 39| D |

| Part 4 |
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Paper 2: Writing (Suggested Answers)

Part 1
To: Mr. Dean, Project Manager, Belstone County Council
From: Sandra Pertan
Subject: Proposed improvements to Belstone
Date: 15th September 20..

Introduction
The purpose of this proposal is to make suggestions for improvements that could be made to the town. The recent survey brought the following problem areas to light.

The Shopping Centre
Belstone is a small town with only eighteen thousand residents. However, the traffic passing through the town centre is extremely heavy and, since the construction of the business complex, has increased steadily. Speed limits are not observed, putting pedestrians at risk. I strongly recommend that traffic should be redirected away from the town by building a ring road. This will leave the town free for local traffic, reducing its density by half. Furthermore, speed limits can be enforced with the installation of radar checks and the increase of police patrol points. Finally, additional traffic lights outside the shopping precinct would enable pedestrians to cross more easily.

Poor Youth Facilities
Many young teenagers wander aimlessly around the town because there is nothing to keep them occupied. The danger is that, having nothing constructive to do, these youths could become delinquent. A new sports centre, built on a main bus route on the outskirts of the town, would give young people the opportunity to spend their time more profitably. Establishing youth centres would have the same effect for a minimum financial outlay.

Parking Facilities
Although the main shops provide their customers with parking, those who shop elsewhere are often inconvenienced by the severe lack of spaces. There is no parking in the wider streets and the single car park only has space for 500 cars. I suggest that the present car park should be converted into a multi-storey building. This would give it five times its existing capacity. In addition, smaller, open-air car parks could be established on waste ground behind the main shopping streets, thus easing the problems we presently face with traffic jams.

Conclusion
If the above steps were taken, Belstone would once again be a pleasant place to live, work and shop. More importantly, I am confident that these measures would greatly reduce the number of accidents in the town centre, while successfully removing the potential danger of juvenile crime.

Part 2 – 2
To: Ms. Caine
From: Jose Paloma
Subject: English Study-Holiday
Date: 5th January 20..

Introduction
This report on the accommodation provided on their recent study trip has been compiled from comments made by the thirty students who visited England. Where appropriate, recommendations have been made to help ensure that future visits will be even more successful than this one was.

Host families
Generally speaking, students reported favourably on their host families. They are described as being warm, friendly, and considerate. All the families had children of approximately the same age as our students and some seem to have become firm friends. Only one student felt that she had been placed with an unsuitable family who, she thinks, could have spent more time conversing with her in English.

Accommodation
Again, all the students expressed their satisfaction with their accommodation. Students say the homes were clean and comfortable, if a little smaller than their own homes. In every case they had their own bedroom and many students had a television in their rooms.

Food
With regards to the meals provided by the families, there were some problems. Some students say that the quantities were inadequate, and others have complained that the food was not to their taste and badly cooked. It is difficult to ascertain how valid these criticisms are as I personally had no problems whatsoever with the food. However, I must point out that I am more used to English cooking than some of my fellow students are.
Leisure Activities
Quite a lot of free time seems to have been spent watching television, but students say they were happy with this as they feel it gave them an opportunity to improve their English. Quite a large number of families took their students on short excursions and some even treated their guests to restaurant meals.

Summary and Recommendations
Overall, the trip has to be described as extremely successful. It seems that the procedure used to select the host families has worked extremely well apart from the question of meals. I suggest that those students who had problems with the meals should be interviewed in order to establish the exact nature of the problems.

On the whole, this is a successful film which could very easily be cheapened by a sequel. With talented directors like M. Night Shyamalan, though, you never can tell.

Part 2 – 4

Going, going, gone!
A lot of things are sold by auction, as I discovered when I wanted to get rid of an old chest of drawers. I was all for breaking it up for firewood, but my mother said, ‘Don’t do that, put it in an auction.’

Now to me, auction sales were only for the rich, buying precious antiques or works of fine art at astronomical prices. It had never occurred to me that a plain, wobbly old chest of drawers could be sold this way. You hear of valuable paintings being discovered in attics and sold for huge sums at auction, but I knew my chest of drawers – and it was no valuable antique!

To my surprise, it fetched £100, and I decided to learn more about the auction business. For a few days before the actual sale, you can wander around the huge auction room and view what is to be sold. The variety is amazing – everything from ordinary household items to sets of tools and old children’s toys.

The great thing about an auction is you do not have to be present for the actual sale; you decide how much you want to pay for something, write the amount on a piece of paper together with a number identifying the item you want, put it in a sealed envelope and give it to one of the staff. If nobody puts in a bigger offer then the article is yours.

My first purchase was an old clock which I got for just £1. It didn’t look like much, but a few hours’ fiddling with a small screwdriver got it working again and a coat of varnish hid it gleaming.

I have kept that one, but others I have resold at auction. That’s perhaps the best thing about going to auctions – you get as much pleasure out of selling as you do from finding a bargain. It makes for a fascinating and profitable pastime. Try it!
Paper 3: Use of English

Part 1
1 strong 9 for/to
2 in 10 long
3 about 11 wherever
4 seek 12 even
5 contrast/comparison 13 were
6 listening 14 particular
7 offer 15 link
8 such

Part 2
16 transatlantic 21 resignedly
17 exclusively 22 dissatisfaction
18 admittedly 23 unfortunate
19 unexpected 24 inadequately
20 unpredictable 25 overnight

Part 3
26 fit 29 patch
27 wave 30 string
28 exercise 31 fixed

Part 4
32 to his/her surprise, Mark/she saw that
somebody/someone/they
33 had no choice/alternative but to/other than to
34 been feeling run down
35 am full of admiration for
36 reason why you shouldn’t/you can’t
37 can not/cannot afford to make (any) mistakes
38 it’s no use you/us/me trying to
39 expressed (their/its) strong opposition to

Part 5
40 protected him from the rain and cold
41 because the weather is always hot and humid
42 the phenomenon of new fashions shocking
people/being impractical
43 to show that people are not shocked by/pay no
attention to women wearing men’s clothes
44 (Suggested answer)
People wear clothes primarily to protect themselves
from the weather. Some people, however, wear
certain clothes in order to show their status or the
position they hold in the community. Other reasons
include the desire to be fashionable or to shock.
Lastly, clothes are often chosen and worn in order
to make the wearer look good.

Paper 4: Listening

Part 1
1 B 3 C 5 B 7 B
2 C 4 B 6 C 8 C

Part 2
9 independent 14 shadow
10 the sun 15 entrance
11 narrow passage 16 coincidence
12 monument 17 divide (up)
13 widespread

Part 3
18 D 20 C 22 C
19 B 21 A

Part 4
23 F 25 F 27 J
24 J 26 B 28 B

Practice Test 4

Paper 1: Reading

Part 1
1 B 4 C 7 D 10 B 13 D 16 D
2 D 5 C 8 A 11 A 14 C 17 A
3 B 6 A 9 B 12 D 15 A 18 B

Part 2
19 C 21 A 23 A 25 B
20 B 22 D 24 A 26 B

Part 3
27 B 29 H 31 G 33 C
28 E 30 D 32 F

Part 4
34 B 36 C 38 A 40 D
35 D 37 C 39 B
Paper 2: Writing (Suggested Answers)

**Part 1**

In Europe, more school-leavers than ever before go on to further education at university. The majority of them successfully complete a bachelor’s degree course, and some also continue their studies for a master’s. However, on finishing university they all face the problem of finding a job, which nowadays can be difficult.

A few decades ago, university graduates were confident of being employed in the field of their choice. Good qualifications were looked for by companies, and graduates were in demand. Today, companies still want highly qualified staff but unfortunately jobs are not so easy to come by. Consequently, an increasing number of degree holders are unemployed.

There are two main reasons for this situation. Firstly, as I have already mentioned, a greater number of people go to university these days, which means there are more graduates looking for work. The second problem is that in Europe economic conditions are slow at present, so companies are cutting back on staff in order to decrease their costs. As a result there are too many graduates to fill fewer job positions, which of course spells unemployment.

It has been claimed, however, that if you have a degree you can certainly find a job. To an extent this may be true, because many graduates nowadays look for employment in fields which are not connected to their studies. In addition, some accept posts which do not require a degree simply because they cannot find anything else. It is therefore not uncommon to come across university graduates with mundane office jobs or working in retail and fast food outlets.

However, it is impossible for every single graduate to find a job when unemployment rates in Europe are high, and employees are being laid off in their thousands by large multinationals. Unless the European economy starts growing, it is unlikely that the problem will be solved, as increasingly more people are awarded degrees but no new jobs are being created.

**Part 2 – 3**

To: Andrea Graham, Manager, Health For All
From: Fiona Dawson
Subject: The eating habits of young children
Date: 12th February 20...

**Introduction**

This report looks at the eating habits of children aged 5-11, discusses problems and makes recommendations on improving diet and health.

**Why Be Concerned?**

Surveys show that the foods which children prefer are white bread, biscuits, chips, crisps, chocolate and fizzy drinks. In general, children are not keen on vegetables, fruit, dairy foods, fish and lean meats. They have also become less active, and obesity is on the increase.

Paris

Anyone who has got itchy feet knows how enjoyable travelling is. Personally, from the opening of brochures to the moment of departure I'm like a child with a new toy. I love going to different places and seeing things for the first time, but one place I have visited countless times and I will never tire of is Paris.

The excitement of travelling is twofold. First of all, there's the actual process of getting to your destination. In my opinion, it is best to use some form of transport other than your own car, as this gives you the opportunity to relax and look around you. When I go to Paris, for example, I always fly. Words cannot describe the feeling I get when the French countryside suddenly appears through the clouds, or on a sunny day, when you begin to make out landmarks from the air.

Secondly, of course, is the stay itself. Now, travelers must always adopt a positive frame of mind in all circumstances. This is especially important when booking into a Parisian hotel. Don't let the rickety lift, shared bathroom and strange decor worry you. These things all have their charm, but you are unlikely to be indoors long enough for them to annoy you.

In other words, Paris is a city you should be out and about in. Needless to say, one visit won't be long enough to take in all the sights, but from the moment you arrive, the atmosphere of the city will start to affect you. Visit the famous spots like the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre museum and Notre Dame Cathedral and you will see what I mean. Then treat yourself to a coffee on the banks of the River Seine.

And no visit to any foreign city is complete without a visit to a cheap little restaurant where you can sample the cuisine and mingle with the locals. I find it's the best way to soak up some of the atmosphere and romance of the place.

Travelling anywhere is incredibly enriching. An open mind and a sense of adventure will ensure that you take away memories that will last you a lifetime.
Does This Sound Familiar?
One problem parents face is what to prepare. Many children are fussy eaters and go through food fads. Providing them with a balanced diet and also making sure that they do eat something can be a headache. In addition, if both parents work it may be difficult for them to spare the time to prepare food. Consequently, children tend to eat too many ready meals or takeaways.

Tackling the Problem
It is vital that parents find the time to prepare balanced meals. Try cooking double quantities so a meal lasts two days. Also, be aware of what children need in their daily diet. Essential food types are grains and pulses, fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, meat, dairy products and oils. Then, there are two things we should bear in mind at mealtimes. Firstly, set a good example; children learn by imitation and their desire to identify with those they live with means that, in general, they will eat what their parents eat. Secondly, we can exploit the fact that we are dealing with children. A healthy snack can be dressed up as a treat in a number of ways. Food can be served in the shape of a funny face for younger children, and older ones will enjoy different kinds of dips or homemade food presented in different ways. Children can also be involved in the preparation of food, which they will consider to be a game.

Conclusion
A balanced diet is of utmost importance to ensure good growth and development in children. We hope that the above guidelines will be of help to parents with children in this age group.

Part 2 – 4

Friends
This well-known American sitcom portrays six friends in New York who rely on each other for support in their daily pursuit of career satisfaction, love and happiness. During the course of all the series, we have followed their ups and downs, the intrigues of their relationships, moments of success and failure, as well as the simple day-to-day process of living.

The cast is evenly balanced – three men, three women – and the characters diverse enough to hold our interest. A number of special guest stars add to the diversity and their reappearances give continuity to the sequence of events. Most of the action takes place in the two apartments in which four of them live, or in their favourite café where they like to spend time together.

The programme has been running, incredibly enough, for almost a decade and has in that time gained many fans all across the globe. It incorporates a variety of comic styles from subtle humour to slapstick and, of course, there are endless misunderstandings between the main characters.

This type of situation comedy is extremely popular these days, as the long-term success of this particular show proves. The key to the success of sitcoms is that they appeal to such a wide audience. They also deal with personal relationships, which the audience can easily relate to, and the light-hearted treatment of serious problems ensures that we are kept entertained.

This type of long-running comedy is in fact close in genre to the soap opera. It has similar themes and it creates an atmosphere of anticipation over what will happen between the major characters. The main difference is that each episode is complete within itself.

Friends is probably the most successful situation comedy on television at the moment and many will be sorry to see it go. However, it has proved one thing: that this format is a winning formula – one which the viewing public will continue to demand from television producers.

Paper 3: Use of English
Part 1

1 although 9 out
2 its 10 in
3 there 11 a
4 other 12 over
5 against 13 their
6 guilty/capable 14 actually
7 too/so 15 thus/thereby/
8 forward therefore

Part 2

16 contributory/contributing 21 productivity
17 irritability 22 developments
18 personal 23 demoralising
19 enlightened 24 unavoidable
20 satisfaction 25 crowded/overcrowded

Part 3

26 gathered 29 maintain
27 drive 30 crude
28 public 31 grand
Part 4

32 told him in no uncertain terms
33 has no intention of resigning
34 to come up with a solution to
35 was no easy matter for me to persuade
36 after putting the phone down did she realise
37 were caught/taken (completely) unawares by
38 is a strong probability/chance/possibility of rain later
39 was no need for him to be

Part 5

40 a large number/a significant proportion/etc of his clothes
41 there is a strong possibility that the clothes in question will come back into fashion soon
42 they would either want to throw the items away or keep them for themselves
43 it is left for their relatives to deal with after their death
44 (Suggested answer)
   One reason given for keeping things is that they are too good to throw away. Another reason is the belief that the items will return to fashion. Of course, some belongings are kept because they are valuable. Finally, people with limited space often store things because, in the future, they hope to have bigger homes.

Paper 4: Listening

Part 1

1 B 3 B 5 B 7 A
2 C 4 A 6 A 8 B

Part 2

9 violin 14 (major) drawbacks
10 love affair 15 risk
11 (mild) surprise 16 (some) long-term
12 early training 17 on the move
13 (most) prized possession

Part 3

18 C 20 D 22 C
19 B 21 C

Practice Test 5

Paper 1: Reading

Part 1

1 C 4 A 7 C 10 C 13 A 16 A
2 D 5 C 8 D 11 A 14 C 17 C
3 C 6 A 9 B 12 A 15 B 16 C

Part 2

19 B 21 A 23 C 25 B
20 D 22 D 24 A 26 A

Part 3

27 E 29 A 31 B 33 D
28 H 30 F 32 G

Part 4

34 B 36 D 38 A 40 A
35 C 37 C 39 B

Paper 2: Writing (Suggested Answers)

Part 1

Dear Sir,

I was astonished to hear some of the opinions aired in last night’s radio debate on modern youth and feel compelled to express my own views.

Quite frankly, I find it hard to believe that any of the participants in the programme have ever had any contact with children at all, and certainly they have forgotten what it was like to be children themselves.

To say that today’s youngsters lack a sense of responsibility is preposterous and implies that modern parents do not know how to bring up their children. Although I am prepared to accept that incidents of shocking, sometimes criminal, behaviour do occur, this does not mean that children today are as spoilt and badly behaved as your programme suggested. The speakers in
the debate completely ignored the ways in which children
today are encouraged to make a very real contribution to
society. I can provide you with countless examples of this,
such as giving up their free time to help the elderly and
getting involved in environmental clean-up campaigns to
name but two.

Another of your speakers commented on the length of
school holidays. Are these really any longer than in the
past? Why is this speaker so concerned about youngsters
having free time? Perhaps he would like us to return to the
times when children received little or no education and
were forced to work in factories and mines at a very early
age. I hardly think that having free time is a reason to
criticise our youth.

I would agree that modern youngsters have more
money to spend than in the past, but this is true for all age
groups; we all have more disposable income in what has
become an affluent society.

I doubt whether any of this is new; I dare say adults
were complaining about the behaviour of children in
ancient times. Nevertheless, I do feel that we should focus
more on the positive, rather than the negative traits in
young people.

Yours faithfully,
G M Harcourt

Part 2 – 2

The Boathouse

Until very recently, The Boathouse was just that; an
old abandoned canal boathouse situated beside the
bridge which carries the main road over the river on the
southern edge of the city. Not any more.

Proprietor Gerald Smiles bought the property when
he was made redundant just over six months ago, and
he has spent the interim period renovating the building
and fitting it out as a small, modest but comfortable
restaurant.

There is nothing pretentious about the décor, and the
food on offer is not exactly haute cuisine either, but it has
the qualities that most appeal to impoverished students;
it is good, wholesome, well-cooked fare and comes in
extremely generous portions.

We decided to try The Boathouse last Thursday
evening when we felt fairly sure of finding a table. Gerald
does not accept bookings – you simply turn up and take
your chances. This is not really a problem as there is a
comfortable lounge area where you can sit and enjoy a
quiet drink before your meal. Gerald is a book lover, and
has lined the walls with a variety of books from his library
which you are welcome to browse through while you wait
for your table.

It was a cold night, and we were grateful for the big
open log fire burning cheerfully in the corner of the
dining room. There was another blazing away in the
lounge, but we found a table immediately. The menu,
brought to us by a student earning some extra money as
a waitress, offers just three starters including a soup of
the day, six main courses and a couple of desserts.

I passed on the starter and opted for the steak and
onion pie and the blackberry tart with fresh cream to
finish. It was delicious, simply delicious. All the food is
prepared by Gerald’s wife, Pauline, and she certainly
knows how to cook.

We paid a total of £16 for our meal and left fully
satisfied. Give it a try. You’ll love it.

The Boathouse, 17 Riverside Way.

Part 2 – 3

To: The Head of Business and Tourism,
Grantham College
From: Douglas Nichols
Subject: Study Trip to Greece
Date: 19th May 20.

Introduction
This proposal gives details about places of interest
which should appeal to students from your department
during their study trip. Visitors to the places outlined
below should be able to gain a valuable insight into our
country, both from a tourism and from a business
perspective.

Athens
The most famous monument is, of course, the
Parthenon, and this really is a must. Equally interesting
to visit are the museum, the old market place and the
ancient theatres which are all in the same area. A
fascinating mixture of Greek and Roman history is there
to be seen, and can easily be enjoyed on a one-day tour
of this small area. Also near these monuments are the
flea market in Monastiraki and the old part of the city
known as Plaka.

The Islands
Holidays to the islands account for a large proportion
of the tourist trade, so a visit to at least one is essential. If
you are based in Athens, a convenient way of seeing
some islands is on the three-island day trip which visits
Aegina, Poros and Hydra. A longer trip could take you a
better-known island such as Mykonos, Santorini or
Rhodes. However if you prefer to avoid the crowds, try a
quieter spot like Syros or Samos.
Practice Test 5

The Mainland
Less popular than some of the more up-market islands, mainland Greece is nevertheless visited by thousands of tourists interested in our cultural history. A day trip from the capital takes you to the ancient city of Delphi which is a remarkable place. A two-day trip further north also visits the area known as Meteora, which is famous for its monasteries perched on top of gigantic rock formations. Another option would be to visit Corinth and the ancient theatre of Epidaurus, where it would be well worth booking tickets for a performance.

Conclusion
Your visit should include, as far as possible, every facet of business and tourism here. Therefore I would recommend that your trip covers the three areas presented in this brief proposal, in order to gain a broad view of the country and also ensure an enjoyable stay.

Part 2 – 4
Fancy taking a holiday in mid-winter? What would you do? Probably jet off to some warm, sunny climate or get the skis out of the cupboard. I doubt whether many people would find the prospect of travelling at 4 miles an hour along an icy canal through bars, grey countryside very appealing.

Yet that is precisely what my friend and I decided to do last winter. Canal holidays are becoming increasingly popular in the summer months when it is possible to cruise until quite late in the evening before mooring for the night and enjoying a meal in the open air, but there is not much demand for the boats at other times of the year.

This, of course, means that the boats can be hired quite cheaply; our traditional canal boat, 15 metres long and just two metres wide, cost us just £250 for two weeks – less than half the price we would have to pay in July or August. There is another advantage too; there is hardly any traffic on the canals in January, so it is easier to find moorings and there are no delays at the locks which carry you from one level to another.

We were a little concerned about the cold with temperatures falling to well below zero at night, but we needn’t have worried; the central heating (yes, the boats are heated!) was amazingly efficient, and there was always enough power to keep the system going throughout the evening.

The sub-zero temperatures did cause us some problems one day when we woke to find the canal frozen over. Canal boats were never designed as icebreakers, and so we spent that particular day playing Scrabble and watching television – yes, the boats have that too!

In fact, the boats are as well equipped as any modern home; ours boasted a lounge, fully fitted kitchen, a bathroom (no bath, just a shower) and two bedrooms with plenty of cleverly designed storage space.

So if you fancy a reasonably priced winter holiday with a difference, contact your local boatyard or holiday agent. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

Paper 3: Use of English

Part 1
1 to
2 not
3 because
4 what
5 at
6 for
7 into
8 become
9 also
10 whom
11 than
12 while
13 by
14 in
15 name

Part 2
16 unbelievably
21 difficulties
17 endlessly
22 upgraded
18 download
23 locations
19 connection
24 justifiable
20 apparently
25 insufficient

Part 3
26 shed
29 rattling
27 rich
30 transfer
28 screen
31 stand

Part 4
32 came as no surprise to hear that
33 for Mary’s help, they would not have been
34 after spending hours reading did he start/begin
35 suddenly dawned on me
36 were held up by road works
37 to come to terms with/coming to terms with my having been/being
38 with a view to growing
39 can access my files as/because/since they are protected

Part 5
40 being unable to sleep soundly, you may be disturbed by horrific dreams
41 dreams help your brain to put the information it holds into some kind of order and get rid of any unnecessary details it doesn’t need
42 a state when a person hasn’t had enough sleep
and their body makes it clear that they need to
catch up
43 older people require as much sleep as when they
were younger, but they often have difficulties such
as not being able to sleep, not sleeping deeply
and sleeping for a short time
44 (Suggested answer)
The main reason given is insomnia. Other people
are kept awake, or disturbed, by bad dreams or
nightmares. Then, a difficult or busy schedule might
mean that people do not get enough sleep. Lastly,
old age and associated medical problems or
medication is a commonly reported phenomenon
which interrupts sleep patterns.

Paper 4: Listening

Part 1

1 C 3 B 5 A 7 C
2 A 4 C 6 B 8 A

Part 2

9 17th/seventeenth century 12 two holes
10 three pairs 13 number of
11 137/one/a hundred and thirty seven 15 a dog or (a) cat
16 chemical sprays metres 17 (pet’s) skin

Part 3

18 C 20 B 22 A
19 D 21 B

Part 4

23 J 25 B 27 P
24 J 26 B 28 B

Paper 2: Writing (Suggested Answers)

Part 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with reference to the article on the media,
published in Tuesday’s edition of your newspaper. I
would like to express my opinion regarding the points
raised in the article.

Firstly, you claimed that the media misrepresents facts
and consequently young people are growing up with an
unrealistic view of the world. While I agree that some
sections of the media do promote a lifestyle which is
idealised, I do not think this is true of all the media. You
mention that television, in particular, is guilty of
misleading the young, but I think we should remember
that it is through television that most of us watch news
programmes and documentaries which inform us
realistically about what is happening in the world.

Furthermore, I think it is an exaggeration to say that
young people are so influenced by the media that they
have no idea what the real world is like. It is true that the
young enjoy many forms of entertainment the media
provides which might not reflect the world around them.
However, I firmly believe that young people can
differentiate between reality and fantasy, and suggesting
that they cannot underestimates their intelligence.

You also claim that the media should educate
youngsters and prepare them for the future. Surely this is
already being done, as it is in the media that we can find
out about current affairs, the latest trends, worldwide
news, careers and so on. It seems to me that it is not the
media that is neglecting a responsibility, but those who
are in contact with young people on a daily basis, their
family or school for instance.

On the whole, I disagree with the view that young
people approach the media in an unintelligent way and
therefore have a false view of the world. However, I do
think that the media could be used to greater advantage in a variety of areas which would benefit the younger generation enormously.

I am looking forward to seeing my letter published in one of the next issues of your newspaper.

Yours faithfully,
Robert Norman Wooster

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are privileged to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty, and I read your report on the council’s plans to attract more tourists with some alarm.

Of course, more tourists will mean more jobs for local people and more profits for our shops, hotels and restaurants. Given the current high rate of unemployment, any improvement in the labour market is to be welcomed, but I am concerned about the problems tourism can create.

First of all, tourists do not walk from their homes to their destinations; they arrive in large fume-belching coaches, and those coaches have to stop somewhere so there will be an inevitable increase in the amount of traffic using our already congested roads. The only way to avoid this particular problem is to build a coach park outside the city and provide a regular mini-bus service to take people into the city.

For much the same reason we must make sure that no large hotels are built inside the city limits. Small guesthouses, accommodating no more than 10 people, are acceptable within the city, provided that they provide adequate off-street car parking facilities for their guests, but larger hotels catering for coach parties should be situated away from the city.

I am also concerned that the construction of new tourist facilities such as entertainment arcades, coffee bars, souvenir shops and so on is likely to ruin the character of our city. Building regulations will have to be strictly enforced if the centre is not to be polluted with garish neon signs and loud music. And the police should be given the resources to deal with potential troublemakers – unless we are prepared for a worsening of the situation which we already have, particularly at weekends, where young people behave in an objectionable manner in the centre.

We have seen the damage that tourism can cause in other parts of the country; let us hope that our city councillors are wise enough to learn from the mistakes of others.

Yours faithfully,
Ms K Barnes

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Part 2 – 3

I was born at the end of April, so I was just over five when, one day in early September, I started my education in a village school about three miles from my home.

My mother and I must have walked there that first day as we did not own a car and there was no bus service to the village. I say ‘must have walked’ because I remember absolutely nothing about the journey, but I do recall entering the building for the very first time and my mother’s departure.

It was a tiny school and was more like a miniature theatre than a seat of learning. There were only two teachers; Miss May, a mature lady who taught the older children on the ‘stage’, and Miss Platt, who I remember as being a pretty, dark-haired young woman.

Miss Platt taught us infants in the ‘auditorium’. She was very kind, patient and gentle and I remember that, after a few minutes’ confusion when my mother smiled and waved goodbye, I settled down quite comfortably to take in my new, strange-looking surroundings. I think my mother was surprised to learn that I didn’t cry that first day, as so many children do, as she often referred to it afterwards with a fond chuckle.

I have no recollection of learning anything, although I must have done because I was later told I was quite a good pupil, and my most vivid memories are of the days when it was fine and we were taken out for walks across the surrounding fields and along tree-shaded lanes. We would always end up in the same field where we could play our games, pick wild flowers, talk to our friends, or simply lie down and rest.

I only made one good friend at that school; a boy who was the son of a farm worker living in the village. Because I lived quite a long way away, I rarely saw him outside of school but we sat together and spent hours in each other’s company throughout those innocent, early schooldays.

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Part 2 – 4

The Long Firm by Jake Arnott

The Long Firm, by Jake Arnott, is a crime story that is not for the faint-hearted. Deeply embedded in the gangland culture of 1960s London, the action includes some of the capital’s more interesting and colourful characters.

The plot revolves around the exploits of a gangster, Harry Starks, who suffers from bouts of depression and occasionally believes that he is a respectable member of society. The other characters play an equally important role in the book, however, and Arnott’s skill at rendering
these people believable is what makes this book so compelling. It is through these supporting characters that we learn about Starks and his world.

The book is many things besides a crime story. It is a social commentary and a riveting portrait of an era, as well as a powerful insight into the world inhabited by criminals. The reader comes away with much more than a series of events well told – it is almost like stepping back in time to an underworld that we are given the opportunity to see at first hand.

What Arnott achieves in this book sums up the popularity of crime fiction. The plot, it must be said, is often secondary to the characterisation. After all, there are only so many ways to commit a murder or a robbery. Many crimes are worth reading about unless you can identify with or even sympathise with the perpetrators. What Arnott manages to do, and what all crime writers aspire to doing, is create a world where the reader is interested in finding out about the protagonists of the story – their motivations, their weaknesses and their thoughts.

For a crime story to be successful, it must have this element of believability. In short, it must be written in a way that appeals to people who would never dream of committing a crime. In my opinion, this is the difficult part of crime writing: to create a world that is convincing enough to be recognisable to criminals, while at the same time writing in such a way that will draw in readers from all walks of life.

Paper 3: Use of English

Part 1
1 however 9 would
2 less 10 carried
3 other 11 on
4 first/former 12 further
5 into 13 in/with
6 much/more 14 due
7 which 15 every
8 a

Part 2
16 speedy 21 ownership
17 construction 22 lovingly
18 impassable 23 Donations
19 competitor 24 further
20 uninvolved 25 derivation

Part 3
26 lie 26 dash 30 state
27 fine 29 brush 31 pattern

Part 4
32 up destitute if he had stopped/had he stopped
33 by far the most exciting film
34 the garden left me (feeling)
35 went to great lengths to
36 no telling how she will react/to take
37 had his crops almost totally destroyed
38 the event of rain,
39 not entitled to a refund

Part 5
40 lock it securely, register it, buy a bicycle that collapses
41 the freedom from the need to find a parking space
42 they drive in an aggressive or bullying way/their behaviour on the road is confrontational
43 the details/back/ground of the majority of offenders/the typical offender

(Suggested answer)
First of all, cyclists can be thrown off their bicycles by holes in the road. They are also sometimes forced off the road by careless or inconsiderate motorists. Car drivers themselves can be forced off course or made to crash by other, more aggressive, drivers. In an increasing number of cases, this can lead to them being physically attacked by other drivers.

Paper 4: Listening

Part 1
1 C 3 B 5 B 7 B
2 C 4 A 6 B 8 A

Part 2
9 locals 14 behaviour
10 community safety 15 parents
11 Reaction 16 the opposite
12 equipment 17 fear
13 vehicles

Part 3
18 A 19 B 20 D 21 D 22 A

Part 4
23 R 24 A 25 B 26 R 27 B 28 A
Practice Test 1 — Paper 5 Speaking

Part 2

Stage 1

A: Well, let's see. In the first picture the children are obviously in a cinema or a theatre and they all look very happy to me. What do you think?

B: Yes, you're right, I think. They must be enjoying whatever it is they are watching because they are all laughing or smiling – except for this boy in the blue shirt! Why do you think he has got his fingers in his ears? He almost looks frightened, doesn't he?

A: I don't know – perhaps he thinks there's going to be a loud noise. You know, like a big balloon bursting, perhaps. What about the other picture?

B: Well, again, they look happy, don't they? Not so sure about the pirate – he looks quite serious, maybe he's nervous. I think perhaps they are going to put on a show of some sort – at their school perhaps.

A: They don't look as excited as the children in the first photograph, but I think they're happy because all children love dressing up. They're probably smiling because the photographer told them to – it's not a natural photograph like the first one.

Stage 2

A: O.K. We've said that in the first picture they are watching a performance of some sort and in the last one they are probably going to take part in a school play or something. Now let's decide what the children are doing in the other two pictures. What about the second picture? They're in a playground, aren't they? And the third picture shows two children painting, right?

B: Yes, and they all show things that children like doing. So let's talk about the benefits children get from these activities. I think it is very good for children to be able to play on the climbing frame we can see here because it's good exercise and it gives them confidence.

A: Why do you say it gives them confidence? Do you mean that they will be less frightened of heights?

B: Yes, I think so, and that's important because children must learn how to cope with their fears. What do you think about painting? I know children like drawing and painting, but I don't think it is particularly beneficial.

A: I'm not so sure about that. I think it helps children to express themselves and develop their imagination. I know that sometimes psychiatrists study children's paintings to see if they have any problems, so it seems to me that it is important that children are given the opportunity to be creative in this way.

B: It's a bit like acting then, isn't it? That's creative! I think this one is probably the most beneficial because it helps give children confidence in themselves if they have to stand up and perform in front of an audience.

A: Yes, I agree with you there. I remember I was very shy when I was in junior school and at first I didn't want to be in the school play because I hated the idea of everybody looking at me! But in the end I enjoyed it and I felt a lot more sure of myself afterwards.

B: Right so we've agreed on one. What about taking children to the theatre or cinema? Is that very beneficial? I remember we went to the theatre quite a few times when I was at school, but I think we just saw it as an escape from lessons! I do remember once we were taken to see a film about the period of history we were studying – that was beneficial, I think.

A: I think it is good for children to do things like that together rather than go with their parents because I think they enjoy it more that way. But I think the other important activity is this one where the children are getting physical exercise. That is very important, I think.

B: So do I. So we're agreed then! Physical exercise and acting are the two most beneficial.

Part 3

Prompt card (a)

Candidate A: Well, I think that people these days learn a foreign language – and often more than one – for a number of reasons, and not just the ones suggested here, either. First of all, let's think about employment. It's true that with modern communications and globalisation, international tourism and so on, that people from different countries have more direct contact with one another than in the past. If you want a job which will involve some form of international contact or other, then being proficient in one or more foreign languages has become a basic and essential qualification. It's no longer a bonus that might give you the edge over other applicants for the same job. I don't mean that a manual worker, for example, needs such knowledge, although, when you think about it, with an increasing number of migrant workers, even they need to know how to speak and understand the language used in the country they are working in. I've already mentioned communications, which I think is inseparable from international business and the Internet. Here it is not so much knowledge of a foreign language that is desirable but a good knowledge of English because this is the language used for most international
business and Internet traffic, whether we like the idea or not. Of course, this gives native English speakers an advantage over the rest of us, and perhaps explains why English people are said to be bad at learning foreign languages themselves!

As for learning a foreign language for personal interest, well, I suppose that might be true for a small number of people who have plenty of free time and who are genuinely interested in foreign languages as an intellectual pursuit. But I think for the majority of us the reasons are more practical – getting a good job, as I have said, or just wanting to be able to communicate with people when you are on holiday. We know that a lot of English and German people in particular buy homes in Greece for their retirement these days and I am sure they try to learn Greek in order to communicate with the local people.

I think if you have contact with a person whose language you do not speak then you almost feel obliged to learn that person’s language because it seems impolite somehow not to make the effort when that person has taken the trouble to learn your language.

Candidate B: I would just like to make the point that we have to learn a foreign language whether we like it or not because it’s one of the subjects taught at school!

Both Candidates

A: I think it is for historical reasons. We know that at one time England colonised many parts of the world and many of those colonies have become big and important countries today. If that had not happened then another language would have become dominant – probably French or Spanish. Most people in South America speak Spanish, for example, and I think it’s the second most common language in the United States of America.

B: That’s true, and America has become a huge and important industrial nation. But perhaps there’s another reason. English is quite an easy language to learn because its grammar is much simpler than in other languages. It doesn’t have the masculine, feminine and neuter forms that we have in Greek, for instance! Apart from that, once people started accepting English as the international language of communication, it sort of carried on under its own steam, so to speak. So it’s probably more because of chance than anything else.

Prompt Card (b)

Candidate B: Oh dear, I’m not really an expert on the Internet! I mean, I’ve used it sometimes at school, but I don’t have a computer at home so most of my information is second-hand, I’m afraid. Obviously, there is a vast amount of information to be found on the Internet – that’s one of the things they showed us at school – and I think it is very useful if you want to research some topic or other for an essay, for example. I think you have to be careful, though, because you cannot be certain that all the information you find is accurate or true. By that I mean that if you look up a subject in a good encyclopedia then you can feel pretty sure that the information you find will be, you know, correct, but people can write whatever they like on the Internet, can’t they? So I think you have to be extra careful to check that the information you find comes from a reliable source.

I know that a lot of people use the Internet to buy things like airline tickets and so on. You can find cheap flights, I think, and that is obviously a good thing if it helps to keep prices down. It saves people time, too, because you don’t have to go out of your home to find what you want and so you see more and more companies including their website addresses in their adverts, so it must be good for business! Thinking of business in general, I would imagine that big international companies find it useful because they can send information to their offices around the world quickly and cheaply.

That’s one of the other things about the Internet – if you have a computer and can connect to the Internet then you have an address that people can use to send you messages and you can write to people all over the world. Some of my friends do that; they have made friends with people in other countries and they send each other e-mails and even photographs! I find that amazing, really.

Of course, I think there is a danger here because I think a lot of people, young people especially, spend too much time on the Internet, it’s called surfing, I believe, and it means that people who do this are just looking at things on the Internet rather aimlessly – like flipping through the pages of a magazine when you’ve got nothing better to do. I think that is bad because it means that these people aren’t really communicating with anybody.

Candidate A: I don’t think that the majority of children spend a lot of time surfing the net. I’ve got a computer and at first I did surf the net quite a bit, but I soon got bored with it. It’s a bit like playing computer games, really – the novelty soon wears off.

Both candidates

A: No, not really. All right, I know it can be very annoying when you’re on a bus for example and somebody’s mobile phone keeps ringing and they then have a loud conversation with their friend. But on the whole I would say that they are very useful and there have
been a number of cases where they have actually saved lives. I remember reading about a young couple who were lost on a mountain. They were able to find them because the girl had her mobile phone with her.

B: Yes, I agree with you. There was a fear that mobile phones might cause cancer of the brain, wasn't there, but I think that the latest research shows that that is not true, and I think that mobile phones are invaluable if you are going on a long car journey so that if you break down in the middle of nowhere in the middle of the night you can call for help. I know I feel lost if I forget to take mine with me when I go out!

These questions may be answered as monologues by each student individually or may develop into a discussion between both students.

- Well, obviously we all get information about what is happening in the world much more quickly than in the past and I think that is a good thing because as a result I think society has become more caring in a way. When we hear about children starving in Africa and other places then we give money to charities who can help them. I don't think that would have happened before the days of television, for example.
- I'm not sure about that. As we just said, we know more about what is going on in the world, and perhaps we understand more about other cultures and the way other people live. At one time I suppose most ordinary people only thought about their own immediate world and just assumed that everybody else in the world lived the same sort of lives as their own – or perhaps they believed stories like the one about the streets of London being paved with gold! We know differently now, of course.
- I would imagine that the equipment we use will become more sophisticated and capable of doing more things – already we have mobile phones which can take and send photographs to somebody on the other side of the world. I think, too, that the trend will be towards more and more miniaturisation. I just hope that things will become easier to use – already I have problems using my mobile phone because I'm not sure what some of the functions are supposed to do.
- Personally, I don't think that that is likely to happen. It's true that some languages are no longer spoken – Latin, for instance. But I cannot really see that one day we will all be speaking the same language because languages change over time. Already there are differences between American and British English and the day may come when they can no longer be described as being the same language.

No, I think that, although the number of languages in the world may decline, the important languages will remain.

**Practice Test 2 – Paper 5 Speaking**

**Part 2**

**Stage 1**

A: Let's see now. I think this picture shows a dry river bed or a lake somewhere. What do you think?

B: Yes, it must be something like that – or a dried up reservoir, maybe. If it's a reservoir then we could say that it shows how important water is to man. We not only need it for drinking, but for washing, cooking – and industry, of course.

A: I agree, but I don't think it matters very much whether it's a river or whatever. The main thing is that it shows how important water is to life. This plant will die soon if it doesn't rain.

B: You are right – and the fourth picture is similar, isn't it? It clearly shows us how important water is for wild animals because it shows two zebras drinking in what looks like a desert.

A: Yes, that one's rather obvious, isn't it? But it's not just wild animals – both pictures together show us that all living things need water to survive. If there was no water, there would be no life on Earth at all.

B: Yes, and there certainly doesn't seem to be much water for the animals in this picture – and there are no plants at all.

**Stage 2**

A: Well, let's start with the first picture. I think it is showing us how important it is to conserve water so that plants will grow to be strong and healthy, but I don't think it would be a good choice for a poster on water conservation – there's just too much water here and everything looks so idyllic. What do you think?

B: Absolutely – people would just say to themselves 'what a lovely place' and think that there was no problem at all! This second picture though, really strikes me. I find it quite frightening in a way because it shows what can happen to the ground when there is no rainfall – when there's a drought in other words.

A: Yes, it's good, isn't it? It definitely shows people how important it is to conserve water. I think it would be even better if it did not show this one green plant growing, though. It would be more effective if the plant were dead - or dying, perhaps.
B: I'm not so sure about that – I like the contrast somehow. I agree with you that it would make an excellent poster and I think most people would realise what will happen to that plant if it doesn't rain! What about the third picture? These fish are dead, aren't they? Perhaps the water has been polluted with something which killed the fish.

A: Probably. And so the picture shows us how important it is not to pollute streams and rivers. Do you think that there would be a better poster for water conservation than the picture with the two zebras?

B: I'm not sure. The fourth picture is good, I think, but it's similar in a way to the second one, isn't it? I mean, they both show very dry areas, so perhaps the third one would be better because it shows how important it is to keep our water clean.

A: Personally, I think the one with the zebras drinking is the better of the two. It's easy for people to imagine what will happen to the animals if the water dries up entirely and it also suggests to me that the animals have very little water to drink even now. There's just too much water in the third picture – polluted or not – and everything looks too green. Rather like the first picture in a way.

B: Well, I think we're just going to have to disagree on this one. At least we agreed on the second picture, the one with the plant.

A: True – but I still think that that one would be better if the plant didn't look quite so healthy!

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Part 3

Prompt Card (a)

Candidate A: I don't think that people have suddenly started attaching more importance to a good education than in the past, but I think it is easier for people to obtain a good education nowadays. As little as a century ago many people were forced to leave school before they had learned how to read and write because they were obliged to go to work to earn money to help their poor parents. It is only relatively recently that laws have been introduced to make the employment of children illegal, and of course I think it has only been possible to do that because people started to earn enough money to live on without forcing their children to go out to work.

It is true, though, that the job market today is extremely competitive and parents often want their children to have a better education than they had themselves because they think that then their children will be able to get a better job.

Candidate B: I must admit that I am not convinced by this. Because there are more people with university degrees, it actually becomes more difficult for them to find a job. I can give you an example here. My local corner shop owner was very proud of the fact that his son was studying mathematics at university, but that son ended up running the shop for his father because he couldn’t find a job where his knowledge of mathematics was required. On the other hand, my neighbour's son didn't go to university and he works as a very successful plumber and enjoys a high standard of living.

So I think that the belief that a good education will give you better employment opportunities is a fallacy because there are too many educated people chasing too few jobs. I agree that everybody should have the chance to go to university if they want to and can pass the entrance exams, but if everybody had a university degree then nobody would want to work as a shop assistant, for example. Of course, if you do have a good education, then it is true to say that a wider range of jobs are available to you, so in that way you do have greater personal freedom, but I think a good education is not only about getting a good job at the end of it – at least, it shouldn't be. To me a good education means learning to be a more informed, more sophisticated person. It's true that social status is a factor, but as I mentioned before, I think this comes from the parents mainly. I think a lot of parents are proud to be able to say that their son or daughter is at university or has qualified as a doctor, for example, because, let's face it, people are snobbish about such things and such parents would probably feel ashamed if their children did not go to university.

Candidate B: I agree with what you say about parents putting pressure on their children. My parents were very upset when I said I didn't want to go to university, but I'm perfectly happy running my own hairdressing business. I don't see how a university education would have helped me.

Both Candidates

A: I think that if you want to study, then you should study a subject you like, definitely. First of all, if you are interested in a particular subject then you are more likely to be good at it and so you will end up with a good qualification. In that way you may be able to kill two birds with one stone – do well in a subject you like and get a good job which you will enjoy as a result!

B: I agree. I can't imagine anything worse than doing a job you hate – even if you do earn a lot of money or have job security. I know that a lot of schoolteachers, for example, leave the profession because they can't stand it any longer. I don't think people should think only in terms of how much they will earn from a job or how secure that job is – they must enjoy what they are doing.

25
Speaking – Practice Test 2

Prompt Card (b)

Candidate B: I presume that this question really means what can older people do to keep mentally active, because I don’t think schoolchildren or young people have a problem with this. It’s true that people’s mental processes can slow down as they get older and of course there are some diseases which can affect old people and I guess there is not much that can be done about that, but on the whole I think we are wrong to assume that just because a person is old they are no longer as clever or quick-witted as they used to be.

I don’t think reading by itself is a particularly good way to keep your brain active because it is essentially a passive activity. By that I mean that if people read for pleasure alone then it is easy for their minds to drift away from the book, I know that from my own experience, so there has to be a purpose to reading – learning about a new subject, perhaps, something that has a practical outcome. I remember my grandfather used to solve complicated mathematical problems just for the fun of it and he was a great help to us with our maths homework! I think everybody should have a hobby and for people to keep their minds exercised that hobby should require a certain amount of mental effort. Rather than just following a pattern to knit a woollen jumper for example, it would be better if the person were to design the pattern and write instructions for others to follow.

In a way, I suppose this is linked in with the idea of learning new skills which I think is the best way of all to keep mentally active. Whenever we learn something new, or learn how to do something new, then we have to use our brains and that is a good thing. There have been examples of people going back to university when they retire and I think there were some people who recently got their degrees from The Open University when they were still in their eighties. It doesn’t have to be learning an intellectual skill, either, learning about computers or something of that sort will also help keep people mentally active.

There are other things that people can do too. Chess is a very good game for the brain and it has the added bonus of involving some social contact which is also important. Solving cryptic crosswords and doing other puzzles are other good ideas, but perhaps the most important thing of all is that people should not be made to feel that they are over the hill, as they say, because as we know, you are never too old to learn.

Candidate A: I don’t think I have anything to add to that. I agree that it is important that people should do all they can to keep their brains healthy and active just as we should look after the rest of our bodies.

Both Candidates

A: It is very important, I think. There is a saying that ‘all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy’ and that is very true. If people do not have enough free time for their own interests then I think that their ability to do their work well is impaired. The brain simply gets too tired to function properly.

B: I agree, and I know it is a bad thing from my own experience. When I started my business I worked all the time and I found that I was getting very irritable with people, and that was not good for business at all! But then I started to relax a little and make time for the things I enjoy doing – my hobbies – and after that I felt much better in myself. Business started to improve, too!

These questions may be answered as monologues by each student individually or may develop into a discussion between both students.

- Oh, I think learning things by yourself is the best way to learn! I’m not saying it’s possible to learn everything this way – I would definitely want somebody to teach me how to fly a plane, for example – but generally speaking I think that the things you discover for yourself are more likely to stick in your mind. I can give you an example of this. I taught myself how to use a computer and have never had any problems, but other people who have been on training courses simply don’t seem to remember all the things they were taught.

- I firmly believe that the sooner a child starts learning a foreign language the better. A lot of people are afraid that if children start too soon then somehow they won’t learn their own language properly. I think that is nonsense. I have two friends who have a Danish mother and a French father and they speak English, French and Danish. They learnt English because that is the language their parents use at home to speak to one another!

- I agree with that. Unfortunately, we seem to have the idea that as soon as people retire from work then their ability to do anything useful, or learn anything new, is lost to them. That is simply not true, in my opinion. We might not learn as quickly when we get older, but I believe that as long as we keep exercising our brains then they will keep working.

- That’s an interesting question. I was reading the other day that in England a lot of parents don’t send their children to school at all – they educate them at home themselves. It seems that these children choose to do what they want when they want – most of them don’t have formal lessons – but they
learn just as much as children who go to school, so perhaps the answer is probably yes, they should have more freedom to choose. To be honest, though, I can’t see how it would work in practice and there are things that all children need to know – how to read, for example.

Practice Test 3 – Paper 5 Speaking

Part 2

Stage 1
A: Right, let’s start with the first picture, shall we? What do you think the book is? It looks like an atlas or a children’s encyclopedia to me.
B: Yes, I think it must be something like that, they are both pointing at something, but I’m not sure why they are looking at it. I mean, they seem to be in a field somewhere, and I can only speculate that perhaps they are trying to identify one of the plants or flowers that they found in the field.
A: It could be something like that, I suppose, or maybe a bird or small animal they saw. On the other hand, they could just be playing some kind of game. It’s difficult to tell, isn’t it?
B: Yes, it’s not clear what they are reading – if they are reading at all – and it’s not easy to suggest why they might be doing it. What about this picture? It’s pretty obvious to me that this lady is reading something and making notes at the same time.
A: You’re right. I think perhaps she’s a teacher and she’s reading something in a book and making her notes for a lesson she is preparing. What do you think?
B: I think you’re right – she looks like a teacher, doesn’t she? Yes, I can’t think of anything else.

Stage 2
A: Right, so, reading skills. What do we mean by that, exactly? I mean, in the first picture we said that children might not be reading at all – just looking at something.
B: Yes, but they could be trying to read a map, couldn’t they? So they are trying to interpret some type of visual data – that is reading in a way. In the second picture the two men seem to be studying a report of some sort – they look like businessmen – and one of them has a pencil in his hand, so they might be making corrections.
A: Either that or they’re looking for specific information in the report. That’s skimming, isn’t it? Or is it scanning?
B: I think it’s scanning. O.K., let’s say they’re scanning a document to find some detail or other. What about the third picture?
A: Well, she’s pointing at something on the piece of paper, isn’t she? And, I don’t know, but he looks a bit worried with his hands like that. Do you know, I think they might be looking at their accounts and they have some sort of problem or other! So she’s interpreting and explaining data of some sort for him.
B: Could be! And in the last photo we’ve already said she’s probably summarising what she’s reading and taking notes at the same time. Now, which two shall we choose for a poster? Personally, I think the first and the fourth would be the best, because we have two contrasting age groups and two very different situations. I think the first one is good because it shows children working together on something. What do you think?
A: Yes it’s good to show children using books to learn something, so I would agree with you there. I’m not so sure about the fourth picture, though. I think the second one is better because it suggests that you need good reading skills if you want to get a good job these days.
B: That’s true, but you could also say the last picture suggests the same thing. In fact, I think it gets that message across more effectively because it suggests that if you have good reading skills you are independent in a way because you can work on your own – you don’t need somebody to help you understand what you are reading.
A: That’s a good point, I hadn’t thought of that. O.K., I agree with you. Pictures one and four then.

Part 3

Prompt Card (a)
Candidate A: This is a difficult question, I think, because, well, you can probably say that both have their good and bad points. To start with, I think it is true that if you work in a large organisation you tend to be rather, how can I put it, rather faceless. It’s like the difference between living in a large city and a small village – in a small village you know everybody and everybody knows you, but in a large city you are surrounded by total strangers and you might have problems when it comes to establishing social contact with people.

The same sort of thing can happen in a large company, I think, although it probably depends to a large extent on how the company is organised and how enlightened the senior management are; but generally speaking I would say that a small company – with no more than 20 or 30 employees, say – is probably a more friendly organisation
to work for. You are more likely to get to know people quickly and I imagine that people would be more inclined to work together for the benefit of the company as they would know that if the company is successful their own jobs are more likely to be secure. If you work for a very large organisation, on the other hand, I think it would be easier for a lazy employee to hide away and do little productive work.

As I said, that probably depends on how the company is organised. I know that some companies – car manufacturers started this, I think – organise their workers into teams who always work together. It seems that they are trying to recreate the atmosphere of the small company.

As far as promotion is concerned, I suppose it is better to work for a large organisation because obviously there will be a greater variety of positions to fill and a more complex managerial hierarchy. But I think large organisations are situated at different locations throughout the country – banks, for example – or even in different countries, so if you want to get promotion in such an organisation you might be required to move to another city, and that could be a problem. There again, if you work for a small company promotion might not be so important to you, because as I said, it is more like working for a family.

I would like to talk about that a bit more, because a lot of people choose to work for themselves or as a member of their family business. A lot of shops are run in this way, and I think this is probably best of all because you do not have to follow the orders of others – and, let’s face it, some bosses are still pretty old fashioned in their attitudes towards their employees – nor do you have to beg for a decent salary, because what you earn is entirely the result of your own efforts. I think that is why the idea of starting your own business is so popular in my country – people prefer to be their own boss, I would say.

Candidate B: I would just like to add that I think it depends very much on the type of work you want to do and also your character. Some people like the feeling of security that working for a large organisation can provide, but if you want to be a hairdresser, for example, then you are either going to work for yourself or with maybe two or three other people. I don’t think there are any large hairdressing companies employing hundreds of hairdressers!

Both Candidates

A: I definitely feel that doing a job you enjoy – a satisfying job – is more important than anything else. All right, I know that people want to be paid well for what they do, but I personally cannot imagine myself doing a job I hated just because it paid a lot of money. I know I wouldn’t do the job well because my heart wouldn’t be in it.

B: Yes, I think I agree with that, on the whole. I must admit though that I wouldn’t mind doing an unpleasant but well-paid job for a short time – up to a year or so, perhaps – in order to save some money for the future. It would be useful if I wanted to get married and buy a house, for example.

Prompt Card (b)

Candidate B: I think a lot could be done to help young people to choose a career, but unfortunately in my country I don’t think young people are given much help at all. A large number of young people tend to follow the same profession as their mothers or fathers – the family business again – and I think that is because they simply don’t know what other possibilities are available to them. Of course, they know that people work in a huge variety of different jobs, but I think that they are not given any information about how to become an interior designer, let’s say, and they don’t know what qualifications they will need, what it is really like to do that sort of work or what sort of money they can expect to earn.

I think it would be a good idea if children could get experience of different types of job before they leave school because it is important to know what it is like to do a particular job. You need to know that because you may need to study particular subjects in order to qualify. Let’s say that a teenager who is good at drawing thinks that she would like to become an interior designer but doesn’t really know what the work involves. If she is given the chance to work with an interior designer – perhaps in the school holiday – then she will be able to see whether she really likes the work or not. She might realise that it involves more than she bargained for and change her mind about her future career.

I think it is so important that young people be given the correct guidance about choosing a career because it is a decision that can affect the rest of their lives. I think that there are a lot of teenagers who don’t really know what job they want to do even when they are in the last year of school and so a lot of them try to get into university and just sort of drift into a career depending on the course of study they are offered. If schools had professional careers advisors they would be able to sit down with students individually, find out what the students were good at, what they enjoyed doing and so on, and then give them guidance based on the information they collect. They would be able to suggest to students what sort of jobs suit their talents, what qualifications they need, how easy or difficult it is to find work and so on.

I’m not sure that the family can give much guidance when it comes to choosing a career. Naturally, if the parents are
happy with their own jobs then they are going to encourage their children to do the same thing, but their knowledge is limited to their own experience and they might be tempted to ignore their children’s natural talents and so I think guidance should come from properly trained school careers advisors.

Candidate A: Actually in my school we did have a teacher who was supposed to help us choose a career, but I’m afraid that he wasn’t able to help us as much as he would probably have liked because he didn’t have the information we wanted and he wasn’t given enough time to help us.

Both Candidates

A: Well, as I’ve just said, we did have a career advisor of sorts, but apart from that, I don’t think the system does much to prepare us for work. I mean, a lot of the subjects we study at school are not going to help us when it comes to work. I think we should spend more time learning the practical skills that will be useful to us in our work.

B: I’m afraid I have to disagree with that. I don’t think that the primary purpose of any education system should be to provide job training. Of course, there are some basic skills that everyone should have — reading, writing and a good knowledge of basic mathematics — but schools already provide that. I think a school education should teach us about our history and culture — and the history and culture of other nations, of course.

These questions may be answered as monologues by each individual student or may develop into a discussion between both students.

- I think virtually all unskilled manual work will be done by machines — robots, if you like — in the future. Companies are already developing machines to do household chores like vacuum cleaning without a human operator and I’m sure we’re going to see more and more of this sort of thing as technology advances.

- I think there are several reasons for this. First of all, there are so many transport problems in big cities that, unless you are fortunate enough to live close to your place of work, the time you spend commuting is becoming unbearable so people — especially those with office jobs — are arguing that they can do their work equally well at home. Of course, developments in communications have also helped make this possible. We now have laptop computers, mobile telephones and email which means that we can get all the information we need to work from home and avoid the traffic jams.

- I would say that it is a combination of luck and character, really. I know some very successful businessmen started at a very early age — I think one started selling rolls of film to his schoolmates — and just seemed to go from one success to another. It probably helps if you can come up with a business idea that nobody else has thought of before and of course if you can find somebody to give you the money to start your business then that is a great help too.

- In most societies I would say that it is now more acceptable for women — including the mothers of children — to go out to work. In the past I think most people believed that as soon as a girl was married she should stay at home all day to look after her husband’s needs. That has certainly changed and now we see more women in positions of authority — several women have become the Prime Ministers of their countries in recent years and I think men are gradually getting used to the idea of having a woman as their boss at work. I think this is a good thing.

Practice Test 4 — Paper 5

Part 2

Stage 1

A: Right, well, let’s see. This first picture seems to be a big outdoor market somewhere. What do you think?

B: Yes, I think it’s probably a fruit and vegetable market from what I can see — and picture three is clearly a supermarket. So... what are the advantages of shopping in places like these... I think one of the advantages of going to a supermarket is that you can find everything you want in one large shop. Do you agree?

A: Yes, that’s one advantage — and of course because you don’t have to go to a lot of different shops you can also save a lot of time. Another thing is that you usually find a lot of variety in a supermarket — you have a lot to choose from.

B: True, but that can be a problem sometimes because it can be hard to make your choice. What about the outdoor market? I think that farmers sell their produce directly to the public at places like these, so that the fruit and vegetables are always at their freshest and usually a lot cheaper than you find anywhere else, I think.
A: Yes, you’re probably right, but of course you can only buy things which are in season. In a lot of supermarkets you can find oranges, let’s say, all the year round because they import them from other countries when no local ones are available.

Stage 2

A: Well, we’ll want something that will show something modern, won’t we? I mean, I can’t see the point of having a picture of an outdoor market to promote a new shopping centre, can you?

B: Not at all! No, I think we can definitely reject that one – it would probably put people off rather than anything else. What about the second one, though? It looks as though somebody – a cashier, probably – is putting a credit card through one of these machines that read the owner’s details from the magnetic strip on the card. I think that’s quite good, because it suggests something fast and modern. A lot of people use credit cards these days rather than cash.

A: Yes, it’s O.K., but I don’t think that it’s the best we could have somehow. Now, I definitely think we have to include the picture of the supermarket – there’s no doubt in my mind that that suggests something modern. Do you agree?

B: Yes, I do. And as we said, it also gives the idea that there is a lot of variety there – and I think that is one of the things we would want to emphasise in a brochure for a new shopping centre. I don’t think that this last picture is any good either. The shop – it’s a greengrocer’s, isn’t it? – doesn’t look very new to me and it looks rather dingy inside. I think that one would discourage people, too.

A: Yes, I think you’re probably right. As I said, I don’t particularly like the second picture – the credit card one – but it’s definitely better than this one of the shop, so I suppose we’ll have to choose the supermarket photograph and the credit card.

B: Yes, I’m happy with that.

As far as responsibilities to the family are concerned, I think these are very much the same. Teenagers have always been expected to do their bit to help any younger brothers and sisters in the family and in my experience most teenagers take such responsibilities very seriously. Actually, I think they like to be given such a responsibility because it makes them feel grown up, in a way. What other responsibilities do teenagers have towards their family?...

Stage 3

Prompt card (a)

Candidate A: I don’t think the responsibilities that teenagers have today are fundamentally different in any way to the responsibilities they have always had. We often hear complaints about the behaviour of young people today – they are rude and disrespectful, that sort of thing – but I dare say that the same complaints about teenagers were being made throughout history, and anyway it would be wrong to criticise all teenagers just because of the antisocial behaviour of a few.

Candidate B: I agree entirely, and I don’t think there is anything I can add, really. It’s true that teenagers are often criticised in the press, but I think this is unfair and just exaggerates the behaviour of a very small irresponsible minority.

Both Candidates

A: No more difficult than it is for any adult, I would say! I must admit I get a bit tired when teenagers are treated as being somehow different from the rest of humanity. After all, they are just people going through a certain period of their lives. They have to cope with the transformation from being children to the world of adulthood and on the whole they cope well.
Speaking – Practice Test 4

Candidate B: Hmm. I suppose this question really means who should take charge of young people who have committed a criminal offence and who should be responsible for administering any punishment. I think it all depends just how young the offender is at the time and how serious the offence is. There is such a thing as the age of criminal responsibility in most countries, I think, and what this basically means is that there is an age below which a child cannot be held responsible for his or her actions because very young children have not learnt the difference between right and wrong. In most countries I think the age is around about eleven, but I'm not sure, exactly.

If an offence is committed by a very young child, then I think that the parents clearly have to be held responsible and social workers will probably have to investigate the family to make sure that the parents are bringing up the child in the right way. If not, then the child may have to be taken into care or something so that he or she will be given a good upbringing.

As I said, for older children the situation is slightly different because such children can be taken to court if they commit a crime and here I think it depends entirely on how serious the offence is. I don't think it is right for a child to be taken to court if it is a first offence and it is not a very serious one, because I think that will have a negative effect on the child. I think in most cases the best people to take responsibility are social workers and parents working together. The social workers will obviously have to be involved because the parents themselves may not be good parents, but if they take their responsibilities seriously and co-operate with social workers then I am sure this is the best way to try to make sure that a child will not re-offend but will learn the difference between right and wrong.

I think it is only when the offence is serious like a burglary, for example, or when a child has already committed an offence that the courts should be involved. And I think there should be special courts for young offenders, too, because it must be a very frightening experience for a young person to be arrested and taken to court.

Even if a young offender is taken to court then I think the responsibility of the court ends once the punishment has been determined – and I don't think they should be sent to prison, either. Again, I think social workers have to take responsibility for these offenders, and make sure that whatever punishment is decided on is carried out.

Candidate A: Yes, I think this whole question of young offenders is a difficult issue. Ideally, parents should take responsibility for their children and bring them up so that they learn the differences between right and wrong and what society considers to be acceptable behaviour, but unfortunately a lot of parents seem to be blind to their children's failures.

Both candidates

A: Well, there could be a number of reasons. I remember from my own childhood that some of the older children would try to taunt me into doing things I didn't want to do – because I knew, or felt, that it was wrong. It was a form of bullying, really, because they would say you were a coward if you didn't steal somebody's apples – things like that.

B: Yes, I remember things like that happening, too. I think these days there is another serious problem. Children see violent acts in films on television, and because they don't understand that what they are seeing is fantasy they think they can go out and behave in the same way. I know some people dispute this, but there was a case recently where two boys admitted they had re-enacted a crime they had seen in a film.

These questions may be answered as monologues by each student individually or may develop into a discussion between both students.

- To be perfectly honest, I don't really know. I suppose that in some ways people may be less responsible today because the fabric of society has changed so much with more and more people moving to the large towns and cities and so there is the danger that a sense of community spirit – which involves a degree of responsibility towards others – has been lost. Come to think of it, it's true that governments now assume more responsibility than in the past for things like health care so I suppose people may think that they don't have to worry about things like that.

- In some cases, yes, I'm sure they do, although I'm not sure why. We often hear people complaining that the government should do this, the government should do that, and so on, but what these people don't seem to realise is that governments are not omnipotent and are anyway just an extension of the societies they represent, so I don't think people should feel let down by society, really.
• By example, I think – especially when the children are very young, I think it would be very difficult to use logic with a four-year-old! If you give children a good model – a consistent model – to follow and look up to then I think they will gradually learn to emulate that model – and that includes learning a sense of responsibility.

• Most definitely – with only a very few exceptions when the offence is very serious indeed and we are sure that the children knew that what they were doing was wrong. We have to be sure that children have learnt from their mistake before we start punishing them. After all, the child might have been influenced by someone older who should have known better or they might not have known that what they were doing was wrong. I know that we say that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but I don’t think we can say that when young offenders are involved.

Practice Test 5 – Paper 5 Speaking

Part 2

Stage 1

A: Right, well, shall we start with the first picture? There are musicians here playing musical instruments. They must be playing classical music, I think. They look rather serious, don’t they?
B: Yes, they don’t seem to be enjoying what they’re doing, really! But I suppose they have to concentrate quite hard because it must be difficult to play together like this and that’s why they look so serious.
A: Do you think they feel happy?
B: I would imagine so. It must be a great feeling to play together like this and so if they’re playing well together I’m sure they will feel happy and satisfied – even though they don’t appear to be very happy. What about picture two? These people look like architects, don’t they?
A: Yes. It’s not easy to say how they feel because we can’t see their faces very clearly. The man on the right seems to be explaining something to the other two and the man on the left seems to be listening very carefully. He looks really thoughtful and perhaps a bit dubious.
B: I agree. In fact, I think both the man and the woman are listening carefully because they are both looking at the man who is talking. I think there must be a problem that they are trying to solve. Perhaps they feel a bit worried about it.

Stage 2

A: Let’s see. Shall we start with the first picture again? I used to play the violin when I was at school and I remember what it was like when I played in the school orchestra for the first time. It’s a great feeling! You have to concentrate really hard because obviously you have to make sure that you are playing in time with everybody else – it would sound pretty awful if you didn’t keep to the beat! So, yes, that’s the aspect of teamwork that this picture illustrates – working with others synchronously to form something more powerful than anything that a group of individuals could produce.
B: I must admit I would never have thought of that. I imagine you have to listen carefully to the other players and watch the conductor at the same time? It must be difficult! Now, what about the second picture with the architects. They’re working together to solve a problem, aren’t they?
A: Yes, that’s what we said, isn’t it? This shows the importance of teamwork when it comes to solving problems.
B: What’s that saying in English? Two heads are better than one? Here it seems to be a case of three heads are better than one! Let’s look at the third picture now – the one with the children. This is what they call a human pyramid, isn’t it? I think it shows how important individuals are as part of a team. I mean, if one of these children didn’t play his part then the whole structure would collapse, they all have to play their part. What do you think?
A: I think you’re absolutely right. What about the last picture now? I get the impression of a rescue of some kind. Perhaps the child they are carrying had an accident, do you think?
B: I think so. The picture suggests how people can work together as a team to do something that would be impossible for an individual to do.
A: Yes, they always talk about ‘rescue teams’ in the papers, don’t they? So I think you’re right, this illustrates the importance of teamwork in carrying out difficult or dangerous tasks. Now, we have to decide on other aspects of teamwork to include. Have you any ideas?
B: I’m... it’s a bit difficult, isn’t it? Ah, I know! Sports! There should definitely be something on team sports – you know, playing football, for example.
A: That’s a good point. And what about quiz games? You know what I mean? When you have teams of people playing against one another to answer questions on different things.
B: Yes, the teams are often made up of people who are experts in different things, aren’t they? One person may know a lot about sports, another about history
and so on. Yes, that’s a good point. O.K., then. We think team sports and team quiz games should be included.

Part 3

Prompt card (a)

Candidate A: Well, in order to answer this question I think we have to ask ourselves what the original purpose of sport was? And I don’t think anybody knows, really. Most people think that it all started with the Olympic Games, but people had been taking part in sports and athletics contests in different parts of the world since long before that, apparently.

Generally, though, I think most people would say that sport should be about taking part in order to keep healthy and to enjoy the game or contest and not about winning, but I don’t think it was ever like that, because surely the whole point of playing a game of any sort or taking part in an athletics competition is to win – I can’t see that there would be any incentive to do well otherwise.

No, I think sport has always been about winning, but I do think that it has become too commercialised these days. For example, I don’t like the fact that sports stars are used in adverts to promote drinks and so on. I think it is misleading for a start because it suggests that the athlete or whatever owes his or her success to having consumed the product they are advertising, whereas in fact they are only promoting it because the manufacturer pays them a lot of money to do so. That seems unethical to me. I can just imagine how people would react if a member of the government started appearing in adverts for clothes on the television!

Apart from that, I think that there is far too much money associated with the more popular sports like football. It’s not sport anymore – it’s big business. Some of the top players are paid huge salaries which to me is ridiculous and definitely goes against the spirit of what sport should be, in my opinion, and I think it is very unfair to people who participate in the less popular sports because they are never going to earn the same sort of money as some footballers do. So, yes, a lot of sport has definitely become too commercialised.

As far as celebrity status is concerned, I think that successful sportspersons – and sportswomen – have probably always enjoyed a degree of hero-worship so I don’t think much has changed in that respect. Of course, with the modern media their fame has become more widespread, perhaps, but I would say that is about the only difference.

I definitely think that there is too much violence associated with sport these days, and again football seems to be the main culprit because you don’t get the same sort of violence between the supporters of other team sports like rugby, for instance. Why this should be so I don’t know, but it certainly seems to me that it is a strong argument for those people who say that sport has lost its original purpose.

Candidate B: I would just like to say that, while I agree that the purpose of sport has changed – it’s more about entertaining large numbers of people these days whereas in the past the focus was more on participation – I think these changes were inevitable. People today have more leisure time and television is an excellent medium for bringing live sport to a huge number of people. Of course, television companies want money to do this and so sport was bound to become commercial.

Both candidates

A: Definitely not. Not in my country, at least. And we don’t have the right facilities in schools, either, which I think is a terrible shame. If children want to play football or basketball they have to play in their own time after school. We do have times for physical exercise, but that’s not the same thing – just running around the playground and touching your toes. Silly things like that!

B: Actually, I don’t think that the situation is quite as bad as that and I think it will improve in the future. We have more qualified sports teachers in schools now and I’ve heard that a lot of the new schools have good indoor facilities for things like gymnastics and so on. But there’s not much point in setting aside school time for sports activities unless all schools have the facilities for such activities.

Prompt Card (b)

Candidate A: Let me think ... well, in the past I suppose a famous person was usually somebody who did great things for his country or made important new discoveries. Most schoolchildren, at least in Europe, learn about Napoleon and Fleming, the man who discovered penicillin, for example. There were famous people in the arts too, especially composers, painters and actors maybe, but on the whole I think the people who became most famous were politicians, generals and admirals. Even if an actor or a composer was well known I don’t think that they would have enjoyed the same degree of fame that famous pop stars and film stars do today.

It’s interesting, isn’t it? Even the word ‘star’ is relatively new. If we say ‘so-and-so’s a pop musician’ it sounds as if the person we’re talking about is not very good, not very well known. As soon as we say ‘she’s a pop star’ everybody knows we’re talking about somebody who must be famous. But famous for what?
Speaking – Practice Test 6

I don't think anyone could argue that pop stars or film stars – the people who are famous today – have done anything really important or made a great contribution to society, they are famous because they are popular and good at what they do which, in the main, means they entertain people.

I think to stand any chance of being famous today you have to be an attractive-looking, glamorous sort of person because it's the media which has the most influence in determining whether a person will be famous or not and if you are photogenic then I think you are halfway there. I think the term 'star' was created by film studios in Hollywood to promote the actors and actresses who worked for them and then an artificial glamorous world was created for them. When you think about it, you begin to realise that the whole point of this so-called fame is to sell more records or cinema tickets or whatever, it is certainly not about honouring someone who has done something great or heroic.

Personally, I feel that this is a rather sad state of affairs. People who do nothing really fundamentally important in their lives are treated like royalty, as they say, while those people who do something significant and which benefits people are soon forgotten. I wonder how many people could tell you the names of the first astronauts to land on the moon, for instance. There was an American artist – I think his name was Andy Warhol – who said that everybody should be famous for a day – something like that – and I think that he was saying that people today are famous for the wrong reasons. If that is really what he was trying to say then I would agree with him.

Candidate A: Yes, I think the popular press - magazines and tabloid newspapers - are very influential when it comes to promoting people and describing an actor or actress as famous. It's become a business, really, but it seems to me that's what people want. It's escapism, I think, people like to imagine that they too could have a rich glamorous life.

Both candidates
A: It must depend on a person's character, I would say. And I'm not sure that all famous people actually want to be famous. I think that a person who really wants to be an excellent actor, for example, may actually resent all the attention and fame that seems to be part of the job. On the other hand, there are people who enjoy being the centre of attention and so they are actually happy when they are mobbed by hordes of screaming fans.
B: Isn't there a saying, 'some people have fame thrust upon them'? Something like that. But yes, I agree, I think the main motivation is that such people love the attention, they probably like to think that they are important, and the attention shows that they are successful.

These questions may be answered as monologues by each student individually or may develop into a discussion between both students.

• It's to satisfy their readers' curiosity, I think. After all, if people didn't want to read about such things then magazines wouldn't print the stories and photographs they do. I think a lot of people like to learn that famous people have failings just like the rest of us. It shows that these people are only human after all.
• I think this is very important because I believe that young people - teenagers especially - are influenced by the actions of their heroes and sports stars in particular are the heroes for boys, I think. For girls I'm not so sure, I think they are probably more influenced by pop and film stars. So, yes, I think these people have to be aware that teenagers follow their lives closely and so they should always try to set a good example.
• Well, I think it depends on what you become famous for. It's true that famous pop and film stars - and footballers - earn a lot of money, but you can be rich without being famous, I suppose. I'm not sure whether it works the other way around - I can't think of anybody who is famous but not wealthy right now.
• It must be for the excitement, I imagine, and perhaps to show how brave they are. I would imagine there would be something satisfying and enjoyable about hang-gliding where you can be in the air for quite a long time, but I think things like bungee jumping which is all over in less than a second are simply about the excitement and anticipation. People like the sensation of fear, I suppose.

Practice Test 6 – Paper 5 Speaking

Part 2

Stage 1

A: Can I talk about picture three first? This young woman is reading a letter, isn't she? She looks pleased about something she's reading, so I imagine that somebody she knows - a friend or relative, perhaps - has sent her some good news. What do you think?
B: I should say you're right about that. So this is written communication, isn't it? What about the first picture?
Speaking – Practice Test 6

These signs are there to communicate information to drivers, aren't they? Hasn't the first sign – the one at the top, this one – got something to do with parking? I'm not sure, because I don't drive. Do you know?

A: Yes, it means that parking is restricted, I think. You know, you can only park on one side of the road, something like that. If there was a cross in the middle then it would mean that you can't park your car in this street at all.

B: I've never seen the other one – the arrow – anywhere, but I suppose it means that you can drive your car along the road in that direction only.

A: No, I don't think that's right. It gives us more information about the parking restrictions. If you read the two signs together, then they tell you that the parking restrictions apply from this point onwards.

B: Oh, I see. I think these signs communicate more information to you than they do to me!

Stage 2

A: All right. Well, we've said that the first photograph communicates information to drivers. Do you think it's an effective picture?

B: Well, the signs didn't communicate much to me, did they? But as a picture I think it's good because it shows that information can be communicated without words. This is important for drivers because it gets the message across almost instantaneously – it would be dangerous if drivers had to read a lot of words because they wouldn't be concentrating on the road.

A: That's true. And another thing is that signs like this are international so if you're driving in a foreign country you don't need to know the language in order to read the signs. Shall we move on? I think this is a good picture, the one showing this young mother with her baby, because I think it shows that we can have communication between people without words.

B: You mean because the baby is too young to be able to talk yet? Yes, the mother will obviously talk to her baby, although I don't think she is talking in this picture, but she is communicating her love and affection to her child, I think.

A: Yes, and babies communicate by laughing and crying don't they? Yes, I think this picture is effective, too. What about the fourth picture? These people don't seem to be doing much communicating!

B: Actually, I think you're wrong to say that. I mean, we can see different ways of communicating here. Both of the adults are reading something – I'm sure the man is reading a newspaper and the woman is reading a magazine, perhaps – and they're watching television at the same time. So there's a lot of communication in this picture.

A: You're right, I hadn't thought of it in that way. I was thinking of communication between people and I think this picture effectively shows that television stops conversation.

B: That's true, but you could say the same thing about reading, couldn't you? I know I don't want to be disturbed when I'm reading an interesting book.

A: Maybe you've got a point there. So do you think all these pictures are effective? I think they are.

B: Yes, I think they're all good. What was the other thing we have to do? Oh, yes. What other aspects of communication would you like to include?

A: Well, I suppose we could have a picture of someone using a mobile telephone, but that's a bit obvious, isn't it? How about somebody using gesture? You know, somebody giving the thumbs-up sign.

B: Or a policeman using his arms to control traffic, perhaps. Yes, something to show communication through body language, that's a good idea.

Part 3

Prompt card (a)

Candidate A: Well, first of all I would say that people these days are more concerned about health issues than at any time in the past, but it's difficult to say to what extent they should take personal responsibility. I think sometimes individuals would like to take more responsibility, but they are unable to do so. To show you what I mean by this I'll take the issue of medical insurance as an example. We know that many countries provide a basic health service for their people, but the standard of the service the state offers can vary greatly from country to country, mainly, I think, because providing health care is becoming increasingly expensive. Because of the financial burden, I think that a lot of governments encourage people to take out private medical insurance these days, but I think this is extremely unfair because not everybody can afford to do this, even if they want to. I think it goes without saying that people want the best medical care they can get, but I think it is wrong that people who are rich can get better treatment than somebody who is poor, so I think the government has an obligation to make sure that everybody can get the best medical care available.

As far as diet and personal habits are concerned, I think that these are two areas where people can and do make decisions which affect their health. Take smoking, for example. We all know that smoking is extremely bad for our health and so fewer people smoke these days. I know a lot of people who used to be smokers, but they have managed to break the habit, and there are a lot of
Speaking – Practice Test 6

things you can buy to help you do this – special chewing gum and nicotine patches, for example. I know there are people who say they do not want to stop smoking, but at least they are making an informed choice and so you could argue that they have taken responsibility for their own health in a way. I would say that people have changed their eating habits, too. Again this is partly because we have more information about what is good or bad for us these days. Animal fat is bad for us because of the cholesterol in it and so people avoid eating fatty meat – a lot of people stop eating meat altogether, but I’m not sure that is the right thing to do. Anyway, I think that people do take more care to eat in a healthy way these days – plenty of vegetables and fruit and so on – and so they have taken responsibility for their health in this way, and this, I think, is right.

Of course, in all these things governments have a duty to inform people about what is good or bad for them and on the whole they do this because it is in the interests of a country to have a fit and healthy population. But apart from medical treatment, I think that we should all be responsible for our own health.

Candidate B: I would just like to add that another way in which people can take responsibility for their health is by making sure they take regular exercise, and yes, I think more people are doing this these days. You see a lot of people out jogging nowadays and I think more people are taking up sports like golf and so on.

Both candidates

A: Well yes, I think so. As I said, I don’t think it is right for rich people to get better treatment than poor people. If it were free, then there would be no problem because everybody would get the same treatment.

B: I don’t agree with that. I’m afraid. After all, doctors and nurses have to be paid and hospitals have to be built and maintained. As you said, medical care is expensive and the money has to come from somewhere. I think that there is a danger that if all medical treatment was ‘free’ as you put it, then people would not take proper care of themselves, so I think everybody should pay something towards the cost, depending on how much money they have.

Prompt Card (b)

Candidate B: What are the factors that affect our mood? Well, the weather, definitely – at least in my case! I definitely do not like cold days when the sky is just a flat dull grey – I get depressed when it’s like that and I think a lot of other people do too. On the other hand, I don’t like it when the weather is very hot, either, because then I don’t feel like doing anything – I don’t have any energy – and so I’m afraid that I tend to get irritable with other people. Actually I hate it when the weather’s like that.

Generally speaking, I think there is evidence that our mood is affected by the weather because I’ve read somewhere that people who live in cold countries like Sweden and Norway are more likely to suffer from depression than people who live in countries which have a warm climate. Personal relationships are important too, I feel. A lot of people who move to big cities for work are very lonely, I think, because it can be very difficult to make new friends in a city. Again there is medical evidence to show that people who live on their own – people who are not married – do not live as long as people who are married and I am sure this is because people who are on their own tend to be sad and unhappy people. I know that just because you are married doesn’t mean you are going to be happy and cheerful all the time but on the whole I would say that married people feel more content with life and are less likely to suffer from sudden mood swings than people who are alone. It is important to have somebody you can share your problems with because, as the saying goes, a problem shared is a problem halved, and when you are worried about a problem then I think it is inevitable that you will feel miserable and depressed.

Yes, I would say that financial concerns do affect our mood. I know that people say that money can’t buy you happiness and I think that’s true, but if you have financial problems then you are not going to feel happy either. It’s much the same as with other problems, I think. There are other things that can affect our mood too, I suppose, but I would say that the most important factor is our relationships with other people. If we have friends, people who love us, then I think we are more likely to feel happy – most of the time, anyway.

Candidate A: I think a lot depends on a person’s character, too, because there are some people who always try to be happy and cheerful, no matter what. On the other hand, there are people who are sometimes moody – their behaviour can be quite unpredictable, you never know what sort of mood they are going to be in.

Both candidates

A: In some ways yes, but in other ways perhaps not. People live longer these days and probably enjoy better health than they used to. In the days before anaesthetics even the smallest operation must have been a terrifying experience, for example. But I think that people today face a lot of problems which simply did not exist in the past – pollution, for instance.

B: Yes, and I would say that people live their lives today at a far more hectic pace than our grandparents did. We have a lot of things now to make our lives more comfortable but people have to work very hard to earn
enough money to purchase things like dishwashers and so on. So I don’t think we can say that people today are happier than people were in the past – in fact, it is probably impossible to make the comparison because people’s lives are so very different nowadays. You would have to live exactly as people lived one hundred years ago, let’s say, to see whether you were happier living that way or not.

These questions may be answered as monologues by each student individually or may develop into a discussion between both students.

• That’s rather a difficult question to answer because there have been so many advances and improvements. I would say that the most important, or potentially most important, perhaps, is the work being done to understand the human genetic code. I think this is very exciting and important because it will help doctors to find cures for a whole range of diseases and hereditary problems like diabetes, for instance. Yes, I would say that that is the most important advance.

• It would be nice to think so, but personally I think it is highly unlikely. Some diseases – smallpox is one, I believe – have been eradicated, but there always seems to be a new disease waiting to pounce, as it were. Recently we had the SARS scare and we are always being warned that viruses can mutate and so produce a new disease against which our bodies have no protection.

• I would agree that some doctors are overpaid, but not all of them. A doctor has to study for a very long time to qualify, and young doctors work very long hours to gain experience, so it is only right that they should earn good salaries, but there are some doctors who seem to think that the only important thing is the money they can earn and that is wrong, in my opinion. I’m thinking in particular of doctors who train to become plastic surgeons and then spend their whole time doing cosmetic surgery – what they call face-lifts, things like that – for the rich and famous. I think that is wrong, because they should be using their skills to help people who are disfigured as a result of an accident, that sort of thing.

• Both are important, and I don’t think you can say that one is more important than the other. I suppose that you might be more aware of the fact that you have a physical health problem than a mental one, but I believe that it is important to have a healthy mind in a healthy body. I wouldn’t like to think that one is more important than the other, not at all.