

B1
PRELIMINARY 1

WITH ANSWERS

AUTHENTIC PRACTICE TESTS

Cambridge University Press
www.cambridge.org/elt

Cambridge Assessment English
www.cambridgeenglish.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108676410

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First published 2019

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Malaysia by Vivar Printing

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-108-67641-0 Preliminary 1 Student's Book with answers with Audio

ISBN 978-1-108-72368-8 Preliminary 1 Student's Book without answers

ISBN 978-1-108-72369-5 Audio CDs (2)

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WRITING (45 minutes)

Part 1

You **must** answer this question.

Write your answer in about **100 words** on the answer sheet.

Question 1

Read this email from your English-speaking college classmate Alex and the notes you have made.

EMAIL

From: Alex

Subject: College science presentation

Hi,

It's great that we're going to work together on the college science presentation. Do you think we should choose the rainforest as our topic?

No, but ... We only have two weeks to prepare, so can we start tomorrow?

Suggest ... Where can we go to prepare the presentation? My cousins are staying at my house at the moment, so we can't work there because it's too noisy. *Sorry ...*

We can give our presentation to the class either in the morning or the afternoon. Which would you prefer?

Let me know

Alex *Tell Alex*

Write your **email** to Alex using **all the notes**.

Part 3

Questions 11–15

For each question, choose the correct answer.

Ana Ronson

Singer-songwriter

Singer-songwriter Ana Ronson grew up in Ireland. Although her parents weren't musicians, there was always music in the house. Her grandfather played the guitar, and taught Ana and her brother to play.

The first time Ana tried singing in front of an audience was at school – she was so nervous that her teacher had to lead her off the stage. This teacher suggested that joining the school theatre club might make her more confident. After attending the club for a while, she happily sang with 50 other students at an end-of-term concert.

A year later, her brother, who was in a band, asked her to write a song for them, and so she wrote her first ever song, *Falling Stars*. Writing it took just three days and she enjoyed it so much that she enrolled on a songwriting course run by a professional songwriter. Despite being the youngest student, she already knew more about music than many of the others. But Ana says the teacher didn't listen to anything she said, and she wrote *Something to Say* about how annoyed this made her feel.

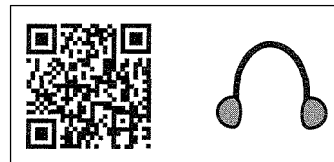
She posted this song online, and it became a huge success. She was delighted when people left comments saying that they loved it and found new meanings in the words each time they heard them. Joss Alton, the owner of a recording company called Isotope Music, flew from his office on the other side of Ireland to ask her to join Isotope. At first she wasn't sure; she didn't know anything about the company, and didn't want someone telling her what to sing. However, Joss persuaded her this wouldn't happen, and a short time later she performed at a concert in Dublin arranged by Isotope. They sold all the tickets very quickly and it was an amazing evening.

Ana says she's less interested in writing songs about when life's good; when it's not, there's more for her to say. One of her favourite songs is *Decision*, written about why her brother stopped singing for a while, and how unhappy it made him. While she hopes that fans will like her songs, her aim is to write about personal experiences that matter to her.

Part 2

Questions 8–13

For each question, choose the correct answer.



-
- 8 You will hear two friends talking about doing exercise.
Why is the man finding it difficult to do exercise?
- A He can't afford to go to the gym.
 - B He doesn't have a lot of free time.
 - C There aren't any sports facilities nearby.
- 9 You will hear two people talking in a restaurant.
They agree that
- A the soup was very spicy.
 - B the fish dishes were very tasty.
 - C one of the desserts was very small.
- 10 You will hear a woman telling her friend about her neighbours.
What problem does she have with her neighbours?
- A They are noisy.
 - B They are unfriendly.
 - C They are untidy.
- 11 You will hear two friends talking about a new museum.
What does the woman say about it?
- A She was surprised by some things on display.
 - B The opening hours suit her.
 - C She hopes to have another chance to visit.

Part 2

Choose **one** of these questions.

Write your answer in about **100 words** on the answer sheet.

Question 2

You see this announcement in an English-language magazine.

Articles wanted!

Learning languages

Do you think it's important to learn a foreign language?

Is it better to learn a language in a group or on your own? **Why?**

We'll publish the most interesting articles answering these questions in our magazine.

Write your **article**.

Question 3

Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.

Your story must begin with this sentence.

The friends got off the bus and ran over to join the long queue of people.

Write your **story**.

Test 2 answer key

Man: Have you ever thought about entering a singing competition yourself?

Woman: I think it's more fun watching and making comments about everyone else! And anyway, being in charge of the whole thing, I've more than enough to do, I can tell you. I'm spending ages sorting things out, including most evenings. But I love it.

Man: I'm sure it'll be great.

Now listen again.

[repeat]

Question 13 *Thirteen. You will hear a woman talking to a friend about her recent move to a city.*

Man: Are you happy about your move to the city?

Woman: Well, my neighbours are very quiet but there's a lot of street noise from all the shops and restaurants. I suppose everything's nearby, so now I can walk everywhere, which means I'm actually fitter than when I lived in the countryside. I hadn't expected that. I do sometimes wonder whether this is the right area for me, but once I've got to know more people, I'll be able to decide if it's the sort of place I'm going to be happy in. Why don't you come round soon?

Man: I'd love to.

Now listen again.

[repeat]

That is the end of Part Two.

PART 3 *Now look at Part Three.*

For each question, write the correct answer in the gap. Write one or two words or a number or a date or a time. Look at questions 14 to 19 now. You have 20 seconds.

You will hear a woman called Kelly Robinson talking about her work as a maker of cartoon films.

Woman: My name's Kelly Robinson and I make cartoons for a living. I do this on computers and I've been doing the job since I left university. Although I now know almost as much about computing as I do about cartoon design, I actually studied art for my degree. I got a job with a major film studio soon after leaving university. It's a great company to work for. The software programmes we use for making cartoons are really good, but it's the people there that make it such a fantastic place to work. Each department has its own special job to do when we're making a cartoon film. For example, the one I'm in works on animals in the story, while others focus on the human characters or the buildings. It's then the director's job to bring everything together. I'm always learning new skills to help improve my work. I did a writing course last year and learnt a lot about different types of stories. And I've just started doing acting classes, which are surprisingly useful for understanding filmmaking, even though I don't plan to appear in any films.

Some companies make cartoons the old-fashioned way using thousands of individual drawings but this takes a long time. Using this technique, it can take about two years to create a full-length film. Compare that to the eight months it takes my company to do the same and you see the advantage of using computers.

My next cartoon project will be the first thing I've done that isn't a film for children. It's actually something for a website. After working on so many kids' comedies, it'll be an interesting challenge. (fade ...)

Now listen again.

[repeat]

That is the end of Part Three.

Question 3

Sample answer A

The friends got off the bus and ran over to join the long queue of people. I then realised J.K. Rowling was signing books for people. Of course, I joined them. After one hour which felt like one decade, it was my turn.

I handed her the book which always been inside my bag and she signed it. She asked my name and I told her. I'm pretty sure that my voice was shaking but she was so kind and acting nothing happened. I told her that I have been a fan of her and requested a picture with her.

After I'm done, I joined my friends. I think I shrieked a little but overall, it was a great experience.

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. The target reader is fully informed as the story follows on logically from the prompt sentence.
Communicative Achievement	4	Although the prompt focuses on a group of friends getting off the bus, the story continues in the first person and it is not immediately clear what the relationship is between the friends, the queue and the narrator. However, the story has a clear sequence of events and other features of a narrative, including reported speech and description, are included, <i>After one hour which felt like one decade; She asked my name and I told her; I told her that</i> . The events are clearly described and there is an obvious sense of excitement.
Organisation	5	The story is generally well-organised and uses some cohesive devices to show the order of events, <i>then; After one hour; After I'm done</i> . There is a variety of linking words used to connect the ideas within sentences, <i>which; and; but; overall</i> , and there is a clear beginning, middle and an end, <i>it was a great experience</i> .
Language	5	There is a range of vocabulary, which is appropriate for the task and which describes how special the event was, <i>realised; signing books; decade; pretty sure; shaking; kind; fan; requested; shrieked</i> . There is good control of past tenses, both simple and continuous forms, <i>I then realised J.K. Rowling was signing books; my voice was shaking, but she was so kind</i> . There are some minor slips of control, <i>which always been inside; I have been a fan of her; After I'm done</i> , but these do not affect how well the message has been communicated.