

TIMESAVER FOR EXAMS



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PRACTICE TESTS & TIPS (5.5—7.5)

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Contents

Title	Exam skill	Exam task	Page
Introduction			4
Practice Test 1			
Boost Your Score: Listening	How to ... listen for cues	Sentence completion	6
Boost Your Score: Reading	How to ... approach completion tasks	Summary completion	8
Boost Your Score: Writing	How to ... describe data	Writing Task 1	11
Boost Your Score: Speaking	How to ... expand your answers	Speaking Parts 1 and 3	14
Listening Practice Test 1			16
Reading Practice Test 1			21
Writing Practice Test 1			32
Speaking Practice Test 1			33
Practice Test 2			
Boost Your Score: Listening	How to ... choose multiple-choice answers	Multiple-choice tasks	34
Boost Your Score: Reading	How to ... recognise paraphrases	Matching sentence endings; matching features	37
Boost Your Score: Writing	How to ... develop complex sentences	Writing Task 2	40
Boost Your Score: Speaking	How to ... structure the long turn	Speaking Part 2	42
Listening Practice Test 2			44
Reading Practice Test 2			49
Writing Practice Test 2			60
Speaking Practice Test 2			61

Practice Test 3

Boost Your Score: Listening	How to ... prepare for listening tasks	Note completion	62
Boost Your Score: Reading	How to ... approach multiple-choice questions	Multiple-choice tasks	64
Boost Your Score: Writing	How to ... organise an essay	Writing Task 2	67
Boost Your Score: Speaking	How to ... organise a discussion	Speaking Part 3	70
Listening Practice Test 3			72
Reading Practice Test 3			76
Writing Practice Test 3			87
Speaking Practice Test 3			88

Practice Test 4

Listening Practice Test 4	89
Reading Practice Test 4	93
Writing Practice Test 4	103
Speaking Practice Test 4	104
Assessment criteria: Speaking test	105
Assessment criteria: Writing Task 1	106
Assessment criteria: Writing Task 2	107
Answer sheet: Listening	108
Answer sheet: Reading	109
Transcripts	110
Answer key	133

How to ... listen for cues

Boost your score!

Paraphrases are words and expressions with similar meaning. They are often used to cue the answers in the recording.

- 1a** Read sentences a–f and their paraphrases. Underline the paraphrase that matches the phrase in italics each time.

Example: Some reference to scientific research *is recommended*.

It would be preferable if students referred to scientific research in their presentations.

- a) A qualification in art *is essential* for this job.
In order to apply for the job all candidates are required to have an art degree.
- b) The artist's ambitions were at first considered *unrealistic*.
Initially, everyone believed it unlikely that the artist would achieve her ambitions.
- c) Pupils *are not allowed* on the school trip without a sunhat.
Participation in the school trip is not permitted for pupils who do not have a sunhat.
- d) *A lack of* evidence meant that people didn't believe the professor's claims.
People weren't convinced by what the professor said as there simply wasn't enough evidence.
- e) Full-time students *pay less* for bus tickets.
Bus travel is available at a greatly reduced price for those who study full time.
- f) *A large part of* each lesson will be dedicated to speaking practice.
It is planned that speaking practice will make up a significant proportion of every lesson.

- 1b** Choose four of the paraphrases you underlined and put each one in a new sentence.

Example: required to have

In my country drivers are required to have their driving licences with them whenever they drive.

Boost your score!

In sentence and note completion tasks, you will need to listen for paraphrases of the notes on the question paper. The paraphrases will help to cue the answers.

- 2a** Cues are words or expressions which tell you that the answer is coming.

Example: The language course begins on (i)

The start date for the language course is Tuesday at 9 am.

cue

- 2b**  Listen to the following extracts, and use the listening cues to help you identify the answers. Write **ONE WORD** only in each gap.

- a) Professor Shaw worked with a to write her first textbook.
- b) The college is near a
- c) One well-known piece of art in the museum is made of
- d) New technology has allowed more for most students.
- e) Some students failed to find a which would have helped them complete their homework.
- f) Pupils should submit a before beginning their essay.

- 2c**  Now look at the transcript on page 110 and underline the cue that comes before each of the answers.

EXAM TASK

- 3a**  Listen to a lecture about the work of sculptor, Anish Kapoor.

Write **ONE WORD ONLY** in each gap.

- 1 Kapoor's sculptures are well-known for their eye-catching
- 2 Kapoor is originally from
- 3 One artwork with a surface is on display in Chicago.
- 4 In 2009, Kapoor created a work in the shape of a in New Zealand.
- 5 The red sculpture is made of and steel.
- 6 Kapoor worked with an to build a sculpture for the London Olympics.
- 7 A performance venue in Japan is unusual because it can be
- 8 A key feature of Kapoor's work is people's with it.

Boost your score!

In sentence completion tasks, look at the words around the gap carefully before you listen. These will help you to identify the cues when you hear them.



Orbit



Anish Kapoor

- 3b**  Look at the transcript on page 110 and identify the cues for each answer. What examples of paraphrasing can you find?

How to ... approach completion tasks

- 1 Look at the headline and introductory text about a plant. Now read the article once through and find out why this plant is significant. (Don't look up any unfamiliar vocabulary.)
- 2 Work in pairs and discuss the general argument of the article.

INVASIVE pollen

Ragweed gives off pollen that plays havoc with the human immune system

One of America's most irritating weeds threatens to spoil the summer months for thousands of Britons who are prone to crippling hay fever attacks. Ragweed has established a beachhead in central Europe and is spreading westwards towards Britain. A single ragweed plant can spew out a billion, highly allergenic pollen grains in just one season.

American ragweed has been present in Europe for about a century but it emerged as a seriously invasive plant species in Hungary during the 1990s. An increasing number of Europeans are showing signs of ragweed allergy as the plants spread from Hungary to the fields of Italy, Austria, France and more northerly regions bordering the English Channel. Scientists fear it might only be a matter of time before the common ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, gains a foothold in Britain where it could become an invasive species with the help of warmer summers, milder winters and the formidable reproductive powers of the plant itself.

A scientific conference in Vienna this week has been called to address the problems posed by the plant species, which spreads with frightening rapidity along roadside verges, railway lines and newly cleared land.

'Common ragweed is not an issue here in the UK – yet. As global temperatures rise we are seeing very rapid spread of this highly invasive plant and it may only be a matter of time before it appears in the UK,' said Dr Clare Goodess, of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia.

Common ragweed, which grows to a height of about a metre, is particularly irritating to the human immune system, producing pollen grains that are highly allergenic. Warmer summers extend the pollen season and higher concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have been shown to boost the production of ragweed pollen.

In the US, ragweed pollen is one of the most common causes of hay fever and asthmatic attacks – 75 per cent of Americans who are allergic to pollen are allergic to ragweed pollen. It can also travel long distances, being found 400 miles out to sea and two miles up in the atmosphere – although the highest concentrations are found close to where the plants flower in late summer.

The northern limit of ragweed in Europe is moving further north with climate change, according to Dr



Jonathan Storkey, a plant ecologist at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. 'The English Channel won't be a barrier to it,' he said. 'The concern about ragweed centres on the health issue rather than the problem of its invasiveness. We have invasive plant species already but this species has pollen that is highly allergenic – it's bad news for hay fever sufferers.'

Like other types of hay fever allergies, ragweed symptoms include a runny nose, sneezing, puffy or irritated eyes, and a stuffy or itchy nose and throat. Because ragweed releases its pollen between late summer and the first autumn frosts, it can significantly extend the hay fever season.

Tests by European scientists published two years ago showed that up to 60 per cent of people in Hungary show allergic sensitivity to ragweed pollen. High rates of sensitivity were also found in Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany and about a quarter of those showing ragweed pollen allergy also had symptoms of asthma.

Professor Torsten Zuberbier, of the Charite University of Medicine in Berlin said that ragweed pollen sensitivity was currently affecting about 2.5 per cent of the wider European population, which is the current threshold for a 'high prevalence' allergy.

The University of East Anglia will use its climate models to assess how rapidly ragweed is likely to spread further north in Europe given that the plant requires a long, hot summer to produce its pollen. Ian Lake, a climate modeller at East Anglia, said: 'We will analyse the likely impact of changes in climate, land use and air pollution on pollen-induced allergy over the coming decades and devise adaptation and prevention strategies to minimise the impact on global health.'

How to ... describe data

1 Look at the chart. Are the statements a–h true or false? Correct the false statements.

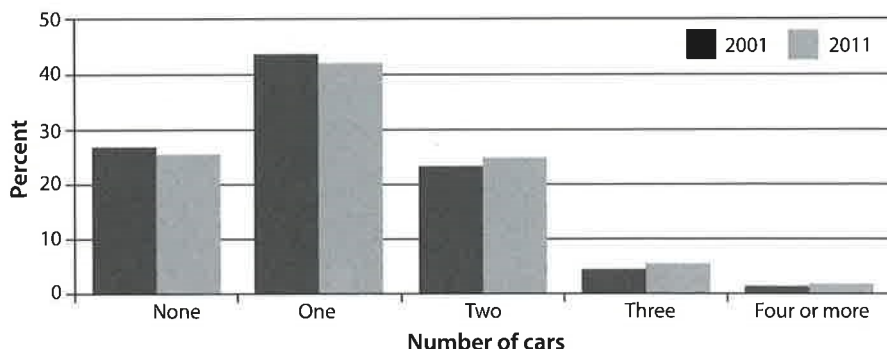
Example: The chart gives details of car ownership in the UK.

False – The chart describes England and Wales.

Boost your score!

When describing data, remember to vary the expressions you use and avoid repetition. The examiner is looking for a wide range and flexibility of vocabulary and use of complex grammatical structures.

Car ownership in households in England and Wales in 2001 and 2011



- a) The number of households without a car fell slightly from 2001 to 2011.
- b) Approximately 25% of people did not have a car in 2011.
- c) The number of households in England and Wales with three cars in 2001 was approximately 4 million.
- d) The number of households with two cars rose steadily from 2001 to 2011.
- e) Over the ten-year period, more households had no car than had two cars.
- f) The majority of households choose to have one car, probably due to the high cost of running a car.
- g) In 2011, two households in every hundred owned four or more cars.
- h) The number of households with three cars is higher now than it was in 2001.



How to ... expand your answers



1  Listen to three candidates answering the following questions from the Speaking test, Part 1.

- a) What do you like about the place where you live?
- b) How often do you go shopping?
- c) What was the last book that you read?

Do they answer the questions well or not? Why? / Why not?

2a Work in pairs. Write additional things you could talk about for each question.

- a) *who I live with* _____

- b) _____

- c) _____

2b  Now listen to the candidates giving more extended answers. Tick any of the ideas that were on your list.

2c  Look at the transcript on page 110 and check your answers.

2d  Listen to another candidate answering question c. Does he answer the question well? Why? / Why not?

Boost your score!

To achieve a band score of 7 or above you need to demonstrate that you can speak at length without losing coherence. It is important to give full answers to the questions and avoid short answers, even in Part 1. However, make sure everything you say is relevant to the question.

EXAM TASK

3a Work in pairs.

Student A

You are the examiner. Ask your partner the questions. If your partner gives a short answer, ask for more detail, e.g. *Why?* / *When?*

Student B

You are the candidate. Answer the questions below. Give full answers.

- a) Can you describe the place where you live?
- b) Do you like going shopping?
- c) How often do you read a book?
- d) Do you prefer studying alone or with other people?
- e) What type of sports are popular in your country?
- f) Are you good at cooking?

3b Swap roles and repeat.

3c How well did your partner answer the questions? Give your partner some feedback.

Boost your score!

Aim to give two or three reasons or examples in an answer. With an opinion question, try to see both sides of the argument, and give examples from both points of view.

4a Work in pairs. Answer the following questions from Part 3 of the Speaking test.

- a) How important is it for children to do sports at school?
- b) Do you think it is good for children to play competitive sports and games?

4b Listen to a candidate discussing the same topics. Answer the questions below.

- a) What three reasons does she give for children doing sports at school?
- b) Does she think it is good for children to take part in competitions? Why? / Why not?

4c Look at the transcript on page 111 to check your answers.

EXAM TASK

5a Work in pairs. Ask and answer the following questions with full and detailed answers.

- a) What can schools do to encourage children to lead healthy lives?
(Give more than one idea each.)
- b) Do you think all children should be taught to cook at school?
(Give reasons in favour and against.)
- c) How can governments encourage people to lead healthy lifestyles?
(Think of at least two ideas each.)
- d) Do you think people in your country generally lead healthy lifestyles?
(Give reasons to support your answer.)

5b Give your partner some feedback. How well did they answer the questions? Did they follow the instructions in brackets above? How could they improve their answers?

LISTENING

 SECTION 1

Questions 1–5

Complete the notes below.

Write **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Language School Information

Example

The school administrator is called (0) Steven

All the next courses begin in 1

There are language classes on 2 and
Friday mornings.

The teacher's name is Mrs 3

New students should bring a 4

The phone number to call about other courses is

5

The answer to question 3 is
a name – it must be spelled
correctly to get a mark.

Questions 6–10

Complete the sentences below.

Write **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

Social activities

Every Friday there is a 6 for students.

The trip to London costs 7

Students will go sightseeing and visit a 8

Film club takes place at the 9

Students can find information about current events

in the 10

What kind of social
events can you think of?Listen for a place where
a film club could take
place.

READING

Make a photocopy of the Reading test answer sheet on page 109.

READING PASSAGE 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–14**, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

The History of Jenolan Caves

Jenolan Caves in New South Wales are generally regarded as Australia's most remarkable cave system, with pure underground rivers and limestone crystal formations.

For thousands of years Jenolan Caves were known to the local Aboriginal people as *Binoomea* or 'Dark places'. Europeans did not come to the area until 1838; the first officially recorded discovery was by a local pastoralist called James Whalan. However, as local rumour would have it, the first European to find the caves was James McKeown, an ex-convict who is said to have been using the caves as a place to hide. After 1838, James Whalan and his brother Charles discovered several openings, including the Elder cave in 1848. In 1860, the largest of the current caves on show: the Lucas cave, was discovered by Nicholas Irwin and George Whiting. The caves did not come under the direct control of the government until 1866 and the Aboriginal word *Jenolan* (meaning 'high mountain') was not formally adopted by the government until 1884.

In spite of this government control, the caves had little protection at first. In the early years, visitors freely broke rock formations and took pieces away from the caves as souvenirs. Damage is still visible in some caves today. Thanks primarily to the efforts of John Lucas, the local member of Parliament, this practice became illegal in 1872. The Lucas Cave was named after him, as recognition of his role in preserving this fragile location.

In the 1880s, Jenolan Caves emerged as a popular place for tourists. More exploration had occurred; for instance the caver Jeremiah Wilson had explored right to the end of the Elder Cave. In 1879 he had come across the Imperial Cave

upon descending a shaft and this was followed by his discovery of the Left Imperial cave in 1880. This latter cave was renamed the Chifley Cave many years later in 1952, after the Australian Prime Minister, J.B. Chifley. Development began at this time; pathways were put in, provision was made for the protection of crystal formations and a house was constructed as accommodation for visitors. Wilson continued exploring, finding the Jersey Cave in 1891 and the impressive Jubilee Cave in 1893. The original buildings at the caves was partially destroyed by fire in 1898 and the present-day hotel (known as Caves House) was constructed.

By the year 1900, Jenolan was thriving as a tourist destination. However, there was still more to discover. In 1903, James Carvosso Wiburd became the Superintendent of Caves, and embarked upon one of the Jenolan's most successful periods of exploration. Whereas Wilson had focussed his exploration in the northern limestone, Wiburd forged deeper into the caves, south of the Grand Arch. The River and Pool of Cerberus Caves were first found by Wiburd in 1903, along with a further three caves in 1904. These discoveries elevated the status of Jenolan Caves worldwide, especially when the River (1904), Temple of Baal (1909) and Orient (1917) opened as show caves. Even after that time, the guiding staff continued to go into uncharted territory in the cave system and guides Ron Newbould and John Culley first found the Barralong Cave in 1963.

Questions 8–11

Complete the notes below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 8–11 on your answer sheet.

**THINK IT THROUGH**

In **note completion** tasks, the answers come in the same order as they do in the passage. Use the headings to help you find your place in the text.

For example, for question 8, you will find the answer in the passage after the information on candles. For question 10, you need to supply the heading – the answer for this will come between the information on *Magnesium lamps* and *Electric lighting* in the passage.

Lighting the Jenolan Caves

- **Candles**
 - could be extinguished by a **8**
 - wax could damage clothing and crystals
- **Magnesium lamps**
 - allowed **9** of the cave to be lit separately
- **10**
 - run on electricity
 - generated light equal to over a hundred candles
- **Electric lighting**
 - brought in by Cracknell
 - heavy **11** had to be taken up to the chamber
 - avoided damage caused by candles

WRITING

TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graphs below give information about money spent on online purchases in the USA from 2010, and the percentage of products purchased online in one company in the USA from 2007 to 2013.

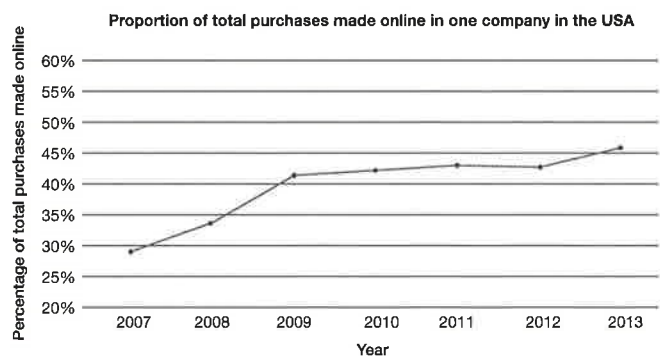
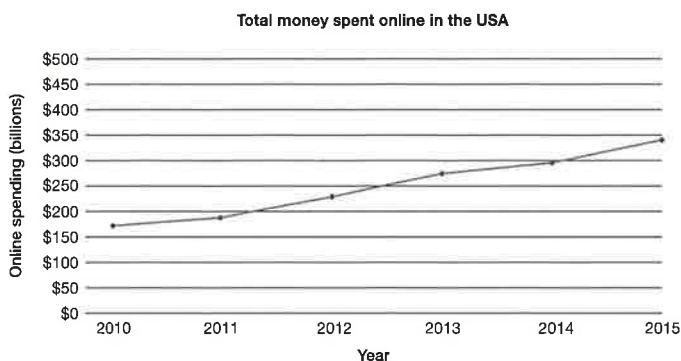
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



THINK IT THROUGH

Look carefully at the labelling on the two graphs. Both graphs show years along the horizontal axes, but what information and units are shown on the vertical axes?



TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Cars should be banned from city centres in order to reduce air pollution.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.



THINK IT THROUGH

Decide what your opinion about the topic is before you start, and use arguments and examples to clearly support this opinion throughout the essay.

SPEAKING

PART 1: Introduction and interview

Sports

- Do you enjoy playing any sports? Why? / Why not?
- Did you do more or less sport when you were a child? Why? / Why not?
- Do you think it is important for all children to play sports at school? Why? / Why not?
- Are there any sports that you would like to try in the future? Why?

Boost your score!

  After completing the Speaking test, listen to Rosa's test. Make a note of all the different ideas she mentions in Parts 1 and 3. How many of her ideas are similar to the ones you discussed?

PART 2: Individual long turn

You will have to talk about the topic for one to two minutes.

You have one minute to think about what you are going to say.

You can make notes to help you if you wish.

Talk about a **time** when you were late for something.

You should say

what you were late for

why you were late

who was waiting for you

and describe how you felt about being late.



Think of one occasion when you were late. If you run out of ideas before two minutes is up, don't start introducing new examples of being late, but add further detail to your story.

Final question

Are you often late for events?

PART 3: Two-way discussion

Being on time

How important is it to be on time in your country? Why?

What can people do to make sure they are on time for important events?

Politeness

Is it as important to be polite nowadays as it was in the past? Why? / Why not?

What are some of the things that people can do to show respect for others, apart from being on time? Why?

What are the best ways to teach children to behave with respect? Why?



Aim to make two or three suggestions here. In Part 3 of the test, you should be involved in a discussion rather than giving short answers to questions. Take advantage of this opportunity to show the range of your vocabulary and grammar knowledge.