



ENGLISH B2

Reading Comprehension

TIME: 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are 2 **tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **all** the tasks.

All questions are worth 1 point each.



Task 1:

You are going to read four texts (A-D) about places for winter walks in Britain.

- Decide which text each item (1-8) refers to.
- There is an example at the beginning (0).
- The texts, including the one used to answer the example, may be used more than once.

According to the text(s), which person (people):

Answer:

describes a place the writer considers completely unique.

(0) **B**

mentions starting and ending the walk in the same place.

1. _____ and

2. _____

goes somewhere someone he/she knows had a house.

3. _____

mentions that there are not any indications to a certain place.

4. _____

describes a place with food that is not extremely elaborated.

5. _____

says that on this walk you can see businesses from a long time ago.

6. _____

mentions indications that should not be followed.

7. _____

says that here it is easy to find your way.

8. _____



Top UK winter walks – chosen by travel and nature writers

A. Longshaw Estate to Fox House, Peak District

This walk takes in some of the Peak District's gentle but atmospheric eastern gritstone edges, traversing White Edge to Curbar Gap and returning along Curbar and Froggatt. There are good tracks and it's hard to get lost, even in bad weather.

The starting point is a short journey from Sheffield, and a bus stops directly outside the Fox House pub. The route crosses part of the Longshaw Estate then climbs up White Edge. I've been coming to this part of Derbyshire to run and rock climb ever since I was little.

B. Frogham to Fritham, Hampshire

Frogham to Fritham and back: even if you forget the pub, the music of the place names is alluring. The view at the start of the walk stretches for miles over rough, not a house in sight, nor any signs to Fritham, but a footpath leads downhill and crosses a beautiful stream.

The latter part of the route that I take – there are several possible – runs through a wild wood, a damp tangle of hollies and oaks. You emerge into open heathland, invigorated by the prospect of beer. Dating from the 17th century, with three snug rooms, the Royal Oak is a proper walkers' pub – good food for a winter's day, nothing too fancy.

Now for the best bit. Half a mile before the pub, on Fritham Plain, there's a quiet pond surrounded by emerald-green sward. It's not big, just a rough circle of shallow water, but it's a thing of wonder. No stream feeds it, and there seems no reason for its existence. (0) No other pond in England that I know is as magical as this.

C. Firle, East Sussex

This circular route from the village car park begins on fairly bland open parkland towards Firle Place, but soon delivers you into the best textures of Sussex: a beautiful flint and brick cottage by a chalky lane has the bridleway running through its garden, inviting a brief thrill of pretend ownership.

The walled road which drops back into the village takes you past Firle Estate's beautifully preserved blacksmith, carpenter and paint shops, adding to the walk's gentle, last-century sensation.

Candle-lined windows and three fires await at The Ram. It gets busy even on a winter weekday, so book a table in the snug and settle down with seasonal treats such as celeriac soup followed by pan-seared Sussex pheasant breast.

D. Oxford Canal

Going there and back again can be a boring way to walk, but along the Oxford Canal there is no risk of that, as history, natural and otherwise, is everywhere.

Ignore the first signs taking you to the canal and walk into town, until you come to the bridge over the canal and the start of the towpath on your left.

I tend to aim for Duke's Cut, where friends used to live on their narrowboat, just beyond the elevated ring-road. The otters make good use of this linescape, bypassing the risk of the road.

Source: an article by Chris Moss, Christopher Nicholson, Tanya Shadrick, Hugh Warwick, Chris Gribble, Helen Mort, Carey Davies, Daniel Neilson, Claire Carter, and James Forrest in The Guardian. Guardian News and Media. (abridged version)



Task 2

You are going to read an article about office rules in different countries.

- For questions 9-16 choose the correct answer (A-D) according to the text.
- Only answers written in the section marked “answer” will be corrected.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Six unfamiliar office rules other countries swear by — but Americans just don't understand

Workplace customs vary wildly from country to country, and what's normal office behaviour in one country can be highly unusual somewhere else.

Here are some of the international business practices that Americans would find completely out of place.

Workers in the EU can refuse to work more than 48 hours a week

Americans are notorious for working long hours. The opposite is true for many countries in the European Union, and it's actually written into law.

The Working Time Directive gives workers in the EU the right to work no more than 48 hours a week.

In practice, (0) Europeans tend to work far fewer hours a week than that. In Germany, France, and Sweden, for example, the average is closer to 35 hours a week, according to Manchester Business School professor Cary Cooper.

In Japan, workers can sleep during the workday

In Japan, napping* in the office is not only common, but can be seen as a sign of employee diligence. The word for the practice is *inemuri*, or “sleeping on duty,” and is most prevalent among senior employees, according to *The New York Times*.

The biggest rule of *inemuri* is to respect other people's boundaries while you sleep.

*sleeping for a short time

Overweight workers in Japan

Japanese workers between the ages of 45 and 74 are subject to a law requiring them to have their waistlines measured annually.

The measure, passed in 2008, is known as the *metabo* law, and was designed to reduce the risk of obesity, diabetes, and other ailments nationwide. The thresholds are a 13.9-inch (35.3 cm) waistline for men and a 12.4-inch (31.5 cm) waistline for women.

Individuals who don't pass are given dieting education, and companies that fail to meet certain standards face financial penalties, according to *The New York Times*.

In France, you can refuse to check your work emails outside office hours



French workers pride themselves on maintaining more of a distinction between work life and personal life. That pride led France to pass an initiative earlier this year allowing employees to ignore work-related emails sent after working hours. The measure was billed as a “right to disconnect” and applies to companies with more than 50 employees.

Parliament member Benoit Hamon told the BBC last year that the motivation of the rule was to reduce employee stress. “Employees physically leave the office, but they do not leave their work,” he told the BBC. “They remain attached by a kind of electronic leash — like a dog. The texts, the messages, the emails — they colonize the life of the individual to the point where he or she eventually breaks down.”

30

Business in Finland

It’s not unusual for American business to take place at a bar, a restaurant, or even the golf course. But would you consider stepping into a sauna with a potential business partner?

The practice is so widespread in Finland that many large companies have saunas in the office. Finns swear by the sauna, insisting that the sweltering sessions enhance creativity and encourage more open dialogue.

The longest paid leave

Americans have a reputation for rarely taking breaks from work, thanks to vacation policies that vary from company to company.

But in Kuwait, all workers in the private sector are entitled to 30 days of paid leave a year — the highest figure in the world.

Several European countries, like Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Luxembourg, France, and the United Kingdom, aren’t far behind, granting their workers about four weeks of paid leave a year.

Source: an article in *Business Insider* (abridged edition)

0. What is said about working long hours?

- A. American laws do not allow workers to work more than 48 hours per week.**
- B. European laws have copied American laws.**
- C. Most Europeans do not work the maximum hours permitted.**
- D. Europeans think Americans work too much.**

Answer: C

9. The first section says that

- A. Europeans should work longer hours.**
- B. workers in Sweden, France and Germany work the same amount of time each week.**
- C. legally, Europeans could work more than they do.**
- D. a new law will reduce the number of hours Europeans work.**

Answer: _____



10. What is said about sleeping at work in Japan?

- A. Sleeping at work is approved of.
- B. Only older employees sleep at work.
- C. If someone is asleep, you should wake him up.
- D. *The New York Times* thinks American companies should have the same policy.

Answer: _____

11. What is explained about weight in Japan?

- A. Japanese companies are only worried about obesity.
- B. Overweight workers are taught to eat better.
- C. All Japanese workers must have their waists measured every year.
- D. Overweight Japanese workers have to pay their company.

Answer: _____

12. In France

- A. workers think having a private life is very important.
- B. many workers do not have internet access at home.
- C. all companies must follow the same rules about employees disconnecting.
- D. French employers are against the new law.

Answer: _____

13. Benoit Hamon explained that French workers

- A. should leave work earlier.
- B. leave jobs that do not let workers disconnect.
- C. need to be more relaxed.
- D. is working to change the law.

Answer: _____

14. What does the verb “break down” mean in line 30?

- A. quit a job
- B. complain
- C. disconnect
- D. become ill

Answer: _____

15. Business is done in saunas in Finland because

- A. workers have easy access to saunas.
- B. they think people speak more freely in a sauna
- C. possible clients will feel uncomfortable in a sauna.
- D. there are not many golf courses in Finland.

Answer: _____

16. What is said about holidays?

- A. All workers in Kuwait receive 30 holiday days.
- B. Many European countries think workers need more holidays.
- C. European workers are trying to get more holiday time.
- D. Not all Americans have the same amount of holidays.

Answer: _____



ENGLISH B2

Listening Comprehension

TIME: 30 minutes approximately

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are **2 tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **all** the tasks.

Listen carefully to the instructions on the recording.

You will hear each recording twice.

You will have time to read through the tasks before the recording begins, and you will have 1 minute at the end of the test to complete your answers.

Each question is worth 1 point.



Task 1

You will hear people talking in six different situations.

- For questions 1-6 write your answer (A, B or C) on the line.

0. You hear a woman talking about eating in a new restaurant.

What happened?

- A. She got an unexpected offer.
- B. She paid extra for something.
- C. She made a complaint.

Answer: _____ A _____

1. You hear a woman who is entering a painting contest.

How does she feel?

- A. worried
- B. excited
- C. surprised

Answer: _____

4. You hear a message on an answering machine.

What is the purpose of the message?

- A. to change some plans
- B. to invite his friend to go somewhere
- C. to ask for advice

Answer: _____

2. You hear two people talking after returning from a party.

How do they both feel about the party?

- A. irritated about something that happened
- B. bored with the activities
- C. happy with the size of the location

Answer: _____

5. You hear a man talking about starting a new sport.

Which sport is he going to start?

- A. golf
- B. tennis
- C. running

Answer: _____

3. You hear two people talking about a new government programme.

They agree that the programme

- A. will benefit youth.
- B. is starting too late.
- C. will need additional funding.

Answer: _____

6. You hear a conversation in a bookshop.

What does the shop assistant suggest?

- A. ordering the book online
- B. downloading the book
- C. getting a used copy of the book

Answer: _____



Task 2:

You are going to hear four news reports.

- For questions (7-14) complete the gaps with the word or short phrase you hear on the recording.
- Do not change the word(s).
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.

REPORT 1: GIG ECONOMY*

The steps to improve employment are described as

(0) _____ SMALL _____ but important.

* an economy with a large amount of temporary employment

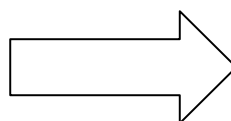
REPORT 2: E-CIGARETTES

Public Health England describes e-cigarettes as a(n) (7) _____ manner to stop smoking.

Additionally, they are considered the (8) _____ method to stop smoking.

Public Health England thinks it is a good idea for hospitals to begin (9) _____ e-cigarettes to patients.

This task continues on the next page





ID NUMBER: _____

REPORT 3: SPACEX ROCKET

There were **(10)** _____ powering the rocket.

The sports car and mannequin in the rocket will be in space for **(11)** _____ of years.

REPORT 4: BUYING BITCOIN

Banks in Britain want to **(13)** _____ their clients by not letting them buy bitcoin.

There are **(13)** _____ clients of British banks who now cannot buy Bitcoin.

Customers can continue to buy Bitcoin using **(14)** _____.

Original recording



ENGLISH B2

Writing

TIME: 45 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are 2 **tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **ONE OF THE** tasks.

Please include the total number of words you write at the end of your composition.

You will be penalised for writing more than 10% above or below the word count.

Do NOT include your name in the answer. The exam is anonymous.

Each task is worth 28 points.



Task 1: You recently attended an English language course during an exchange with a language academy in Britain. Here is part of a letter you have received from the course co-ordinator.

...

We certainly hope you had a wonderful experience on the course. In order to improve the course for the future we would value your feedback in the form of a short report about your experience. It would also help us to hear any suggestions you have.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,
Angela Stark, Course Co-ordinator.

You have made the following notes about the course:

Notes:

- Good facilities, friendly teachers, English has improved
- More expensive than advertised, excursions boring, no free time to socialise with others

Now, write a REPORT in reply to Ms. Stark's letter. You should include ALL your notes. Write between 175-200 words.



Task 2: You booked a trip after seeing the following advertisement on a travel website. However, you had some problems during the trip. Read your notes and write a letter of complaint to the website.

BestCoachTours.com

Fabulous day trip to the beach!

We leave on Saturday at 8:00 am to get to the beach early in order to enjoy the day. We go to an exclusive private beach in a luxury, comfortable coach. Sign up before Friday to receive a free beach towel.

No place to sit on the beach...

I didn't get my towel...

Didn't leave until 9:30 am...

Old coach with no air conditioning

Write your letter of complaint:

Write between 175-200 words.

B2 Exam Key May 2020 Sample

Reading

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

Listening

Task 1	Task 2
1. C	7. excellent
2. B	8. most popular
3. B	9. selling
4. C	10. 27 engines
5. A	11. millions
6. C	12. protect
	13. 8 million
	14. debit cards

SPEAKING TEST – ENGLISH B2

INTERLOCUTOR:

Good morning/afternoon.

The test is being recorded.

This is the B2 speaking test. It's the _____ of _____ 20_____.

My name is _____.

PART 1 – (2 minutes):

To candidate: What's your name?

To candidate: ____ where do you live/come from?

And what do you like about your town/village/city?

The candidate will be asked questions about topics such as:

The weather

Hobbies

Studies

Jobs

Studying languages

Free time

Holidays

Future plans

Celebrations

Etc.

TASK 2- 3 minutes:

Picture set 1

In this part of the test I'm going to show you two photographs. I'd like you to talk about your photographs for about a minute.

Candidate: Here are your photographs. They show different ways of visiting cities.

(El/la candidato/a podrá ver dos fotos en la pantalla de su ordenador).

I'd like you to compare the two photographs and say what the advantages and disadvantages of each one are. All right?

(Después de un minute la foto deja de estar disponible para el/la candidato/a).

Possible questions about the theme in the photos:

Which type of visit would you prefer to do?

Which place would you most like to visit?

Tell me about your favourite holiday.

What are the most interesting places to visit in your country?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking holidays in winter or in summer?

Thank you. That's the end of the test.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each one?

