



ENGLISH B2

Reading Comprehension

TIME: 1 hour and 10 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are **3 tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **all** the tasks.

You must write your answers in the space provided: 'Answers'.

Questions 1 to 16 are worth 1 point each. Questions 17 to 22 are worth two points each.



Task 1:

You are going to read four texts (A-D) about British television commercials.

- 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, which commercial:

Answer:

uses a visual style that mimics the product.

(0) D

would be banned nowadays due to the product or the way it's advertised

1. _____ and 2. _____

achieved its primary objective

3. _____

caused an unexpected phenomenon

4. _____

contains a storyline that viewers might relate to.

5. _____

turns a problem into an advantage

6. _____

is not initially clear as to which product it is advertising.

7. _____

has elements of a sports match

8. _____



UK's favourite TV commercials:

In 2003, channel viewers were invited to vote for their favourite television commercials. These are 4 that made it into the top 10.

A. *Hamlet cigars*, photo booth:

In 2003, tobacco advertisements were prohibited in the UK but back in 1999 it was still possible to see people puffing away on the television. *Hamlet* cigar adverts followed the same plotline; something would go wrong whereby the protagonist would light a cigar and forget about their troubles. The particular advert that people remember was set in a photo booth and used a camera focused on the ad's only character. His attempts to have his photo taken fail due to his impatience as he leans forward to check the machine before the chair he is sitting on collapses whereupon he lights a cigar. The advert struck a chord with viewers because many people had suffered similar fates trying to take acceptable pictures of themselves in photo booths.

B. *Boddingtons beer*, the runner:

The advert starts in the desert. We see a runner sprinting to the soundtrack of fast electronic music. Is this an energy drink ad? No, wait, there's the dust trail of a vehicle he's chasing. Is it a commercial for a car evoking the freedom of the open road? He is nearing his goal and he is pictured in the mirror of the vehicle. The runner has caught up to an ice cream van with a female model serving the ice cream. Instead of serving ice cream it's a beer as the refreshment for the athlete. He drinks the beer and gets a 'moustache' on his lip. Visibly seeing the actual drinking of alcoholic beverages on adverts is no longer allowed today on UK adverts.

C. *Tango soft drinks*, orange guy:

This fizzy drink commercial begins by focusing on three men on a street corner, one of whom is sipping from a can of orange-flavoured *Tango*. We hear two voices, those of comedian Hugh Dennis and former England footballer Ray Wilkins, who are talking about the scene in the style of two football commentators. The excitable Dennis requests an action replay of the man drinking. The viewer sees an overweight man painted head to toe in orange running towards the men. As the *Tango* drinker takes a sip, the orange man slaps him on both cheeks before running away. Later the advert was banned and taken off air as children up and down the country began copying the behaviour of the orange man and there were newspaper stories of children damaging their eardrums. However, the controversy did no harm to the product, whose sales rose by a third in the wake of the campaign.

D. *Guinness beer*, horses and surfers:

This 1999 advertisement in black and white – the colours of the dark beer it advertised. The brand also cleverly turned one of its products downsides, the fact that it requires over a minute to be poured properly, into a selling point. While the narrator talks about time and waiting, we see a surfer looking out to sea, waiting for a big wave. He rushes into the sea as a huge wave begins to break and there among the white foam, are graceful horses. In the background is the song '*Phat planet*' by Leftfield. Amongst the horses, the surfer manages to ride the wave and returns to shore. The film ends with a shot of the product and the line 'Good things come to those who wait.'



Task 2

You are going to read an article about photographer Vivian Maier.

- 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.

Our nanny, the photographer Vivian Maier

Vivian Maier was a Chicago nanny who left behind a vast, secret hoard of her pictures. Now she's being hailed as one of the best US street photographers of the 20th century

"Honestly, my reaction when this process started was, oh, they're doing a movie on my crazy nanny who I never really liked," says Joe Matthews. The nanny's name was Vivian Maier, and she looked after Joe, his sister Sarah and brother Clark in the Chicago suburbs for three years in the 1980s.

The family knew that Maier was unusual and that she took a lot of photographs. Her attic bedroom was kept locked and packed full of boxes and newspapers. Joe's mother, Linda, says that she hired Maier, who was in her 50s, because she wanted someone she could respect as an equal: "I liked Viv because she spoke her mind, so I knew what I was dealing with. We could disagree. I could say, 'No, I don't like doing things that way.' I thought she made a good partner."

But neither Linda Matthews nor any of the other families Maier worked for dreamed that soon after her death in 2009, their former nanny would be hailed as a key figure in 20th-century American photography. "The first time I saw her picture on television, I was stunned," says Linda.

Maier left behind more than 100,000 images, in hundreds of boxes of negatives and undeveloped rolls of film, as well as some Super 8 home movie footage, audio tapes and trunks full of memorabilia. Some of this was auctioned when Maier, who had fallen on hard times, could no longer keep up payments on a storage locker. One of the buyers was an estate agent and flea-market enthusiast called John Maloof. When he began to print the black-and-white street portraits that were her speciality, he was captivated. Vivian Maier's life and photography became his passion and, eventually, his living.

It was years before Maloof could attract interest in Maier's work. The first time he searched for her name on the internet he found nothing and it was only by chance that when he tried again in 2009 he found a brief obituary. Spurred on by the warm response to a photography blog he put together, he began writing to museums and, when these approaches were rejected, put on his own exhibition. Now he has made a film, *Finding Vivian Maier*, which pieces together her life story and makes a case, heartfelt if not disinterested (as Maloof owns the copyright), for her as an artist of comparable importance to great names of 20th-century American photography such as Diane Arbus, Robert Frank and Weegee.

Maier shot glamorous women shopping and dramatically lit buildings. A letter found among her possessions suggests that she may on occasion have worked for a newspaper. But most of the celebrated images that now sell for thousands and hang on gallery walls depict people on the powerless **fringes** of society: African Americans, children, the old and the poor.

Her camera, a Rolleiflex, was operated at chest level, which allowed the photographer to maintain eye contact with the person whose picture she was taking. Many of her strongest and most memorable shots are of people staring straight at her.



So what was it like to be looked after by this remarkable character who described herself as a "mystery woman" and "sort of a spy"? Joe Matthews and Sarah Ludington, six and nine respectively when Maier arrived, and their mother, Linda, share their memories of Maier in three conversations that are intriguing for the different lights they throw on her.

The sister, Sarah, got more out of the long city walks on which Maier took them after school, with their baby brother, Clark. "I was a solitary child and didn't have many friends, so the time I spent with Viv was what I had to do," Sarah says. "I liked the walks. By the end, I would be in pain. We were walking probably 10 miles which, when you're little is a long way, but often she would take us to the beach at the end."

The children knew that the main purpose of these outings was not for their benefit but to take pictures. "Many of her subjects I recognise," Sarah says. "The one that sticks in my head is the picture she took of a man whose face was burned off, whom we often saw. I remember seeing him as a child and wondering if I should look or not. I remember thinking about that. She truly did look at people in a different way and was not afraid to look."

"I don't think she liked kids at all really," says Joe. "I think she liked images. When she saw an image she had to capture it. I think it was the same compulsive behaviour that made her hoard newspapers. My brother probably got on best with her. He was so little and has always been a good-natured boy. I was the trouble-maker, testing and teasing her. I always got the feeling that what she wanted to do was take photos and hauling the kids around was just a chore."

In the film, Linda Matthews is tearful when describing Maier's departure: Vivian, known to the family as Viv, came home one day to find that a pile of her newspapers was missing. She lost her temper with Linda and the neighbour who had taken the papers to cover the floor while redecorating.

Linda sacked her.

Source: an article by Susanna Rustin in *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media

0. How did Joe react to the making of the film about Maier?

- A. He didn't like the idea.
- B. He was surprised.
- C. He found it appealing.
- D. He thought it was unusual.

Answer: B

9. Why was Linda keen on Maier?

- A. Maier had many qualities.
- B. They agreed on everything.
- C. Maier could deal with the children well.
- D. Maier always said what she thought.

Answer: _____

10. What came as a surprise to Vivian's former employers after her death?

- A. She had a very good figure.
- B. She appeared frequently on television.
- C. She would become a prominent artist.
- D. She died very young.

Answer: _____



11. What is the connection between Vivian Maier and John Maloof?

- A. He was her agent.
- B. He purchased some of her work.
- C. He sold her house when she needed money.
- D. He appeared in many of her photographs.

Answer: _____

12. Why did Maloof decide to exhibit Maier's work?

- A. Members of the public were keen on the idea.
- B. Because he needed money to make a film.
- C. Because she asked him to do it.
- D. Since museums were interested in her work.

Answer: _____

13. What does the word "fringes" refer to in paragraph seven?

- A. middle classes
- B. geographical locations
- C. edges
- D. age groups

Answer: _____

14. What can be said about the way Maier held her camera?

- A. She got her subjects to look her squarely in the eye.
- B. She could be discreet while taking photographs.
- C. She liked to take photographs of people's eyes.
- D. It let her get the right angle of her subjects.

Answer: _____

15. What was the main reason of the long walks?

- A. to make the children do exercise
- B. to capture the world around her
- C. to teach the children how to take photographs
- D. to punish the children when they misbehaved

Answer: _____

16. How did Maier react to losing her newspapers?

- A. She started crying.
- B. She resigned.
- C. She didn't care.
- D. She got furious.

Answer: _____



Task 3:

You are going to read a text about a new doll.

- Complete the sentences (17-22) according to the information in the text.
- Use a maximum of FOUR words.
- Contractions count as two words.
- There is an example (0) at the beginning.

Meet Lammily – the doll with normal body, spots and cellulite

A doll with cellulite, acne, stretch marks and the proportions of the average teenage girl aims to challenge the 55-year domination of the market by Barbie.

The creator of Lammily, claims it is the first affordable doll on the market made according to realistic body proportions and is the result of a crowd funding campaign that saw more than 13,621 backers pre-order over 19,000 dolls.

The \$25 doll – slogan “average is beautiful” – is now ready for shipping: a week earlier than its creator, artist Nickolay Lamm, had promised his supporters. For postage to the UK, it costs \$13.95.

“Many people criticise Barbie but there was no alternative,” Lamm said. “Now I’ve made one and when little girls see her, hold her, they feel like they already know her because she is more like them and the people they know.”

Were Barbie life-size, she would measure 36-18-33, stand 1.75 metres (5ft 9in) and weigh 50kg (7st 12lb) – 16kg underweight for a woman that height. A group of scholars once worked out that the likelihood of having Barbie’s body shape is one in 100,000.

Lammily, in contrast, is based on the proportions of the average 19-year-old young woman as measured by the American Centers for Disease Control.

But as groundbreaking as Lammily’s body shape is, her range of accessories will also give any Barbie-worshipping child a jolt: for an extra \$6 there are stickers that allow children to add a range of so-called physical flaws, including freckles, glasses, blushing, bruises, dirt and grass stains.

Lamm first made headlines in May 2013 with a series of Photoshopped images of fresh-faced Barbies and other conventional dolls, to show children that dolls – and by association, girls and women – don’t need makeup to be attractive.

Barbie, which is owned by the US toy company Mattel, was initially marketed as a teenage fashion doll – the first Barbie doll wore a black and white zebra striped swimsuit and was available with blonde or brunette hair. There is now a range of Barbie books, apparently designed to defy gender stereotypes. But in the newest addition to the “I can be” series, readers are told that Barbie’s ambitions to be a computer engineer are destined to failure: because she isn’t a man.

In *Barbie: I can be a Computer Engineer* children’s book, a computer programmer Barbie laughs off a suggestion that she could be a computer engineer, with the words: “I’m only creating the design ideas. I’ll need Steven and Brian’s help to turn it into a real game!”



Outrage over the book appears to have resulted in *Random House US* removing it from online sale – it is no longer listed on *Amazon* or any other site – but in retaliation, a *Feminist Hacker Barbie* website is now taking submissions for suggested amendments to the book, to portray Barbie instead as “the competent, independent, badass engineer that she wants to be”.

Source: a text by Amelia Hill in *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media

0. Nikolay Lamm says that his doll is the first realistic one that people will be able _____ **TO AFFORD** _____.

Answers.

17. To have the doll _____ the UK, it costs \$13.95.

18. If Barbie were a real person, she would be 1.75 m _____.

19. Imperfections can _____ to Lammily by using stickers

20. The photo-shopped doll images showed people it

_____ for women to wear makeup to be attractive.

21. *Mattel Toy Company* is _____ of Barbie.

22. In a new book Barbie _____ computer programmer.



ID NUMBER: _____

ENGLISH B2

Listening Comprehension

TIME: 40 minutes approximately

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

There are **3 tasks** in this part of the test.

You must complete **all** the tasks.

You must write your answers in the space provided "Answer(s)."

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 2 minutes at the end of the test to complete your answers.

There will now be a pause. Please ask any questions at this time.

Do not speak during the test.

Each question is worth 1 point.



ID NUMBER: _____

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.
- Here is an example (0).

0. You hear two friends talking about a film.

Why didn't the woman like it?

- A. The story was not original.
- B. The main character was not believable.
- C. The music was inappropriate.

Answer: _____ A _____

1. You hear an interview with a chef who has written a new cookbook.

The book is about preparing

- A. meals as a family
- B. meals in a short time
- C. local specialties

Answer: _____

2. You hear two people talking after they return from a trip abroad.

What do they say?

- A. The man feels that in certain situations customer service could have been better.
- B. The woman's experience in the hotel ruined her holiday.
- C. The man enjoyed the holiday from the outset.

Answer: _____

3. You hear a father and a daughter talking about going away to university.

What point does the father make?

- A. Lack of time management could be a problem.
- B. She ought to be more open to meeting people.
She might feel homesick.

Answer: _____



ID NUMBER: _____

4. You hear a man and woman talking about an art exhibition.

What does the man say about the exhibition?

- A. It was similar to the artist's previous work.
- B. He would like to have something similar in his house.
- C. He thought the exhibition was badly organised

Answer: _____

5. You overhear a conversation between two colleagues.

What is their profession?

- A. professional athletes
- B. sports journalists
- C. professional coaches

Answer: _____

6. You overhear two people talking about a new class the woman is taking.

How does she feel about it?

- A. frustrated
- B. surprised
- C. bored

Answer: _____

Original recordings

Task 2:

You are going to hear an interview with a man named Jason talking about selling passports. For questions 7-14 write the correct answer (A, B, or C) on the line according to what you hear. There is an example (0) at the beginning.

0. What does Jason say about the US, Canada and Australia?

- A. These countries have just started selling passports.**
- B. These countries are against selling passports.**
- C. These countries let people live there if they pay money.**

Answer: _____ **C** _____



ID NUMBER: _____

7. Jason says that before the financial crisis

- A. a couple of nations directly sold passports.
- B. many more countries directly sold passports.
- C. It was not profitable for countries to sell passports.

Answer: _____

8. As a result of the financial crisis

- A. only two countries still sell passports.
- B. selling passports is more widespread.
- C. a longer stay is required to get a passport.

Answer: _____

9. Countries which sell passports

- A. desperately need money.
- B. want a better world image.
- C. help refugees have a better life.

Answer: _____

10. Jason explains that people may want a new passport

- A. because it can help them earn a better living.
- B. because their native passport is too difficult to obtain.
- C. because their home country may suffer changes.

Answer: _____

11. Why do some people oppose selling passports?

- A. Travellers now have several passports.
- B. Small nations have false population figures.
- C. People only buy a passport to avoid paying money.

Answer: _____

12. How does Jason describe the conference in Singapore?

- A. strange
- B. confusing
- C. informative

Answer: _____

13. What did Jason find interesting about the conference?

- A. The number of dignitaries who attended.
- B. The main topic of each person's talk.
- C. The length of time that each person spoke.

Answer: _____



ID NUMBER: _____

14. Some tropical destinations

- A. attract new citizens because of their natural surroundings.
- B. have recently improved their facilities.
- C. have decreased the time new citizens are obliged to stay there.

Answer: _____

Adapted from an audio file from *Bloomberg Business*

Task 3:

You are going to hear a BBC news report.

- For questions (15-22) complete the gaps with the word or short phrase you hear on the recording.
- Do not change the words.

EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

Children in Britain will now have to study Shakespeare between the ages of

(0) _____ **11 and 14** _____.

Five-year-olds will have to learn fractions and write basic

(15) _____.

There will be many changes, but experts are most worried about the changes in

(16) _____.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

If there are no changes, greenhouse gases may increase

(17) _____ by 2050.

Per Capita consumption is very high in the United States and in

(18) _____.



ID NUMBER: _____

DOPING IN SPORTS

The authorities are trying to find a test that is

(19) _____ against detecting doping.

The new test is not ready and the agency director cannot give a

(20) _____ for when it will be.

CUBA

Cubans now cannot bring back so many things in

(21) _____.

Cubans are arriving with products which are difficult to get,

(22) _____ or overpriced.

Adapted from an audio file from *BBC News*



ID NUMBER: _____

ENGLISH B2

Writing

TIME: 1 hour 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

You must complete **BOTH** tasks

You must write your answers in the space provided. There are sections on the exam paper to write notes and/or a draft. Anything written in these sections will NOT be corrected.

Please write the total number of words you write for each task in the section marked WORDCOUNT

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

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

Please make your handwriting legible. Any tasks which cannot be understood will not be corrected.

Each task is worth 27 points.

Task 1



ID NUMBER: _____

You are studying at a British university. After a class discussion your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the following:

"It's perfectly alright to download music and films from the Internet. If not, the government would block those pages."

Write your **essay**.

Include these points:

- is it legal?
- cost of originals
- possible to block sites?
- your own idea

Write between 175-200 words.



ID NUMBER: _____

TASK 1

This part will NOT be corrected.

NOTES:



ID NUMBER: _____

Task 2

This is part of an email your British friend, Rick, has written to you. Reply to your friend answering all his questions.

I think you should...

My experience was ...

I hope you can help me. I don't know what to do.

I've been offered a job in India. It's a very good job with a big company. But I have a job now here in London. The pay isn't great and it's really boring, but it's long-term and near my family.

What should I do - stay in England or go to India? I know you've worked in a foreign country. What advice can you give me?

Write back soon.

The best thing would be...

Regards,

Write your **email**:

Write between 175-200 words.



SPEAKING TEST – ENGLISH B2

INTERLOCUTOR:

Good morning/afternoon. Can I have your mark sheets please?

I am going to record the test. This is the B2 speaking exam. It's the ___ (date) ___ of ___ (month) ___, ___ (year) ____.

My name is _____ and this is my colleague _____ .

PART 1 – (4 minutes – 6 for groups of 3.):

To candidate A: What's your name? And your surnames?

To candidate B: What's your name? And your surnames?

To candidate A: ___ where do you live/come from?

And what do you like about living in _____?

To candidate B: ___ where do you live/come from?

And what do you like about living in _____?

Ask each of the students one or more of the following questions.

The candidates will be asked questions about the following topics:

Leisure time

Work

Education

Travel

Holidays

Hobbies

Music

Food

Etc



PART 2 – (3 minutes – 4 minutes for groups of three):

Picture set 1

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

Candidate A: It's your turn first. Here are your photographs. They show different ways of visiting cities.

(The interlocutor shows the photos to Candidate A).

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

(After a minute, the interlocutor takes away the photo).

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each one?





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Candidate B: It's your turn now. Here are your photographs. They show people looking at art in different places.

(The interlocutor shows the photos to Candidate B).

I'd like you to compare the photos and say why people choose to go to these places to look at art. All right?

(After a minute, the interlocutor takes away the photo).

Candidate A: Do you enjoy visiting art galleries?

Why do people choose to go to these places to look at art?





PART 3 – (4 minutes – 6 minutes for groups of three):

Picture 4

In this part of the test you are going to talk about something together for about 4 minutes.

Here are pictures of facilities that you can find in some neighbourhoods.

(The interlocutor shows the candidates the visual).

First, talk to each other about how important each of these is to make a better neighbourhood. Then decide which TWO of these things are most important to make a good neighbourhood. All right?

PART 4 – (5 minutes – 7 minutes for groups of three):

Ask one or more of the following questions:

What changes have you seen take place in your neighbourhood in recent years?

What things would you change about your own neighbourhood? Why?

Is it better to live in the city centre or in a town outside the city? Why?

Is it important nowadays to get on well with your neighbours? Why?

In what ways can neighbours be annoying?

In what ways can neighbours be of help?

Do you like shopping in small neighbourhood shops? Why/why not?

What are the advantages of living in an apartment or a flat?

What are the advantages of living in a large house?

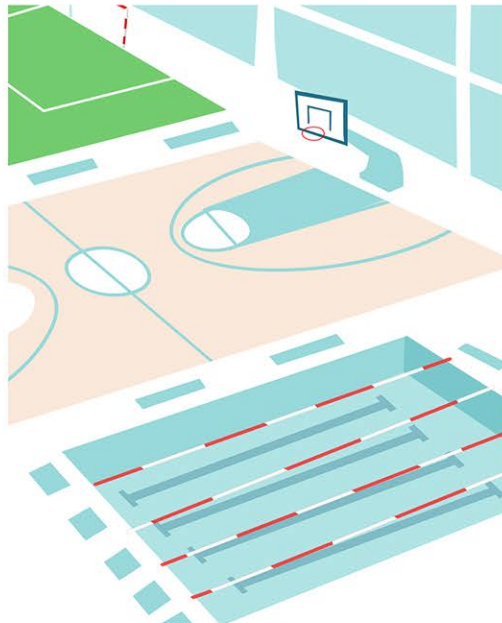
Ask the other candidate(s) any of these where appropriate:

What do you think?

Do you agree?

And you?

1. How important are each of these things to make a better neighbourhood?
2. Which TWO of these things are the most important to make a good neighbourhood?



B2 Answer Key

Reading Comprehension

Task 1:

1. & 2. A & B

3. C

4. C

5. A

6. D

7. B

8. C

Task 2:

9. D

10. C

11. B

12. A

13. C

14. A

15. B

16. D

Task 3:

17. sent/mailed/posted to

18. tall

19. be added

20. isn't/wasn't necessary

21. the owner/maker

22. works as a

Listening Comprehension:

Task 1:

1. B

2. B

3. A

4. C

5. B

6. A

Task 2:

7. A

8. B

9. A

10. C

11. C

12. A

13. B

14. C

Task 3:

15. computer programmes

16. maths

17. by 80%

18. Western Europe

19. effective

20. specific date

21. their luggage

22. badly made