

B2 EXAMINATION

WRITTEN PAPER – SAMPLE

Before you take the test, read carefully the instructions below:

1. You have a maximum of **90** minutes to complete the test;
2. Please **write your name** clearly where indicated;
3. The test is composed of **three sections**, divided into five parts, and you are required to complete them all;
4. Please **transfer all your answers from the worksheets to the official answer sheet** found at the back of the document. This sheet will be used to score the test;
5. At all times **you must work independently** of other students taking the exam;
6. If you have **any questions, ask them now.**

NAME:

DATE:



SECTION ONE – LISTENING

[10 POINTS]

You will hear five different young people talking about renting homes. For questions 1-5, choose from the list (A-F) what each speaker says. Use the letters only once. There is one extra letter which you do not need to use.

NB: Be careful as speakers may mention something connected with more than one option – but there is always only one correct answer.

Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet.**

A Something dangerous needed to be repaired.

Speaker 1

	1
--	---

B It was often cold indoors.

Speaker 2

	2
--	---

C There was a pleasant view from the window.

Speaker 3

	3
--	---

D The neighbours were very noisy.

Speaker 4

	4
--	---

E The rent was too high.

Speaker 5

F The furniture was good quality.

	5
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SECTION TWO – READING

[16 POINTS]

You are going to read a magazine article about a woman called Clare Norwood, who used to train racehorses in Britain. For questions 1 – 8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text. Mark your answers **on the separate answer sheet**.

- 1 What do we learn about Clare in the first paragraph?
 - A She is still worried about her financial security.
 - B She likes to follow her husband's advice.
 - C She was relieved to begin a less stressful job.
 - D She accepted that a change of career would be beneficial.

- 2 When Clare was a child, she
 - A was annoyed by her father's advice.
 - B was keen to earn money.
 - C enjoyed taking on responsibility.
 - D wanted to be more independent.

- 3 What does Clare mean by "they took a back seat" at the end of the second paragraph (underlined and highlighted)?
 - A They gave her confidence.
 - B They had high expectations of her.
 - C They did not try to influence her.
 - D They did not ask her for help.

- 4 How did Clare feel at the end of her career as a trainer?
 - A upset by some people's personal criticism
 - B surprised at her colleagues' reactions
 - C relieved that the hard work was over
 - D proud of her contribution to horse-racing

- 5 According to Clare, horse training resembles writing in terms of
 - A the amount of effort required.
 - B the experience needed to succeed.
 - C the loneliness of the activity.
 - D the extremes of emotion involved.

- 6 What is Clare's attitude to her son?
 - A She considers that he is too competitive.
 - B She worries that he is under too much pressure.
 - C She believes that she should have more contact with him.
 - D She thinks he should spend more time with his daughter.

- 7 What does It in the fifth paragraph refer to (underlined and highlighted)?
 - A dealing with the owners
 - B running a racing stable
 - C being successful in races
 - D earning money in horse-racing

- 8 In the final paragraph, the writer suggests that Clare
 - A plans to return to the horse-racing business.
 - B is exaggerating the size of her income.
 - C misses her involvement with horses.
 - D is concentrating too much on her hobbies.



A change of lifestyle

An allergy made Clare Norwood give up her job training racehorses, but she has now created a new career for herself as a best-selling author. Jane Henman interviews her.

In the large field which would normally contain horses, there are three big dogs running wildly around. As I talk to Clare Norwood and her husband, Daniel, he says, "I'm not allowing Clare to have anything larger than those dogs." It's said with a smile, but persuading one of Britain's most successful racehorse trainers to give up her work can't have been easy, Clare explains her situation: "I'd been ill for some time, and then I discovered that I had actually developed an allergy to horses. Giving up training horses after so long was a horrible decision to take. But it wasn't as if I needed the money any more. And at least it allowed me to try writing on a full-time basis – I'd been scribbling away in my free time for years!"

Clare was brought up on a small farm. Her father couldn't afford to hire any farm workers so Clare was expected to take her share of the workload. 'One of my earliest jobs was to carry the lamp for my father when he went to feed the pigs at night, I remember feeling really grown up the day I was allowed to feed them on my own.' Sometimes Clare accompanied her father to the fields on her pony: "I was little then and not confident on a horse, My father used to run alongside shouting, 'Up, down, up, down.'" As soon as she could, Clare got a weekend job at the local racing stables to be with the horses. Then, after leaving school, she worked at the stables full-time. Her parents were always supportive: "They were there if I needed them, but thankfully they took a back seat," she says.

Clare's career as a trainer is legendary. She was not afraid of upsetting people and had a reputation for being outspoken. "I have endless patience with horses – they respond to kindness and are prepared to work just as hard as you are – but I've no time for people who are in horse-racing purely for financial gain. The old, established trainers were helpful, but

some of the rich newcomers were really spiteful and resented my success. I had my battles. But when everyone knew I was leaving, I was quite taken aback by the number of people who said, 'Clare – you can't go!'"

Since giving up racehorse training, Clare has made a new career as a novelist. She writes laboriously in longhand at the dining-room table. "Writing is a challenge but also very isolating," Clare says. "When I started, I had all the feelings I used to get before an important race – fear, apprehension, but that all disappears when you win or you're published!"

Clare's son Tim has now taken over her training business, keeping eighty of her horses. Despite the fact that Tim's only been doing this for two years, Clare announces proudly that he's already had several winners, "But racehorse owners have high expectations. Keeping them happy is not an easy task," she says. "It is something you really have to work at and I just hope he can cope." She sometimes visits Tim's stables – not just to see the horses, but to see her granddaughter, who is also crazy about horses. "Tim and his family come over here every Sunday and we talk about everything except horses, as I feel he needs a break from that," she says.

Clare says she is trying to put her life in horse-racing behind her, but in the next breath, she's talking about a young horse at Tim's stables. There are compensations in her new lifestyle, however, such as more time to relax. "My books are selling and I'm having golf lessons three times a week," she says, smiling. "We do need to sort things out better, though, so we have time to take holidays, and enjoy our hard-earned money!" However, as hard as she tries, there is obviously a huge gap in Clare's life that has yet to be filled.



SECTION THREE – USE of ENGLISH

Part One: Multiple Choice Gap-fill

[12 points]

For questions 1-12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

EXAMPLE: 0 A repairing (B) recovering C revising D retiring

WELCOME GUESTS?

My flatmate Penny and I are (0) ...**B**... from weekend visitors. Don't misunderstand me – we enjoy company and love to (1) our friends and relatives. But not this time. Fred and Kate are old friends from our school (2) So you would think we would have a fairly (3) idea what sort of people they were, even though we hadn't seen them for (4) years.

Over the weekend we discovered that our lives had (5) very different directions. Penny and I have both worked since leaving school. We like our jobs but they are very (6) and we work long hours. At weekends we try to snatch a few moments of (7) in between catching up with all the (8)

Kate and Fred are university students and they live with their parents. Their mother still cooks their main meals for them and does all their (9) So they aren't used to looking after themselves. They (10) their leisure time to be just that, leisure. To be (11), Kate isn't as bad as Fred. But she isn't much better.

By the time they left, Penny and I were exhausted. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Luckily, we (12) to laugh.

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | A entertain | B visit | C receive | D host |
| 2 | A terms | B days | C times | D ages |
| 3 | A fine | B strong | C good | D right |
| 4 | A numerous | B plenty | C passing | D several |
| 5 | A taken | B left | C chosen | D had |
| 6 | A tired | B tiring | C excited | D exciting |
| 7 | A extension | B relaxation | C expression | D reflection |
| 8 | A homework | B housekeeping | C household | D housework |
| 9 | A wash | B clothes | C washing | D clothing |
| 10 | A intend | B expect | C insist | D rely |
| 11 | A fair | B true | C real | D straight |
| 12 | A achieved | B succeeded | C reached | D managed |



Part Two: Word Formation

[10 points]

For questions 1–10, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap **in the same line**. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS on the separate answer sheet.

EXAMPLE	0	K	N	O	W	N					
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Pizza

Italian pizza is arguably better (0) in the world today than any other type of food. It was (1) a meal for the poor, but now it can be found in restaurants all over the world, enjoying universal (2) Italians are still very fond of pizza, and it is often their (3) of meal when they go out to eat with family or friends.

KNOW

ORIGIN

POPULAR

CHOOSE

Pizza is in many ways the perfect main dish: it is (4) and so it looks great on your plate; it is always fun to eat and, best of all, it is wonderfully (5) On top of all this, it is also an extremely (6) meal because it makes you feel pleasantly full.

COLOUR

TASTE

SATISFY

Most (7) pizzas are cooked in a wood-burning brick oven, but if you follow a (8) recipe, you can easily make pizza at home.

TRADITION

RELY

The (9) topping is tomato and cheese, but the list of possible ingredients you can add to that is almost infinite. So, whether it is with ham and anchovies, eggs and spinach, or mushrooms and onions, there are countless ways of making a truly (10) pizza.

BASE

FORGETTABLE



Part Three: Grammar Check

[12 points]

Choose the correct answer, **A**, **B** or **C**, for each question.

- 1 Teresa Russian at evening classes this term.
- A is studying
 - B studies
 - C study
- 2 We expected George at 7.30 but he yet.
- A hasn't arrived
 - B has arrived
 - C didn't arrive
- 3 Anna: Shall I ring you at one o'clock?
Ben: No, my lunch hour is earlier tomorrow so my lunch in the canteen then.
Ring me at about one-thirty.
- A I'm eating
 - B I'll be eating
 - C I eat
- 4 This dictionary is useful than that one.
- A less
 - B as
 - C so
- 5 Doesn't your brother discos?
- A enjoy
 - B enjoys
 - C enjoying
- 6 The first thing they did when they met after twenty years was to hug
- A each other
 - B someone else
 - C themselves
- 7 to take a spare T-shirt as you'll probably get really hot playing tennis.
- A You'd better
 - B You should
 - C You ought
- 8 While my car I wandered round the city centre.
- A be repaired
 - B was repairing
 - C was being repaired



- 9 I always avoid on the bus because it makes me feel ill.
A to read
B reading
C read
- 10 I'll book seats for the concert, if there any good ones available.
A will be
B were
C are
- 11 Philip wears an old coat his suit when he walks to work.
A on
B above
C over
- 12 I enjoyed last week.
A the book you lent me
B the book which you lent it to me
C the book, that you lent me

END OF EXAM

Note: This exam paper draws on original FCE materials published in the following study resources and students are strongly advised to consult these in preparation for the exam:

May, P. (2010) *First Certificate Trainer: Six Practice Tests with Answers and Audio CDs* (with answers). p. 55. Cambridge: CUP. [Listening]

Official Examination Papers from University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. *Cambridge First Certificate in English: Self-Study Pack, December 2009* (Student's Book with answers and Audio CD). Cambridge: CUP. [Reading]

Hashemi, L. and B. Thomas (2008) *Cambridge Grammar for FCE* (Book with answers and audio CD). pp. ix-xii; p. 62. Cambridge: CUP. [Use of English – Part One and Part Three]

Official Examination Papers from University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. *Cambridge First Certificate in English: Self-Study Pack, 2010* (Student's Book with answers and Audio CD). Cambridge: CUP. [Use of English – Part Two]

