

## General English

### *The Sample of the Test*

B2

Upper Intermediate

Reading	/25	Listening	/25
Writing	/25	Speaking	/25
Total :	/100		

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_



## Part 1



Read an article about a man who appeared on a reality TV programme. For questions 1-8, choose the answer (A,B,C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

### The fake hairdresser remembers

Some years ago, a British TV company came up with an idea for a reality TV show. People with no experience would be trained in a profession in a very short period of time, then would try and pass themselves off as the real thing with the general public. The show was called *Faking It*, and the format, a twenty-three-year-old farmer's son, who trained with celebrity hairdresser Trevor Sorbie in London. Gavin remembers the experience.

"I was at university, studying for a degree in agriculture, when some friends mentioned that a TV company had advertised for people to take part in *Faking It*. They were looking for someone who'd never picked up a pair of scissors or thought of hairdressing as a career, which I certainly hadn't. I reckoned it would be a laugh. Having spent my school holidays shearing sheep on my parents' farm, I was used to the idea of haircutting, but obviously it's harder doing on people—because they have an opinion about it".

"I'd never been to London before and it was so busy that I felt a bit overwhelmed at first. Meeting Trevor for the first time, he seemed really strict, but once he realized I was taking the challenge seriously we **got on like a house on fire** and they often had to stop filming because we couldn't stop giggling. Fortunately, I didn't have to do any of the washing or sweeping floors other people new to the business have to do. I went straight into blow-drying and cutting instead".

"At first I practised on a dummy's head, which was a welcome safety net, but I did make a really bad mistake halfway through filming when I was cutting one real man's hair. I'd been shown how to use clippers to get a cropped effect but hadn't been warned to angle the comb. I ended up shaving off a huge patch of hair! He couldn't see what I'd done, but camera crew couldn't stop laughing, so it was obvious I'd made a mistake. Luckily, I managed to rectify the situation and told the client, who was alright about it, so I forgave them.

"By the day of my final test, I knew I was capable but I felt sick with nerves. I didn't want to let Trevor down. But even though I failed to convince the client that I was a real hairdresser, she approved of the haircut and the judges were impressed by it, too. It didn't worry me at the time but, looking back now, I think it was a bit unfair that I was penalized for taking too long—an hour-and-a-half—when I'd been taught the most important thing was to ensure your client walks out of the salon feeling like a million dollars."

"After the programme, I went home for a week but I decided to come back to London because I'd fallen in love with the buzz of the city. People in town kept stopping and staring at me if I was famous. I found this unnerving at first, but with time I get used to *it*. There were a few comments about me being too full of myself, but I took no notice".

"I was inundated with job offers, and got calls from salons as far away as New York and Sweden. But although I love hairdressing, I was put off going in as a junior to account of their being so poorly paid. However, I'm now saving up to go travelling by working in a salon, and I'm thinking about trying to start a career in TV presenting".

"When I agreed to do *Faking It*, I had no idea how much I was signing my life away, but I couldn't say I have any regrets. The thing is that I've discovered growing up on a farm doesn't mean I can't work in a creative field. What's more, I've now got choices I didn't realize I had, which is brilliant. Although I still keep in contact with everyone from Trevor's salon, and we all go out when I'm in London, I'm hardly a celebrity anymore."

1. **Why did Gavin first apply to be on the programme?**
  - A. He thought it would be fun.
  - B. He liked the idea of going to London.
  - C. His friends managed to talk him into it.
  - D. He had some experience of hairdressing.
2. **The phrase 'got on like a house on fire' (line 13) suggests that Gavin and Trevor**
  - A. frequently argued about things.
  - B. only did the more interesting jobs.
  - C. shared the same very high standards.
  - D. enjoyed the experience of working together.
3. **How did Gavin feel about the hairdressing mistake he made one day?**
  - A. sorry that the client was dissatisfied
  - B. relieved that the client didn't notice it
  - C. pleased that he was able to find a solution
  - D. annoyed by the reaction of the camera crew
4. **How did Gavin feel on the day of his final test?**
  - A. unsure if he was good enough
  - B. worried that he might not succeed
  - C. unconvinced that the client was really happy
  - D. disappointed by the feedback from the judges
5. **Thinking about the final test now, Gavin feels that he**
  - A. was too slow in completing the haircut.
  - B. didn't take enough notice of his client's wishes.
  - C. was unjustly criticised for one aspect of his performance.
  - D. should have paid more attention to things he'd been taught.
6. **What does the word "it" in line 29 refer to?**
  - A. people making comments about Gavin
  - B. people looking at Gavin in the street
  - C. Gavin feeling proud of himself
  - D. Gavin feeling uncomfortable
7. **Gavin decided not to start a career in hairdressing because**
  - A. he got work as a TV presenter.
  - B. he didn't want to leave London.
  - C. he wanted to see the world first.
  - D. he felt he wouldn't earn enough.
8. **Looking back on the whole experience, Gavin now**
  - A. wishes he'd thought more carefully before applying.
  - B. realises that his life is different as a result.
  - C. appreciates his farm upbringing more.
  - D. accepts that it's helped him social.

*(8 marks)*

## Part 2



Read the web article below and answer the questions:

Innocent Water provides clean drinking water in developing countries across southern Asia. The company was founded by Cathy Cousins in 2002 when she returned to the UK from a year's travelling after university. She contacted dysentery in Bangladesh after drinking dirty water.

Despite being very sick, she realized she was "one of the few lucky ones": more than 4000 people worldwide die daily due to lack of clean drinking water. Her brainchild was to sell ethical bottled water, to concerned people who wanted it, using the profits safe drinking water for remote communities.

Initially, Cathy had just a shoestring budget and a few volunteers to help her. She set up Innocent Water intending to be honest and outspoken about water supplies in developing countries.

9 In which part of the world does Innocent Water sell its products?

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10 What did Cathy do before she went travelling?

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11 How many lives does dirty water claim each day?

---

12 Who did Cathy intend would benefit from her company?

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13 Who assisted Cathy at the start of the project?

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*(5 marks)*

## Part 3



Read the text below and write the word which best fits each gap.

Use only one word each gap :

### The Mini-Monet

You may not have heard of Kieron Williamson, but he is a very successful landscape painter. His paintings, (14) \_\_\_\_\_ mostly depict the peaceful countryside around his home village in eastern England, sell very well. Perhaps this shouldn't (15) \_\_\_\_\_ as that much of a surprise. After (16) \_\_\_\_\_, it is a beautiful part of the world and landscape paintings are always popular (17) \_\_\_\_\_ buyers, especially those living in big cities.

The strange thing about Kieron, however, (18) \_\_\_\_\_ that he is only seven years old. At a recent exhibition of his work, all the paintings were sold in half an hour, some for 100,000 dollars each. Kieron now has fans all over the world, and has gained the nickname the "Mini-Monet".

What's even (19) \_\_\_\_\_ surprising is that Kieron doesn't come from an artistic family, and only started paintings two years (20) \_\_\_\_\_. His first got inspiration (21) \_\_\_\_\_ some boats he saw on holiday at the seaside. Kieron asked his parents if they (22) \_\_\_\_\_ buy him a sketch pad and pencils (23) \_\_\_\_\_ that he could draw them. Only when they saw (24) \_\_\_\_\_ well he drew did they realise that he was talented. They insist, (25) \_\_\_\_\_ that although Kieron certainly loves his painting, he is an ordinary boy, just as keen on football as on painting.

*(6 marks/0.5 per answer)*

## Part 4



Use the word in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line

### How does the video work?

When I was young, I always dreamed of becoming a famous (26)\_\_\_\_\_.

SCIENCE

When I was at school I decided to study (27) \_\_\_\_\_, and then become a millionaire by inventing a wonderful new which would make the world a better place.

ENGINE

PRODUCE

(28)\_\_\_\_\_, I wasn't very good at technical subjects. Any time I operate any kind of (29)\_\_\_\_\_, something terrible happens. Machines which use (30)\_\_\_\_\_, such as computers or television, always seem to give me a (31) \_\_\_\_\_ shock.

FORTUNATE

EQUIP

ELECTRIC

POWER

The instruction booklets are always (32) \_\_\_\_\_. They never help me at all. Nowadays you need to have (33) \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge just to turn on the video. To my great (34) \_\_\_\_\_ it is always a child of six who helps me out of my (35) \_\_\_\_\_.

USE

SPECIAL

EMBARRASS

DIFFICULT

(11 marks)

## Part 5



Write your email in 120-150 in an appropriate style.

- Your English colleague is coming to visit you next month and this is part of an email he has sent you.

I am really looking forward to this trip, but you know me, I like to plan everything well! I would very much like to go and see as much music as possible, without spending too much money, and also visit a few museums. Have you had any thoughts about how we could make the most of the week?

*Simon*

*(10 marks)*

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## Part 6



Choose one of the topics below and write your answer in 150-180 words.

A) Write an *essay* agreeing or disagreeing with the following statement.

Climate, or the weather, has a very strong influence on a country's people, personalities, culture and lifestyle.

B) You recently saw this notice in the local magazine.

**Write review of a TV nature programme and win a camera!**

Include information about the content of the programme and the locations it shows and say if you think it is for all ages.

*(15 marks)*

A large rectangular box with a solid black border, containing 25 horizontal dashed lines for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.

## Part 7



You will hear people talking about in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C)

- 1. You hear two friends talking about a book.**  
What does the boy like about it?
  - A. It's short.
  - B. It's educational.
  - C. It's amusing.
- 2. You hear a man talking about family holidays as a teenager.**  
What part did he find most enjoyable?
  - A. the journey
  - B. being outdoors
  - C. Watching films
- 3. You hear two friends talking about a hotel they stayed in.**  
What do they agree about?
  - A. Its location was convenient.
  - B. The staff were friendly.
  - C. The room was comfortable.
- 4. You hear a woman talking about a new film.**  
How did she feel after seeing it?
  - A. Confused
  - B. Frustrated
  - C. Sad
- 5. You hear a woman telling a friend about her job in a supermarket.**  
What was she doing there this morning?
  - A. Working on the checkout
  - B. Filling the shelves
  - C. Serving at the fish counter
- 6. You hear a man talking about he saw at a concert.**  
What is he critical of?
  - A. the image of the band
  - B. the quality of the music
  - C. the length of the show
- 7. You hear a sports instructor giving advice.**  
Which sport is he talking about?

- A. sailing
- B. swimming
- C. skating

8. You hear a woman talking about being at university.

What surprised her about it?

- A. how quickly time passed?
- B. how much money she spent
- C. how many friends she made

(8 marks)

## Part 8



You will hear an interview with a woman called Grace Connolly is talking about her travel experiences in New Zealand. For questions 9-18, complete the sentences.

### New Zealand journey

Grace travelled around South Island on something called \_\_\_\_\_ (9).

The first part of Grace's journey took her along the \_\_\_\_\_ (10) coast of the island. When Grace took a day trip to a place called Kaikoura, she particularly wanted to see \_\_\_\_\_ (11). Grace has kept in touch with a friend from

\_\_\_\_\_ (12) since she returned home. Grace took her own

\_\_\_\_\_ (13) to New Zealand, so didn't need to hire one. The best part of the trip for Grace was jet-boating on the Buller River with a company called

\_\_\_\_\_ (14). Grace had to visit a hospital because she injured her

\_\_\_\_\_ (15). At a market, Grace bought a \_\_\_\_\_

(16) to take home. The name of the hostel that Grace particularly recommends is the

\_\_\_\_\_ (17). Grace plans to go \_\_\_\_\_ (18)

with friends when she next visit North Island.

(10 marks)

## Part 9



You will hear an interview with a woman called Penny Creer, who works as a photographer. For questions 18-25. Choose the best answer ( A, B or C )

**19. How did a college course in photography most affect Penny?**

- A. She realised the importance of light.
- B. She learnt a more commercial style.
- C. She developed certain artistic skills.

**20. Penny decided to specialize in wedding photography because she**

- A. had always been interested in weddings.
- B. hoped to photograph weddings in a new way.
- C. was influenced by other wedding photographers.

**21. Penny currently gets most of her customers through**

- A. her website.
- B. magazine advertising.
- C. a mailing list.

**22. What takes up most Penny's time?**

- A. talking to clients
- B. taking the shots
- C. editing her work

**23. Penny says gets the photographs she wants when people**

- A. relax fully.
- B. dress in a original way.
- C. express their feelings strongly.

**24. What does Penny love most about her job?**

- A. having the chance to work with different types of people
- B. seeing the work go through a number of stages
- C. organizing the work in her own way

**25. Penny advises young photographers to**

- A. develop a personal style.
- B. take as many photos as they can.
- C. start their own business as soon as possible.

(7 marks)

## Speaking

### Part 10 (2 minutes)

First of all, we'd like to know something about you.

- Where are from?
- What do you like about living here?

#### Main prompt 1

- Do you enjoy travelling? Why/Why not?
- Which form of transport would you not use? Why?
- Tell me about a recent trip you made.
- Which city would you like to visit most? Why?

#### Main prompt 2

- Do you think is it important to keep fit? Why?
- Do you prefer playing or watching sport?
- Is eating healthy food important for you? ( What is your favourite food?)

## Part 11 (3 minutes)

Now we are going to discuss something together. The question is:

- **“Should communities continue to celebrate traditional festivals or replace them with more modern ones?”** *What do you think?*

## Part 12 (3 minutes)

Now, here are two pictures showing two different places.

- ✓ Please tell me what you can see in the pictures.
- ✓ What are advantages and disadvantages living in the different places?

1A



1B



# Keys

## Reading

### Task 1

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. B

### Task 2

9. Southern Asia
10. student/ at university
11. more than 4000 ( worldwide)
12. remote communities
13. a group of volunteers

### Task 3

14. which
15. come
16. all
17. with
18. is
19. more
20. ago
21. from
22. would/could
23. so
24. how
25. however

### Task 4

26. scientist;
27. engineering;
28. product;
29. equipment;
30. electricity;
31. powerful;
32. useless;
33. specialised;
34. embarrassment;
35. difficulties;

### **Listening**

#### **Task 1**

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. A

#### **Task 2**

9. (the) green bus
10. west
11. (the) dolphins
12. Japan
13. bike/bicycle
14. Adventure Tours
15. foot
16. (wooden) mask
17. Lakeside
18. walking

#### **Task 3**

19. A
20. B

21. C

22. C

23. A

24. C

25. B