

**Тест Первого сертификационного уровня по английскому языку
(Уровень B1 CEFR)
Центра языкового тестирования СПбГУ**

Тексты аудиозаписи

Task A1-A7

You will hear people talking in seven different situations. For questions A1-A7, choose the correct answer. You will hear each recording twice.

Now we are ready to start.

A1 You hear Jamie and his friend Rosalind talking about Jamie's clocks.
From what they say we understand that Jamie

1. sets all his clocks ten minutes fast.
2. has ten clocks set to the same time to wake him up.
3. wants his clocks to show different times.

Rosalind: Wow, you have so many clocks in your bedroom.

Jamie: Yeah, I need to make sure I can wake up in the morning.

Rosalind: But is there something wrong with your clocks? None of them are the same time.

Jamie: Ha, I do it on purpose. I set this clock forward ten minutes, and this one back ten minutes, but I always set that one to the right time.

Rosalind: So the alarms ring every ten minutes?

Jamie: Yeah.

Rosalind: Are you crazy or what?

Jamie: No, I am a heavy sleeper. It takes thunder to wake me up.

Now listen again

A2 You will hear part of a programme about a marathon.
Which statement is true?

1. The quickest runners finish the race in 7 and a half hours.
2. All the runners start the marathon at the same time.
3. The runners don't run very quickly at the start of the race.

It may surprise you to learn that there is a marathon in the Sahara Desert. It is 75 kilometers long and the quickest runners finish in less than seven hours. The slowest runners may even run for 30 hours. While most of the runners start the race altogether, the top 15 men and women start a few hours later.

Everyone knows that the race is not easy. It's not just the terrible heat that makes the race hard but having to plan ahead for the conditions. The athletes have to drink a lot of water before they start and need to keep a slow pace at the beginning. Then, when the landscape changes and the sun goes down, they have to change their speed too.

Now listen again

A3 You hear part of a conversation between two friends.
To make his wish come true, Helen is taking Jerry to

1. the athletics stadium.
2. a parking lot.
3. a football pitch.

Jerry: My dream is to fly a kite... But where can we fly a kite in such a big city?

Helen: We can go just down the street, towards the athletics Stadium.

Jerry: You can fly kites in the stadium?

Helen: Well, not exactly. But we can fly them in the parking lot not far from it. Let's go, it's just round the corner!

Jerry: Okay, I'm right behind you! Wow! So many kites!

Helen: Watch your step! Don't get run over by the rollerskaters.

Jerry: I'll have to watch out for those football players too! I didn't know this was such a popular place.

Helen: Really? I used to come here all the time as a kid to play.

Now listen again

A4 You hear Sue and Tom discussing their plans.
Sue wants to ride a bicycle today because

1. she is bored with her job.
2. it's a popular local tradition.
3. she needs exercise to switch off her mind.

Tom: Hi Sue, how's the new job going?

Sue: Really well. It's very exciting and I'm really learning a lot. At the same time, it's also quite tiring. My mind is racing! I need a break from thinking about it today.

Tom: How about going out to lunch together?

Sue: No, I want to do something more active. I have an idea. Why don't we go to the park and ride a bicycle?

Tom: Are you kidding?

Sue: No, I'm serious. It'll help me to get work out of my head for a while! Besides, if we enjoy it, we can start going every week. It could become our Saturday tradition. Look, my uncle gave me a bicycle. So, are you up for it?

Now listen again

A5 You overhear a conversation at the tourist information office.
According to the information officer, the sightseeing bus tour

1. operates every hour.
2. has several popular routes.
3. runs daily except one day a year.

- Excuse me, when does the sightseeing bus tour run?
- Well, buses run every half hour from about 10am to 5pm. But exact times differ from point to point. Here is our information leaflet where you can check the timetable. The service operates every day of the year except Christmas Day.
- And how do I know where to get off?
- You can get on and off the bus as many times as you like during the day as the bus always follows the same route, which you can follow on the map. All the stops are marked along with

the most popular sights and hotels. Your guide will call out the name of each stop and answer any questions you have.

Now listen again

A6 You hear a piece of news about an accident with an animal.

According to the speaker,

1. the firefighters had to raise the animal above the ground.
2. the animal's leg got stuck in a hole under the tree.
3. it took the firefighters an hour to rescue the animal.

This Monday the fire brigade was puzzled by a strange call when they were asked to save a big animal that had somehow got its head stuck in a hole in a tree.

The firefighters arrived at the scene in the town of Monkmore on Monday afternoon and, being surprised not to see a cat on a tree, but a cow under it, they tried to free the animal using a variety of equipment from their fire engine. They used ropes and a crane to lift the cow up and get its head out of the hole. It took them more than an hour just to prepare for the operation but finally the poor thing was rescued. Amazingly, the cow was not injured at all though the rescue was not without difficulties.

Now listen again

A7 You will hear a story about a football fan.

According to the speaker, the man

1. always travelled with his favourite football team.
2. impressed the football players.
3. dreamt of becoming a football player.

A football fan from Vietnam fulfilled his dreams of getting acquainted with his football heroes of the Arsenal football team when he met them this week.

So, what did he have to do to get what he always wanted? He had to run five miles next to the bus the players were travelling in. The footballers couldn't believe their eyes! He was getting more popular with the players with every mile and after some time they decided to stop and take him with them on the bus. Everybody took pictures with him and he was so happy. This should be a message for everybody: if you can dream it, you can do it!

Now listen again

You have 10 seconds to check your answers. (Pause 10 seconds.)

This is the end of the task

Task A8-A13

*You will hear an interview with Ellen Bar, a ballerina, talking about **her** career. For questions **A8-A13**, choose the correct answer. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **50 seconds** to look at the questions.*

Now we are ready to start.

Interviewer: So how did you become a ballerina?

Ellen: My mom was a dancer and a teacher. First my parents put my sister into ballet classes, but she was a very spoiled child and never liked discipline, so she refused to attend. So then they tried me, and I guess I'm quieter and more ready to take direction. I can say that at the beginning my heart wasn't in dancing, I found the classes boring and exhausting. Gradually, however, I took to doing regular training sessions and couldn't think of doing anything else but performing on stage.

Interviewer: How hard is it to get into the School of American Ballet at the Lincoln Centre?

Ellen: When you're young it's easy, because they're just looking at bodies. Usually you have to do a short performance for the examiners. I did it when I was 8 with a legendary old Russian teacher, Madame Tumkovsky, who died not long ago.

I remember that day so well! She watched my performance attentively. It was impossible to understand whether she enjoyed it or not. But after the performance she picked up my leg, and I heard her say "The foot is too flat", which is like death to a dancer. After that I burst into tears. I guess she thought I was too emotional ... But, luckily for me, I got in.

Interviewer: When do you start wearing special ballet shoes and how many pairs do you have now?

Ellen: We start wearing them from 11. Now as a professional, I wear out one or two pairs a day. Our company provides them. They're about \$60 a pair and they wear out fast. Much faster than our training clothes, by the way. Our company spends more on ballet shoes than any other company – something like half a million dollars a year.

Interviewer: So you started taking classes when you were 8. When did it get more serious?

Ellen: In high school, we had classes in the middle of the day. By 14 you have to make a choice. And I was serious about it. I also went to an alternative public high school in New York at the age of 12. I graduated from it when I was 16 ready to start my professional career. That was just a couple of months before I went into the New York City Ballet company.

Interviewer: How do you get into the New York City Ballet company?

Ellen: From each class, only a couple of people get in. The others go on to other ballet companies or they just don't get a job. In my year, only three of us got in.

The director comes and tells you, "Congratulations, you're in the company." The first year was hard — I got paid by the hour like any other beginner and I could have lost my job easily. I had to train a lot before the performances and I only performed in the worst parts of the ballets. But, by far the hardest for me was that they observed everything I did. You know, to see if I was lazy, or not committed to the company. That was really not that easy for me. ... So life was like that for about a year.

But now I'm a soloist. It's common practice in our company to perform in two or three ballets a week. And you receive your salary even if you're injured, which is really important for a dancer.

The company gives performances from November through March in New York. We perform *The Nutcracker* for six weeks and then for the other eight weeks we dance 25 different ballets. They are arranged in such a way that we do a different ballet every day. We perform the biggest number of ballets in the world.

You have 15 seconds to check your answers.

Now you will hear the text again.

You have 15 seconds to check your answers.

This is the end of the task.

Task B1-B6

You will hear a talk about a small island called **Mauritius**. For questions **B1-B6**, complete the sentences with **a word, a number or a phrase that YOU HEAR (no more than 17 characters)**. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **40 seconds** to look at the questions.

Now we are ready to start.

The Island of Mauritius

Mauritius is a small island, located over 500 miles East of Madagascar, off the coast of Africa. The first Portuguese explorers discovered the island in 1507 but left without ever setting foot on the land. The Dutch, who were the first to try to live there, came to the island in 1638 and left it in 1710. They named it Mauritius.

Historically, Mauritius was an important location on trade routes, and was one of the first countries in the world to produce postage stamps. However, it was sugar, introduced to the island in the 1600's, that became the main product of the island and remains so today. Mauritian sugar is exported throughout the world now.

Today Mauritius is also a famous holiday location for tourists. The coral reef around it makes it ideal for diving. Its tropical climate means there are many exotic flowers to see. As the island was isolated, many plants and animals developed there unlike anywhere else in the world. The Dodo bird is the most famous of them. This large, flightless bird was described by the first Dutch sailors as a friendly giant. But the sailors brought with them goats and pigs, which probably ate the Dodo's eggs in the forest, and by the time the Dutch left the island, all the birds had disappeared.

Music and dance are an important part of the Island's culture and the traditional local dance (and style of music) is called *Sega*. Although most African dances are performed to the rhythmic beating of drums, *Sega* is a joyful dance to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Different nationalities coming to the island over the centuries have brought their own culture, language and traditions, – from India, China, France, England, and other African countries. There are over 80 different religions and more than 20 languages spoken. Most newspapers and television programmes are in French while English is used mostly in business context.

You have 15 seconds to check your answers.

Now you will hear the text again.

You have 15 seconds to check your answers.

This is the end of the task.

Task A14-A19

You will hear a conversation between two friends, Tim and Kate, about **books**. Decide if each sentence **A14-A19** is correct or not correct. You will hear the recording **twice**. You now have **30 seconds** to look at the questions.

Now we are ready to start.

Tim: Hi, Kate. You don't seem to be very happy...What's happened?

Kate: Oh, nothing much, Tim. It's just that I have so much work to do that I won't have time to watch my favourite TV programme today!

Tim: That's a pity! Did I tell you that I don't own a TV at all?

Kate: Really! Why is that? Are you as busy as me and also don't have time to watch TV?

Tim: Well, I am busy, but I don't watch TV for another reason. I think that it makes people sillier and lazier! I try to read an enormous amount of books instead.

Kate: Yeah, me too. But I like listening to books rather than reading them.

Tim: Well, I don't mind listening to books really, but I like to "hear" the voices myself, rather than listening to someone else's interpretation of the voices.

Kate: Yes, I agree it can be a bit strange to hear how other people interpret the characters, even if the stories are read by professional actors. But that's why I think audiobooks are great for books that I've already read, not for the first time of experiencing a book.

Tim: I tend to pick up audiobooks mainly when I am traveling or driving long distances. I don't think I would ever choose just to sit down and listen to an audiobook at home.

Kate: Really? Don't you think it's comfortable to lie on your cosy sofa listening to your favourite novel?

Tim: Well, I would agree that it's comfortable to lie on the sofa but I prefer doing it holding my favourite book in my hands!

Kate: You mean, you still prefer a printed book?

Tim: Yeah, I'm old school. I like the look of the text on a printed page.

Kate: Well, I prefer e-books. You can download any number of books you like and you can store them without any problem.

Tim: Yes, I have to say that having too many books is a real problem for me in my tiny room, but I've found a way around the problem. I only put my favourites on the shelves. You know, the ones that are dear to me and which I know I'll re-read. If I think that I'm only going to use a book once, then I try to download it and keep in electronic form instead.

Kate: You have a point there... I think it's worth trying.

Tim: You should also take into consideration the price – when you download e-books they could be 80% cheaper than those you buy in a bookshop!

Kate: Oh, I know. That's the biggest motivation – even more than space!

You have 15 seconds to check your answers. (Pause 15 seconds)

Now you will hear the text again. (Repeat)

You have 15 seconds to check your answers. (Pause 15 seconds)

This is the end of the task.