

Part 1 Reading Comprehension (15 points, 15 minutes recommended)**15 P**

You are going to read an article in which five young people talk about how working from home has influenced them. For questions 1–15, choose the most suitable person (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order.

Which person or people ...

is aware of the importance of conforming to industry requirements?	1. B	2. E
understands the health implications of certain types of work?	3. D	
compares two different places of work, one being only temporary?	4. C	
mentions a natural phenomenon that helps them concentrate?	5. A	6. E
doesn't think they would take as much pleasure in their work in a different place?	7. B	8. E
appreciates the need to feel mentally and physically prepared for work?	9. A	
recognises that their current workplace benefits others as well as themselves?	10. C	
has improved their efficiency by adapting their workplace to their needs?	11. D	
has observed a particular effect of where they work on what they create?	12. C	
is grateful that they are able to leave work behind when they are finished for the day?	13. A	
saves a lot of time by working where they do?	14. E	
says it is not habitual for people in this line of work to have the opportunity of working from where he/she works?	15. E	

Where two answers are required, they may be given in any order.

Source: adapted from Exam Essentials Practice Tests B2 First (Charles Osbourne).

Working from home*How big is the influence of our working environment?**We asked five people about their experience.***A Petra Rosso**

I'm a student, which means I have to have peace and solitude when I'm trying to get my assignments done for college. There's a great attic room at home which I've been working in. I'm studying creative writing and it's important not only to get into the right frame of mind, but the right surroundings, too, in order for the ideas to flow. The room's flooded with light, which helps me stay focused when writing, and the view is inspiring. In fact, I've done some of my best work since I've been using the room for study purposes. The benefits extend beyond the walls of the room, too – once the door's closed, it means I can totally switch off and spend time with my family without the thought of college work interfering.

C Kara Francis

As an artist, it's vital to have the right working environment. I do have a room at home designated for the purpose, though it's undergoing a bit of renovation work at the moment, so I'm working in the living room for the time being. It's a light, airy space and there are some huge glass doors leading out onto the back of the house, which looks over the fields. It's almost like the countryside spills into the house. I paint portraits and the light there makes it almost as good as working in my studio. The people who sit for me can look out at the greenery while I'm studying them, and it's fascinating what a calming effect this seems to have on them. I've noticed recently that the portraits I've produced lately have a real air of calm about them.

B Jade Pickett

I share a large apartment with some other young professionals like myself. We get on well together and tend to gather in the kitchen, which is large and spacious. I like to keep it clean and tidy as I run a catering business from home and it's necessary that I stick to certain standards of cleanliness. I'm always experimenting with new dishes and often prepare meals for my flatmates and our friends who come over. What could be more fun than chilling out with good company and food? I like the sociable atmosphere that cooking can create and without such a lovely space to try things out in, I doubt I'd enjoy what I do even half as much.

D Tina Tyford

I work from home and have a home office, which is the ideal place to get my head down and run my business. When I first started working like that, I undertook some research into what makes the best environment for home-workers, and that included buying some ergonomic furniture which I had specifically designed to suit my needs. Yes, the financial investment was significant, but it's really increased my performance and output. I know that having a job where you sit a lot can cause physical problems, so making sure I have the right chair to support my back and so on makes an enormous difference. My office is also well lit and equipped. It was definitely worth it.

E Stuart Evard

My job is traditionally not done from home, which makes me a bit of an odd home-worker. However, my own lab follows all the guidelines of the biotechnical institute I work for, and therefore, they allow me to work from home. I'm very glad about that, because otherwise, my commute would be 2 hours one way – a distance I'm happy to do once a week but couldn't imagine undergoing on a daily basis! Moreover, I'm the only one on the project, which means I'd work on my own anyway, no matter where. And I much prefer the local village I live and work in – my company is located in a busy city, with no greenery to be seen. Green helps me stay in tune with my research.

Part 2 Vocabulary (15 points, 15 minutes recommended)**15 P**

1. Andy Warhol was a _____ artist, film director and producer.
A. succeed B. success **C. successful** D. successfully
2. An advert has to be attention-grabbing and _____.
A. energetic B. forceful C. mighty **D. powerful**
3. Guitarist Jimi Hendrix's greatest _____ was at the Woodstock Music and Art Fair.
A. playing **B. performance** C. entertainment D. presentation
4. The best thing to do is _____ and take a deep breath.
A. come down B. settle down **C. calm down** D. turn down
5. The famous football player Mbappe will not carry _____ playing for Paris Saint-Germain.
A. for **B. on** C. at D. after
6. Alexander Graham Bell _____ the telephone.
A. invented B. developed C. started D. discovered
7. Amelia Earhart will be remembered for being the first woman to fly solo _____ the Atlantic.
A. across B. above C. up D. overhead
8. The company suffered a _____ of £500 million.
A. loose B. lose C. lost **D. loss**
9. An Olympic medal is the greatest _____ for an athlete.
A. fame B. earn **C. achievement** D. winner
10. You didn't pay attention and that's why you made a _____.
A. error B. fault C. failure **D. mistake**
11. The artist Grayson Perry presented his work at the art _____ in Edinburgh.
A. exhibition B. display C. demonstration D. showing
12. The CEO of Google is the _____ of more than 178,000 people worldwide.
A. ruler B. chef **C. boss** D. chief
13. The famous Italian goalkeeper G. Buffon noticed that he couldn't keep _____ with the younger generation and therefore resigned in 2023.
A. about **B. up** C. around D. on
14. Two criminals tried to _____ an internet café.
A. rob B. thief C. take D. steal
15. Schools should spend more time teaching the _____ people need to get a job.
A. advances B. instructions **C. skills** D. services

Part 3 Grammar (15 points, 15 minutes recommended)**15 P**

For questions 1–15, circle the answer (A, B, C or D) which best fits each space.

1. Shakespeare knew _____ Latin and less Greek.
A. hardly B. few **C. little** D. least
2. We _____ planting the new trees next Wednesday.
A. finish B. have finished **C. will finish** D. would finish
3. She _____ some of the best portraits in recent years.
A. paints B. painted C. is painting **D. has painted**
4. He _____ hard all morning, and afterwards he felt really tired.
A. worked B. was working C. has been working **D. had been working**
5. The _____ you study, the more confident you'll feel during an exam.
A. more serious B. much serious **C. more seriously** D. much seriously
6. Several people turned up late, _____ wasn't surprising.
A. that B. this **C. which** D. what
7. I'll be here tomorrow unless there _____ a train strike.
A. is B. was C. will be D. will have been
8. I wish you _____ me the truth as I could have helped you.
A. tell B. told C. would tell **D. had told**
9. You _____ me the match was cancelled. I went all the way there for nothing.
A. should tell **B. should have told** C. must tell D. must have told
10. If they'd tried a bit harder, I think they _____ .
A. won B. would win C. had won **D. would have won**
11. The new school _____ by the Prime Minister on April 20.
A. opens B. will open C. will be open **D. will be opened**
12. She told me I _____ more careful in future.
A. must be B. must have been C. have to be **D. had to be**
13. I planned _____ these letters, but I forgot.
A. post **B. to post** C. posting D. having posted
14. While we _____ TV, suddenly the lights went out.
A. watched B. had watched **C. were watching** D. had been watching
15. I _____ stay at home than go out.
A. will rather **B. would rather** C. shall rather D. should rather

Sources (amongst others): Oxford English Grammar Course/Macmillan English Grammar in Context

Part 4 Writing (15 points, 15 minutes recommended)**15 P**

Read part of an email which you have recently received from an English-speaking friend, Jamie, who needs some advice on a presentation she's preparing.

[...]

I need to prepare a presentation on an unusual hobby that is not practised by a huge amount of people. Can you help me with a hobby that is not so common? How is this hobby practised? Is this hobby practised alone or with other people? Why do you think it isn't such a popular hobby?

What kind of clothes and equipment do you need for this hobby?

Would you ever try to do this hobby yourself, and why (not)?

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Love

Jamie

On the following page, reply to Jamie's email in 100 – 120 words. Do not write any addresses.

Content	/ 6 points
Organisation (paragraphs, logical structure, linking words)	/ 3 points
Grammar	/ 3 points
Vocabulary	/ 3 points

Length: 100 – 120 words. Marks are based on full realisation of the task set. Deduct points for missing or inappropriate content.

The content needs to cover:

- Letter opening and ending (1 point)
- Which hobby, and how is it practised (1 point)
- Is it practised alone or with others (1 point)
- Why isn't it so popular (1 point)
- What kind of clothes and equipment do you need (1 point)
- Would you ever try it and why/why not (1 point)

Organisation/linking:

- Paragraphing (1 point)
- Logic (1 point)
- Suitable linking words/phrases (1 point)

Grammar and Vocabulary: The candidates should have a B1 level (CEFR) to score full points for grammar and vocabulary. No half points are awarded.

