

University of Cambridge

First Certificate in English

(FCE)

Paper 1: Reading (1 hour)

Part 1

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

The bus was crowded with tourists, most of whom, like us, were unfamiliar with local customs and probably unsure of which stop to get off at. It was the middle of summer, and we were already hot and tired, even though it was still morning. The bus had no air conditioning and, as there weren't any free seats, we'd been standing for at least twenty minutes as the rusty old vehicle made its way along the winding, bumpy roads. It was an effort for us to keep our balance and not fall down or bump into other passengers as the bus went round sharp bends or swerved to avoid the numerous holes in the road.

Because there were so many people around us, it was difficult to see out of the windows, so we weren't quite sure where we were. Thinking, after the bus had crossed a bridge, that we had reached the ancient site that we wanted to visit, we pressed the button by the door to let the driver know that we wanted to get off at the next stop. When the bus stopped and the doors opened, however, we realised that the site was still a long way off, and so we stayed on board. No one got off the bus. The doors closed and the bus set off again.

Just before the next stop, another passenger must have pressed the button, because, on reaching the stop, the bus once more came to a noisy halt and the doors opened with a loud rattle. However, once again, no one got off. We had been too busy chatting to see who it was who had pressed the button and, unaware of our predicament, we continued our conversation. However, after a few moments, we realised that the bus hadn't set off again. Sensing that something was wrong, all the passengers turned and looked in the direction of the driver.

To our horror, the enormous bus driver had got out of his seat, obviously with some effort, since he was bright red, and was heading straight towards us with a face like thunder. He stopped a few metres from us and started shouting at the top of his deep, booming voice. His voice matched his expression perfectly. Perhaps fortunately, we didn't speak the language, so we understood nothing of what he was yelling. We realised that he was angry with us because the button had been pressed twice, forcing him to stop the bus for no reason since nobody had got off.

'Sorry, sorry,' I said, trying to sound as apologetic as possible, and with a pained expression on my face.

'We're really sorry,' my friend added, 'but we only did it once. It wasn't us the second time. It must have been someone else. We weren't sure where to get off, you see and ...'

Her voice gradually trailed off as she saw the blank look on the bus driver's face. There was obviously no reason to continue. He looked even angrier than before – if that was possible. Still fuming, he turned round and got back into his seat. The bus set off again. We thought it wise to move away from the door so that we wouldn't be blamed if someone pressed the button a third time. We were pretty sure that if it happened again, we would be physically

line 37 thrown off the bus – at best!

Eventually, we arrived at our destination, not a moment too soon, we felt, and we got off the bus with a great sense of relief. As the vehicle moved off, we could just make out, through the cloud of dust that it left behind, a group of boys who were standing at the rear window. They were looking at us and laughing. We wondered if we had been the victims of a practical joke.

'Oh, well, let's just hope we don't get on the same bus on the way back!' my friend remarked as we headed for the wonders of the ancient ruins which were still some way ahead of us.

Part 1

1 What do we know to be true about the passengers on the bus?

- A Some of them hadn't had to pay for their seats.
- B They were all tourists.
- C They kept on bumping into each other.
- D Not all of them knew the route they were on.

2 Why weren't the writer and her friend sure about exactly where they were?

- A The windows of the bus were dirty.
- B It was dark outside.
- C They had never been to the area before.
- D The bus was crowded.

3 What 'predicament' is referred to in line 17?

- A They didn't have bus tickets.
- B They were on the wrong bus.
- C They didn't know where to get off the bus.
- D The bus driver was angry with them.

4 Why does the writer say, 'fortunately, we couldn't speak the language'?

- A They didn't have to explain to the bus driver what had happened.
- B They didn't need to speak to the driver, and they couldn't have, anyway.
- C They didn't want to know what the bus driver was saying.
- D The other passengers couldn't understand what they had been saying.

5 Why did the writer's friend's voice gradually trail off?

- A The bus driver looked even angrier than before.
- B She expected the writer to say something.
- C The bus driver realised what had happened.
- D She realised the bus driver didn't understand English.

6 How did the writer and her friend make sure that they didn't make the driver even angrier?

- A They kept their distance from the door.
- B They got off the bus.
- C They went to the rear of the bus.
- D They spoke to him.

7 Why does the writer say 'at best' in line 37?

- A Getting thrown off the bus was the worst-case scenario.
- B The driver might do something worse than throwing them off the bus.
- C The bus driver would be justified in throwing them off the bus.
- D Someone else might get into trouble this time.

8 What 'practical joke' did the boys probably play on the writer and her friend?

- A They made sure that the writer and her friend got covered in dust.
- B They pressed the button the second time, knowing that the writer would get the blame.
- C They arranged for the writer and her friend to get off the bus a long way from the ancient site.
- D They made sure that the writer and her friend wouldn't find anywhere to sit on the bus.

Part 2

You are going to read an article about a woman who is a marathon swimmer. Seven sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A-H the one which fits each gap (9-15). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

Marathon Swimmer

Sharon Rose tells of her experiences as a marathon swimmer.

For as long as I can remember, I have been swimming.

9 My brother, Mike, who was then nine, trained five days a week with the local swimming team, so I soon got used to the idea that competitive swimming would be part of my life too.

Mike was excellent at the sprints, the 50-metre and 100-metre races. Joining the world of competitive swimming, I began to realise that, while I didn't have the edge for such bursts of speed, I had plenty of strength and stamina for the 800-metre and 1,500-metre events. 10 When we were scheduled for different competitions on the same day, my father took one of us to the other venue.

Mike managed to get a gold in the national championships, but then he gave up racing for water polo, a move that my father really seemed to approve of. Since then he has obtained a place on the national polo team and taken part in quite a few international tournaments.

11 I suppose I have simply become accustomed to working on my own, and having to rely on what I can achieve for myself. I was actually making a name for myself in the 1,500-metre freestyle races, where it was becoming rare for me not to finish in one of the first three places. Then one day Daisy, who is my e-pal from Australia, told me that she had become hooked on marathon swimming.

Marathon swimming usually takes place in the sea or in large lakes. One of the most popular races is the 10-km race, but some other distances are 1 mile, 5 km and 10 miles. Marathon swimming has been popular among endurance athletes since the early 1990s, and the 10-km race became an Olympic event at the Beijing Games in 2008.

12 Participants raced one kilometre down one side of the basin, round a marker buoy and a kilometre up the other side, then round the same course another four times.

Daisy warned me that the world of marathon swimming was very different from the swimming that I knew. One of the most obvious differences is the temperature of the sea or a lake compared to a heated pool. Other notable difficulties include waves and currents, seaweed, floating rubbish (imagine swimming along and bumping into a dead dog), fumes from escort boats, jellyfish and other marine life. 13

Marathon swimmers need quite a tough attitude too.

14 There is always a danger that some are tempted to kick, grab, push or pull when they believe that others are doing the same to them.

I've taken part in several events now, some of them international ones, and my successes are giving me an appetite for more. 15 In training, I swim about 90 kilometres a week, though mostly in a pool. Best of all, I sometimes compete in events where Daisy is swimming too.

- A Swimmers have even been known to be joined by whales!
- B I, on the other hand, am much less interested in team sports.
- C They end up swimming in packs which can be quite a tangle of arms and legs when they turn at the buoys.
- D Although, on this occasion, the race took place in a standard swimming pool.

- E It certainly needs a lot of preparation.
- F My mother spent a lot of weekends taking Mike and me to competitions in different towns and cities.
- G I was three years old when I learnt to swim at our local pool.
- H There, the course was set in the rowing basin.

Part 3

You are going to read a magazine article about people who have unusual houses. For questions 16–30, choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

has a different home fairly frequently?	16
may be in different places without a change of home?	17
was forced to have a certain type of home because of regulations?	18
has to let in certain people sent by the owner of the property?	19
has received official recognition or praise for their home?	20
uses their home for business purposes?	21
lives in a building designed for a specific job?	22
used to earn a lot of money?	23
really appreciates being close to nature?	24
does repair and maintenance jobs on their home as part of their work?	25
would appear to have opportunities for luxury recreational activities?	26
must find the internet a very important tool at times?	27
is qualified to design homes?	28
would appreciate better heating?	29
is thinking about changing their career?	30

Part 3

Unusual Homes

A Miriam Rees lives in a lighthouse on the west coast of Scotland. Even though the lighthouse is still in use, it does not have a keeper because everything is automated. Rees rents the living quarters and some of the storerooms, and the only condition is that she has to allow access to maintenance engineers any time they visit. This is no hardship, since they are rarely needed.

Rees really appreciates the fact that she is living close to nature and far from city crowds. She loves watching the local wildlife, and she is an artist, so she enjoys having time and opportunities for painting. When she wants human contact, she simply logs on to the Net. She also uses this to order supplies from the nearest harbour, which she then collects using her own boat.

Rees admits that her lifestyle would not suit everybody, but claims that it is bliss for her.

B Larry Hale has a boat that is both his home and workplace rolled into one. He used to be a deep sea fisherman, but changed his lifestyle when it became clear that the fishing industry was in danger of wiping out the oceans' fish stocks. Fishing can be a dangerous but rewarding occupation, and Hale had made a lot of money over the years. However, he is now much less wealthy, so he has sold his house and kept the boat. Hale earns some money by taking people on whale watching trips or other wildlife-related excursions.

Now that everything he owns is on the boat, he has to be very tidy, otherwise there would be no room to move around in. He is used to living on his boat, he says, though he does admit to finding it hard to cope with the cold on the worst winter days. Nevertheless, he claims that the lifestyle suits him, especially the freedom to be wherever he wants.

C Ruth Mars is an architect, and one of her most amazing projects at the moment is her own house. She originally wanted a chalet in the mountains, but after buying a large plot on a mountainside in a remote area, she discovered that she could not get official permission to build a house there. After a lot of discussion with the planning authorities, she got a licence to build her home in a cave that was in the mountainside.

Professionally, this presented Mars with an enormous challenge. She would not have agreed if she had not been permitted to include some large windows in the design, and she is proud to report that this has been achieved without the windows even being noticeable to casual visitors to the area. Mars put a great deal of thought into how she could make the best use of the space available, and is certainly pleased that the position of the house in the earth and rock means that it is easy to heat. What is more, she has won awards for her house, and is now getting some exciting new projects to work on.

D Karl Krenz is a professional housesitter. He is employed by an agency that provides people to live in the holiday villas of wealthy people who do not want to leave their properties unoccupied for long periods of time. Usually, the important thing for the client is that their house looks lived in. Obviously, the property needs to be kept clean and tidy, and sometimes the owner asks for skilled work to be done where necessary. Krenz is actually a qualified electrician who can also undertake plumbing and decorating jobs, so he is in high demand.

The downside of this job, apart from not having a home you can call your own, is that it is rare for the client to permit more than one or two people to occupy the house. However, these houses often have luxury facilities like saunas, swimming pools and games rooms. Krenz tends to view his assignments as extended holidays with responsibility included.

He takes his work very seriously. However, although it is a job that he enjoys, he is considering finding a new line of work so that he can settle down and make a permanent home for himself.

Paper 2: Writing (1 hour 20 minutes)

Part 1

You must answer this question. Write your answer in 120–150 words in an appropriate style.

- 1 You have received an email from your English-speaking friend, Martin, who is planning to go camping for the first time. Read Martin's email and the notes you have made. Then write an email to Martin, using all your notes.

From: Martin Grigorevich
Sent: 2nd April
Subject: camping trip

How are you?

You've often told me about your camping holidays, and how much you and your friends enjoy them. Well, a friend and I have decided that we'd like to visit your country for our first ever camping holiday.

We'd like to know the best areas to go to for this type of holiday. We could go to an official campsite or simply find a suitable place in the countryside. Which do you think would be better?

Also, can you give me some advice about the equipment and clothing that we'll need?

We're planning to come in July, and it would be great if we could meet up with you. Will this be possible?

No, because ...

Write back soon.
 Martin

Great idea!
 Say which and why.
 Suggest ...

Write your email. You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style appropriate for the situation.

Part 2

Write an answer to one of the questions 2–5 in this part. Write your answer in 120–180 words in an appropriate style. Put the question number at the top of the page.

- 2 You recently saw this notice in an English-language magazine called *The Bookworm's Friend*.

OPINIONS WANTED!

Have you been greatly impressed or disappointed by a work of fiction you recently read? If so, send us a **review** of the book. Include information about the plot and characters, and say whether you would recommend this book to others.

The best reviews will be published in our next issue.

Write your review.

- 3 You have seen this announcement in your school magazine.

An Amazing Leisure Activity

Do you do a leisure activity that you would like to recommend to others? Write an **article** telling us about it. Say what the activity is, why you like it and who you would recommend it for.

We will publish the three most interesting articles.

Write your article.

- 4 You have decided to enter a short story competition in an English-language newspaper. The story must **begin** with the following words:

Vera knew that it would be very dangerous, but she had to help her friends.

Write your story.

- 5 Answer one of the following two questions based on your reading of one of the set books.

- (a) This is part of an email from your English-speaking e-pal.

I really enjoyed the book that you sent me. I'd love to have some adventures like the ones the main characters experienced. Would you like to experience any adventures like theirs? Why/Why not?

Write an email to your friend to answer these questions.

Write your email.

- (b) You see the following notice at the end of a magazine article about a popular novel.

People might say that, although the main character changed in some ways during the story, not all of those changes were positive.

Write an article, saying whether you agree with this or not, and why. The best article will be published in this magazine.

Write your article.

Paper 3: Use of English (45 minutes)

Part 1

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).

Example:

- 0 A lover B friend C sympathiser D fan

Example: 0 A B C D

CANINE CLEANLINESS

Fiona MacGregor had always been a dog (0) _____, but she had never actually (1) _____ any thought to seeking work that was related to this passion. (2) _____, after leaving school, she had studied economics and business at university, and then worked for a large company. After about fifteen years, (3) _____, she, along with thousands of others in (4) _____ jobs, suddenly found herself out of (5) _____ when there was a downturn in the economy.

Finding it impossible to get any work, Fiona (6) _____ that her only option was to (7) _____ her own business, and (8) _____ could be better than doing a job she loved? Of course, her first task was to (9) _____ out a market survey in the town where she lived in order to find out how much (10) _____ there was for the kind of service she was planning to offer.

The results were quite promising, so, with a small loan, she got herself a little van which she (11) _____ with a large plastic bath. She soon had a long list of customers whom she visits to wash their dogs. As a result, Fiona is now both (12) _____ money and having fun!

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 A spent | B acquired | C made | D given |
| 2 A Logically | B Therefore | C Nevertheless | D Seemingly |
| 3 A however | B although | C despite | D considering |
| 4 A same | B equal | C alike | D similar |
| 5 A occupation | B position | C work | D job |
| 6 A noticed | B realised | C accounted | D finalised |
| 7 A stand for | B make out | C set up | D make up |
| 8 A which | B what | C whichever | D whatever |
| 9 A carry | B send | C work | D sort |
| 10 A want | B requirement | C request | D demand |
| 11 A organised | B supplied | C equipped | D arranged |
| 12 A finding | B making | C gathering | D gaining |

Part 2

For questions 13–24, read the text below and think of the word that best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Write your answers in CAPITAL LETTERS.

Example: 0 WHO

The Brothers Churchill

Winston Churchill, (0) who was prime minister of the UK from May 1940 to July 1945, famously led Britain to victory in the Second World War (WWII), and has (13) _____ called the greatest Briton ever. (14) _____ is not so well known, however, is the quiet, yet important role played (15) _____ his younger brother, Jack. Indeed, one author even wrote (16) _____ Winston was an only child!

Although Winston, following (17) _____ his father's footsteps, was involved in politics for most of his life, Jack was not. Nevertheless, in other respects, (18) _____ lives were very similar. They both fought in South Africa during the Boer War in 1900, where they showed extreme bravery. They both also fought (19) _____ their country during the First World War (WWI). Noted for his great organisational skills, Winston was in charge (20) _____ the Royal Navy at the start of both world wars. Jack, on the other hand, served in the army throughout WWI.

During WWII, in addition (21) _____ his regular job, Jack also worked on a daily basis (22) _____ Winston's private secretary, in (23) _____ of having serious health problems himself. Although he has been largely ignored by the history books, Jack's valuable skills and companionship must (24) _____ helped his brother, and therefore the country, considerably during this extremely difficult period.

Part 3

For questions 25–34, 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.

Example:

0	ELDERLY
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Help at Home

The Halport Home Helpline has been providing the (0) _____ *elderly* _____ and others with permanent or temporary health problems with support and (25) _____ since 1999.

We are a charitable (26) _____ that depends on the many voluntary workers from Halport who willingly set aside some of their free time to help people who are less (27) _____ than themselves. For people who, because of ill health or (28) _____, require help with housework, (29) _____, or trips to the hospital or health centre, we are only a phone call away, any time of the night or day.

All of our volunteers, aged from 18 to 80, have a (30) _____ in first aid and have undergone rigorous tests before being awarded a (31) _____ with which Halport Home Helpline guarantees their reliability and (32) _____ for the job.

So, whatever your problem, (33) _____ of how big or small it might be, don't hesitate to call and let us know how we can help you. We are working to (34) _____ community ties in Halport, and to make our town a better place for all its residents.

ELDER

ASSIST

ORGANISE

FORTUNE

ABILITY

SHOP

QUALIFY

CERTIFY

SUITABLE

REGARD

STRONG

Part 4

For questions 35–42, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Write your answers IN CAPITAL LETTERS. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 One of my friends took the children home.

TAKEN

The children _____ friend of mine.

Example:

0	WERE TAKEN HOME BY A
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35 It wasn't necessary for you to brake so suddenly.

STOPPED

You _____ the car so suddenly.

36 But for your warning, I would have had an accident.

GIVEN

If _____ that warning, I would have had an accident.

37 We got there quite early, even though we started our journey late.

SPITE

We got there quite early _____ off on time.

38 I bought this car from a doctor.

BY

This car _____ a doctor.

39 In the end, they cancelled the party because of the storm.

CALLED

In the end, the party _____ to the storm.

40 It would have been better if you had accepted her offer.

NOT

You ought _____ down her offer.

41 Jenny didn't seem to want to help her sister.

KEEN

Jenny didn't seem to be very _____ her sister a hand.

42 I was just about to reveal the secret when Ted walked in.

POINT

When Ted walked in, I was _____ the cat out of the bag.