



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
UNIVERSITY LANGUAGE CENTRE

Oxford Online Placement Test

Test guide for students

Basics

What is The Oxford Online Placement Test

The Oxford Online Placement Test is a computer adaptive online test, which means that the test adjusts the difficulty of questions based on the student's responses.

Answers are automatically marked after each task, giving you an instant result once the test is complete.

What does the test consist of?

The test is divided in 2 parts:

1. Use of English (grammar and vocabulary): 3 tasks with about 30 questions in total
2. Listening: about 15 tracks with questions

How long does it take?

The maximum duration of the test is **60 minutes**. It is students' responsibility to manage their time.

How to login:

The test is temporized, which means that it cannot be accessed outside of the allotted date and time. When asked by the assistants, please follow these steps in order:

1. carefully enter your full username, leaving no extra spaces;
2. insert your password, paying attention to upper and lower case letters;
3. left-click on the grey box to the left of the words "I have an organization ID" until it turns blue with a white check mark;
4. insert in the field "Organisation ID" on the right,, which you will find in the invitation e-mail.

All these details will be delivered to your mailbox from the address: www-customerservice.eltonline@oup.com

How to complete the test correctly:

1. At the beginning of the test you will see a screen where you must select the level to start the exam. Please select this option: "please choose a starting point for me".
2. There is one question on each screen. Once you click on "Next", you cannot go back.
3. Wrong answers and non-responses are equivalent. Please do not therefore leave any questions unanswered.
4. The test must be completed to be evaluated. Therefore, it is essential to have reached the "End of test" screen within the 59th minute. To do this, you need to pay attention to the time available. The stopwatch will appear on the screen at the top right corner of the screen in the format mm: ss, and a popup will warn you when there will be 15 minutes left until the end of the test. **PLEASE NOTE:** The system calibrates the degree of difficulty of the test according to the answers, so it is possible you will encounter some questions that do not match your level exactly.

Test sections

Use of English

This part is divided into 3 tasks described in detail below:

Task 1.

10 short dialogues with multiple choice (4 options) questions to test your knowledge of grammatical structures.

Example:

Woman: I always travel by bus.

Man: Why?

Woman: Because it's _____ than the train

- a. More cheap
- b. Cheap
- c. Cheaper
- d. As cheap

Task 2.

10 short dialogues with a one multiple choice question (3 options) to test your understanding of the literal, intended or implicit meaning.

Example:

Literal meaning

Man: What's Julia like?

Woman: She's nice.

What does the man mean?

- a. What does Julia like?
- b. What does Julia look like?
- c. What do you think of Julia?

Intended meaning

Man: Would you like to go out for dinner with me on Saturday?

Woman: I'd love to, but I've got tickets to the theatre that night

The woman is...

- a. Accepting an offer
- b. Refusing an offer
- c. Making an offer

Implicit meaning

Man: Can we talk?

Woman: Well, I have to leave in five minutes.

What does the woman mean?

- a. I don't like talking to you
- b. We can talk in five minutes
- c. I only have five minutes to talk to you

Task 3.

A track with around **7 gaps** where you must insert **one word only (without multiple choice)** to test your active knowledge of both grammatical forms and their meaning.

Example:

New York City is of the largest cities in world. It is also one of the most densely populated, with an estimated 8 million inhabitants. Manhattan is the popular part of New York with tourists and has many interesting sights. There is also a large number of businesses in this area of the city, including the head offices of some of the world's leading companies. New York's subway system provides transport for more a third of the city's workforce. New York is also regarded the center of entertainment. The city has choice of food, entertainment and social life than any other American city.

Listening

In this part there are around 15 tracks with one or two multiple choice questions (4 options) for listening.

Listening consists of short dialogues and monologues.

The duration of each listening varies from 45 seconds to 1.30 minutes.

Each track can be played only twice. Once “play” is pressed, it can no longer be paused.

Example:

Read the sentences below. Then listen to the short conversation. Select the correct answer from the options below. You will have time to play the recording twice.

(audio track)

A man is talking about a trip he took. What does he say about it?

- a. The trip was very expensive
- b. The service at the hotel was excellent
- c. The weather was bad
- d. His hotel room was too small

Advice

You should remember that to listen to all the 15 audio tracks twice, you need at least 30 minutes. You must add the time needed to read and answer the questions. Therefore, it is recommended to dedicate 35-40 minutes to the listening section of the test.