



Self-Assessment Test: English

Levels: A2 up to FCE-Diploma Course (-B2)

Thank you for your interest in our self-assessment test.

This test should give you an idea how good your current English skills are, and help you to decide whether you are ready to join one of our FCE-Diploma preparation courses.

We wish you good luck and hope you will have fun doing this test.

Regulations

Time	90 minutes
Aids	No dictionaries or other aids allowed
Correction	Correct your test yourself with the key available on pages 12 – 13. Every correct answer is awarded 1 point.
Level	A2 up to the entry level for our FCE-Diploma Course.

Scoreboard

Assessment Test	Points	My Score
Paper 1 – Reading	18	
Paper 2 – Use of English	42	
Total	60	

Assessment

Points Scored	Level	Recommendation
30 - 60	- B2	Ready for the FCE-Diploma Course
18 - 29	B1	Ready for any B1 course
1 - 17	A2	Ready for any A2 course

Paper 1: Reading

Part 1

- The people below all want to buy a book.
- On the next page there are descriptions of eight books.
- Decide which books (**letters A-H**) would be the most suitable for each person (**numbers 1-5**)



- 1** Rachel Ward is a professional photographer. She has a long train journey tomorrow and she'd like a good detective story, if possible one with a female detective, which will hold her attention for several hours.



- 2** Dean Clough is studying economics. He is from California. He's visiting Europe this summer with a guided tour. He wants an amusing book that will inform him about a European country and its way of life.



- 3** Norman Hunter has quit his job in an investment bank and will only start his new job in two months. He doesn't usually read much, but he'd like something to pass the time. He is fond of animals and likes finding out about unusual people.



- 4** Gina Davidson is a nurse from Edmonton, Canada. She likes to read short stories in her meal breaks. She's not keen on action or crime stories, but prefers something gentler, especially descriptions of people's feelings and relationships.



- 5** Melanie Rivers works for a fashion magazine and travels around Italy on business quite often. She wants a book that offers well-organised information as she sometimes has time for a little sightseeing between meetings.

A William Holt
Trigger in Europe

This is the story of the author and his horse as they travelled twenty thousand miles through Europe. They slept over four hundred nights in the open through the four seasons of the year. Over the Alps, the Apennines and the Dolomites they went, eating, sleeping and facing hard times together.

B Barbara Paul
A Cadenza for Caruso

It is 1910. The New York Metropolitan Opera House is preparing a new Italian opera by Giacomo Puccini. It will star Enrico Caruso, the famous singer and friend of Puccini. But murder disturbs the excited preparations, and Caruso's friend is suspected! Can he save his friend in time? An exciting read for lovers of music and crime.

C Alta Macadam
Blue Guide to Italy

This has been described as 'the best guide in English' to Italy. It includes detailed information on history, churches, museums and art galleries as well as some practical information about hotels, restaurants, transport and so on. There are suggested tour routes, backed up with maps, town plans and illustrations.

D Sara Paretsky
Deadlock

Another book starring detective Vic Warshawski. Vic has a personal interest in her latest case. Boom Boom the ice-hockey champion was Vic's cousin. Now he's dead. Vic thinks he was murdered. Why else should her questions about his death lead to other deaths in the Chicago area? You'll stay up all night to find out.

E Elisabeth Taylor
The Blush

Her sharp eye watches men and women as they go about their everyday lives and explores the mysteries of the human heart. In these stories, first published in 1958, we see how well Elisabeth Taylor describes hidden depths of feeling and personality with a few perfectly chosen words.

F Raymond Chandler
Pearls are a Nuisance

Three fast-moving stories written by Chandler in the 1940s, including one from the early life of that most famous American detective, Philip Marlowe. The reader is carried at speed through his world of dark streets, double-dealings and death by the writer who has been the model for so many others.

G Edith Templeton
The Surprise of Cremona

This unusual travel book, written ten years ago, is filled with descriptions of people and places in Italy. It is both extremely well-written and full of fascinating pieces of information. A good choice for those planning to visit the country for the first time. It is also extremely funny.

Margaret Atwood
The Edible Woman

Margaret is an ordinary girl. She has finished university and started her first job. But really she is just waiting to get married. All goes well at first, but there is something inside her which does not want the safe life and the dull husband she has found. A novel which manages to be funny and thoughtful at the same time.

Part 2

- You are going to read an article from a consumer magazine about the London underground railway. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (**A-H**) for each part (**6-11**) of the article.
- There is one extra heading which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (**0**).

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| A | Poor announcements |
| B | Dirty and outdated |
| C | Passengers' opinions count |
| D | Occasional users |
| E | Overcrowded |
| F | A waste of time |
| G | Unreliable |
| H | Under pressure |



The Service You Get on the Tube

0

H

The world's first underground railway (the Tube) opened in London in January 1863. Today there are 11 lines serving 272 stations, the busiest of which, King's Cross, sees the start and finish of around 70 million journeys a year. But the system is in crisis – mainly as a result of underinvestment. Overcrowding combined with poor reliability can lead to problems for travellers, particularly those who use the Tube during the busiest hours.

6

This report looks at service and safety on the Underground. It's based on the findings of our survey of passengers. Last June we interviewed 1,698 Tube travellers outside 46 Underground stations in London; 517 regular travellers (those using the Tube throughout the year on three or more days each week) were contacted again and asked more detailed questions by phone.

7

Since 2000 the number of passengers using the Tube has increased by almost half. The increase in passengers has not been matched by an expansion of the Underground system and there is widespread congestion, particularly during the six peak hours when over 60 per cent of all journeys are made. London Underground Limited (LU) states that over the busiest rush hour no more than one person should have to stand for each seated passenger. But LU's own statistics show that this standard is often not met over large areas of track on a daily basis.

8

Forty-three per cent of regular travellers had missed a business appointment or been late for something in the two weeks before the survey because of delays on the Underground. A fact which was

sarcastically commented by the editor of the Evening Standard when he, alluding to the famous T-shirt slogan 'beat the system', wrote that, in fact, 'most of us get beaten by the system'.

9

Almost fifty per cent of regular travellers mentioned graffiti, rubbish and generally dirty conditions as one of the aspects they disliked. The aim set by Government for train cleaning is that carriages should be cleaned internally every day they are in use. LU's figures show it has come very close to achieving this. But there are no standards to define or measure how well trains have to be cleaned. LU has made progress in dealing with rubbish at major stations but graffiti, old coaches and not modernised stations remain serious problems.

10

Well over half of the regular travellers said they are dissatisfied with the information provided when something goes wrong on the system; 72 per cent of those who were dissatisfied complained that the information was wrong or given too late; 49 per cent couldn't hear or understand what was said. LU told us that a new system has been installed, which should mean clearer messages. However, the new system applies only to messages broadcast within stations; those coming from a central control room may not improve for some time to come.

11

Most of this report reflects the experiences of regular Tube travellers but we also asked those who do not travel every day for their views. The most popular type of ticket bought by these travellers was a one-day pass. Few appeared to have had problems finding their way around the system – 89 per cent said finding their way around was 'easy'.

Part 3

- You are going to read an extract from a book. For questions **12-18**, choose the answer (**A**, **B**, **C** or **D**) which you think fits best according to the text.

Exploring a Continent

I was dirty, smelly and somewhere beneath all that, suntanned. It was the end of an Inter-Rail holiday. My body couldn't take any more punishment. My mind couldn't deal with any more foreign timetables or languages.

"Never again," I said, as I stepped onto home ground. I said exactly the same thing the following year. And the next. All I had to do was buy one train ticket and, because I was under twenty-five years old, I could spend a whole month going anywhere in Europe. Ordinary beds are never the same once you've learnt to sleep in the corridor of a train, the rhythm rocking you into a deep sleep.

Carrying all your possessions on your back in a rucksack make you have a very basic approach to travel, and encourages incredible wastefulness that can lead to burning socks that have become too anti-social, and getting rid of books when finished. On the other hand, this way of looking at life is entirely in the spirit of Inter-Rail, for common sense and reasoning can be thrown out of the window along with the paperback book and the socks. All it takes to achieve this carefree attitude is one of those tickets in your hands.

Any system that enables young people to travel through countries at a rate of more than one a day must be pretty special. On that first trip, my friends and I were at first unaware of the possibilities of this type of train ticket, thinking it was just an inexpensive way of getting to and from our chosen camp-site in southern France. But the idea of non-stop travel proved to be tempting, for there was always just one more country over the border, always that little bit further to go. And what did the extra miles cost us? Nothing.

We were not completely uninterested in culture. But this way was a first holiday without parents, as it was for most other Inter-Railers, and in organising our own timetable we left out everything except the most immediately available sights. This was the chance to escape the guided tour, an opportunity to do something different. I took great pride in the fact that, in many places, all I could be bothered to see was the view from the station. We were just there to get by, and to have a good time doing so. In this we were no different from most of the other Inter-Railers with whom we shared corridor floors, food and water, money and music.

The excitement of travel comes from the sudden reality of somewhere that was previously just a name. It is as if the city in which you arrive never actually existed until the train pulls in at the station and you are able to see it with your own tired eyes for the first time.

Only by actually seeing Europe, by watching the changing landscapes and seeing the differences in attitudes and lifestyles, can you really have an accurate picture of the continent in your mind. Everybody knows what is there, but it is meaningless until you view it yourself. This is what makes other people's holiday photos so boring.

While the train trip won't allow you discover anything new in the world sense, it is a valuable personal experience. Europe is a big place, and Inter-Rail gives people the best opportunity to recognise this ... though in our case it didn't happen immediately.

12. At the end of his first trip, the writer said "never again" because
- A** he felt ill.
 - B** he disliked trains.
 - C** he was tired from the journey.
 - D** he had lost money.
13. What does the writer mean by "this way of looking at life" in line 12?
- A** worrying about your clothes
 - B** throwing unwanted things away
 - C** behaving in an anti-social way
 - D** looking after your possessions
14. Why did the writer originally buy an Inter-Rail ticket?
- A** to go on a tour of Europe
 - B** to meet other young people
 - C** to see a lot of famous places
 - D** to get to one place cheaply
15. What the writer liked about travelling without his parents was that
- A** he could see more interesting places.
 - B** he could spend more time sightseeing.
 - C** he could stay away from home longer.
 - D** he could make his own decisions.
16. On his first trip, the writer found that the other young Inter-Railers were
- A** unselfish
 - B** irresponsible
 - C** badly organised
 - D** concerned about money
17. What does "it" in line 30 refer to?
- A** a name
 - B** the city
 - C** the train
 - D** the station
18. According to the writer, other people's holiday photos can be boring if
- A** they are badly taken.
 - B** they are similar to your own.
 - C** you haven't visited the same place.
 - D** you could have done better yourself.



Paper 2: Use of English

Part 1

- Read the text below and choose the correct word for each space (**1-10**).
- For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word – **A, B, C** or **D**.

Part 1				
0	A	B	C	D

The Rocky Mountains

The Rocky Mountains run almost the length (0) _____ North America. They start in the northwest, but lie only a (1) _____ hundred miles from the center in more southern areas. Although the Rockies are smaller (2) _____ the Alps, they are no less wonderful.

There are many roads across the Rockies, (3) _____ the best way to see them is to (4) _____ by train. You start from Vancouver, (5) _____ most attractive of Canada's big cities. Standing with its feet in the water and its head in the mountains, this city (6) _____ residents to ski on slopes just 15 minutes by car from the city (7) _____.

Thirty passenger trains a day used to (8) _____ off from Vancouver on the cross-continent railway. Now there are just three a week, but the ride is still a great adventure. You sleep on boards, (9) _____ is fun, but travel through some of the best (10) _____ at night.

- | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|--------|----------|---------|
| 0 | A | of | B | down | C | in | D | through |
| 1 | A | many | B | lot | C | few | D | couple |
| 2 | A | from | B | to | C | as | D | than |
| 3 | A | but | B | because | C | unless | D | since |
| 4 | A | drive | B | travel | C | ride | D | pass |
| 5 | A | a | B | one | C | the | D | its |
| 6 | A | lets | B | allows | C | offers | D | gives |
| 7 | A | center | B | circle | C | middle | D | heart |
| 8 | A | leave | B | get | C | take | D | set |
| 9 | A | when | B | which | C | who | D | where |
| 10 | A | scenery | B | view | C | site | D | beauty |

Part 2

- Here are some sentences (**11-20**) about various topics.
- Finish the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.
- The second sentence is started for you.

Example: My brother enjoys playing golf.

My brother is keen on playing golf.

11. His team won the match last week.

Last week's match _____

12. "You've done very well," said the captain to the team.

The captain told the team they _____

13. The airport shuttle bus is cheaper than a taxi.

Taxis _____

14. The Hotel Atlanta belongs to one of the airlines.

One of the airlines _____

15. The Happy Traveller Café is very unpopular.

Nobody _____

16. The library lends books to both students and teachers.

Both students and teachers can _____

17. If I finish my work I can go out at weekends.

Unless I finish my work _____

18. She asked an assistant how much the Colombian coffee cost.

She asked: "How _____

19. She is often driven to the supermarket by her neighbour.

Her neighbour _____

20. Jane had a better seat than David

David had _____

Part 3

- For questions (21-32), read the text below and think of the word that best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

The Export of Ice

Ice from the Rocky Mountains in the United States (0) is being exported to countries on the other (21) _____ of the world. From Seattle to Tokyo might seem a long way to send ice, but the idea is certainly not new. (22) _____ early as 1833, the American Frederick Tudor, (23) _____ as the 'Ice King', sent a shipload of ice from America to India. About half of his ice melted during the long journey, but Tudor would have (24) _____ a substantial profit even (25) _____ he had lost three quarters of the cargo.

Most people think of ice as rather short-lived but, when it was cut from frozen lakes in huge blocks and stored in the depths of a sailing ship, (26) _____ life was considerably extended. In Great Britain in the 1840s, (27) _____ was already a local commercial ice trade, but the import of ice, first from America and then from Norway, (28) _____ about a revolution in the food business. The main port of entry for Norwegian ice was London, from (29) _____ the firm of Carlo Gatti, one of the largest dealers, distributed the ice around the country. It was Carlo Gatti (30) _____ introduced the penny ice-cream in the 1850s. (31) _____ then, ice-cream had been a luxury, but the penny ice, served in Gatti's cafés, became a Victorian fashion and brought hundreds of Italian ice-cream sellers (32) _____ the streets of the capital.



Part 4

- For questions (33-42), read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Part 4	
0	CONSTRUCTION

The Future of Tall Buildings

Architects responsible for the (0) _____ of many skyscrapers believe that a tall building must always have a certain minimum (33) _____ but that there is no limit to its absolute (34) _____. This means that the skyscrapers of the future are likely to be even taller.

Engineers agree with this, but there is (35) _____ over the best shape for very tall, slim buildings. The effects of wind (36) _____ mean that cylindrical designs have enjoyed some (37) _____ in recent years, and these are quite pleasing to the eye. (38) _____, however, the ideal shape is an ugly square with heavily rounded corners.

Would these tall buildings of the future offer more than a (39) _____ view? Some believe tall towers could contain all the (40) _____ for modern living. It is possible that the (41) _____ of these vertical villages would travel up and down between their home and work zones and would (42) _____ need to journey to ground level.

CONSTRUCT

WIDE

HIGH

AGREE

PRESS

POPULAR

FORTUNATE

WONDER

REQUIRE

INHABIT

RARE



Congratulations – You Have Made It!
This is the End of the Self-Assessment Test

Key

Every correct answer is awarded with one point.
You can score a maximum of 60 points.

Paper 1: Reading

Part 1

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | D | 2 | G | 3 | A | 4 | E |
| 5 | C | | | | | | |

Part 2

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | C | 7 | E | 8 | G | 9 | B |
| 10 | A | 11 | D | | | | |

Part 3

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 12 | C | 13 | B | 14 | D | 15 | D |
| 16 | A | 17 | B | 18 | C | | |

Paper 2: Use of English

Part 1

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | C | 2 | D | 3 | A | 4 | B |
| 5 | C | 6 | B | 7 | A | 8 | D |
| 9 | B | 10 | A | | | | |

Part 2

- 11 was won by his team.
- 12 had done very well.
- 13 are more expensive than the airport shuttle bus. *or*
aren't as / so cheap as the airport shuttle bus.
- 14 owns the Hotel Atlanta.
- 15 likes the Happy Traveller Café.
- 16 borrow books from the library.

- 17 I can't go out at weekends. or
I'm not allowed to go out at weekends.
- 18 much does the Colombian coffee cost?"
is the Colombian coffee?"
- 19 often drives her to the supermarket.
- 20 had a worse seat than Jane.

Part 3

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|--------------------|
| 21 | SIDE | 22 | AS |
| 23 | KNOWN | 24 | MADE |
| 25 | IF | 26 | ITS |
| 27 | THERE | 28 | BROUGHT |
| 29 | WHERE | 30 | WHO or THAT |
| 31 | UNTIL or TILL or BEFORE | 32 | TO or ONTO or INTO |

Part 4

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|----|---------------|
| 33 | WIDTH | 34 | HEIGHT |
| 35 | DISAGREEMENT | 36 | PRESSURE |
| 37 | POPULARITY | 38 | UNFORTUNATELY |
| 39 | WONDERFUL | 40 | REQUIREMENTS |
| 41 | INHABITANTS | 42 | RARELY |



THE END