



SAMPLE PAPER

# B2 ENGLISH

## Reading & Writing

TIME: 2 hours 30 minutes

### INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

You must copy all your answers onto the answer sheet within the time available.

No additional time will be allowed.

You can use this question paper for any rough work.

**No exam materials must be taken out of the exam room.**

Complete the answer sheets using **pen**.

### INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

#### READING:

Answer **all** the questions.

There are three parts to the exam.

Each question is worth 1 mark.

#### WRITING:

There are **two parts** to the exam.

Questions 1 & 2 are worth 20 marks each.

# READING

## Part 1

You are going to read an article about Sean Conway, Britain's wildest adventurer. For **Questions 1-8**, choose the answer (**A-C**) which you think fits best according to the text. Write your answers on your answer sheet. There is an example at the beginning: (**0**)

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I feel sorry for people stuck in cities their whole lives," says adventurer Sean Conway. "There are so many landscapes out there." So, it is no surprise that, five minutes after meeting me off the London train at Windermere station, he has handed me a spare pair of wellington boots so that we can go tramping up a hill. His beard, long rebellious hair and cheery attitude seem out of place on this rainy day.

Last year, Conway became the first person to run, swim and cycle 6,750 kilometres around the coastline of Great Britain – thus completing the longest-ever triathlon undertaken to date. It took him 85 days. If that doesn't sound difficult enough, he did the whole trip without a support team, and had to resort to camping at night in football fields or under upturned boats whilst carrying his equipment with him. To get the 5,000 calories he needed every day to make the journey, he did everything from foraging wild garlic leaves to eating dog treats (for their high protein content).

Throughout the experience, Conway tells me it was the chance to see the wild, remote parts of Great Britain that kept him going. "This is such a cool island," he says. "I saw some beautiful places and experienced a wide range of climates and temperatures. One day it was 25°, the next freezing cold which can be a problem if you don't have the right equipment. Doing a trip like that, you really feel like you are on your own which is very inspiring in an odd way. I tried to maintain a fizzing, energetic pace during my journey whilst also taking the time to appreciate the many different things that I saw before me. Most people skip places to the north of Aberdeen, where it is flat, windswept and quiet, but it is also stunning."

Although nothing in his speech gave it away, Conway, 35, was born in Zimbabwe. He arrived in the UK aged 20. He worked first cutting cabbages in Ely, before saving up money to move to London, sharing a room with six other people. He set up a photocopy shop but, as the years went by, he became more and more miserable. Not having A-levels or academic training limited his options. Eventually, desperate for a change, he decided to go travelling. The only problem was that he had no funds. "I wanted to do something difficult and bonkers to reignite a spark in my life. I thought if I broke an athletic record I could get sponsorship." So he decided to attempt a 1,400 kilometer route across Great Britain. He bought his bike on eBay and chose a set route, never cycling more than 60 miles a day. Yet, what took him a month had already been done in a record 44 hours.

At this point, he had already completed two small adventures in his spare time. The first of these was cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats in 2008 and the other, slightly odder, challenge was hiking up Kilimanjaro – dressed as a penguin. It was an interesting and personally satisfying experience, which he undertook with a bunch of friends who wanted to raise cash for a local youth club. The penguin suit came as a way to make the trip a little more fun, although it also made the climb and their chances of success much more difficult. As he put it on his blog: "I was quite prepared for potentially not making it but was OK with that. I would rather fail in originality than succeed in mediocrity."

Still, when in 2009 he came up with the plan for a hugely ambitious 25,800-kilometre round-the-world cycle ride, Conway was hardly a sports junkie. Cycling a hundred kilometres seemed like a rough ride. Yet by 2012, when he set off, he was in good shape. Things started well, and he gained strength and confidence quickly. Three weeks in, he was averaging 290 kilometres a day. Then, one day, he was hit by a car, leaving him with a fractured back and tons of medical bills. But, despite these injuries, he refused to give up. Back in the UK and fully recovered after months of physiotherapy, he took on new challenges – cycling and then climbing the highest peaks in the UK. So after that, the round-the-coast triathlon seemed like the natural next step.

Sean says some of the memories from his trip will forever endure, and that whenever he came close to throwing in the towel, his fear of failure would kick in. While he knows most people didn't think he would make it, he succeeded anyway. Today, he makes his living from his adventures, writing books about them and being sponsored by wealthy patrons from across the world. Yet he's an advocate for leading a simple life: he drives a beat-up Land Rover and doesn't even have a TV. It proves that there is no need to earn as much as you think you do to have a meaningful existence.

- 0. Sean thinks that people who live in cities...**
- A. can enjoy beautiful landscapes
  - B. don't get out in nature enough**
  - C. feel depressed most of their lives
- 1. When the writer first met Sean, he wasn't shocked that he ...**
- A. had an unconventional appearance
  - B. was already wearing walking boots
  - C. wanted to set off on an adventure
- 2. While he was doing the triathlon, Sean didn't have...**
- A. a fixed daily schedule
  - B. any extra assistance
  - C. enough food to eat
- 3. When Sean was in the wilderness he...**
- A. enjoyed the sensation of being isolated
  - B. felt extremely inspired by the scenery
  - C. suffered from the cold in some places
- 4. Whilst reading the article, we learn that Sean ...**
- A. wasn't qualified enough to find work
  - B. couldn't afford to live in London
  - C. didn't have a recognizable accent
- 5. According to the information in paragraph 4, Sean...**
- A. went travelling to escape personal problems
  - B. cycled across Britain in a record-breaking time
  - C. needed a strategy so he could obtain money
- 6. Sean explains that when he went to Kilimanjaro, he ...**
- A. realized wearing a penguin suit had been a mistake
  - B. was disappointed when he failed to reach the top
  - C. felt bad that he had done something for charity
- 7. When he began his training for his round-the-world trip, Sean ...**
- A. didn't mind cycling hundreds of kilometres
  - B. wasn't obsessed with his physical condition
  - C. hadn't anticipated having any health problems
- 8. Through Sean's story, the writer aims to show that people ...**
- A. would benefit from having more active lifestyles
  - B. should never give up on fulfilling a personal dream
  - C. can have better lives if they make less money



**TEXT A.**

Find your niche. There are loads of generic blogs out there nowadays so avoid these like the plague! The broader your blog's topic (e.g., technology), the harder it'll be to gain an audience, because of all the bigger, already established websites competing for the same readers. At the same time, you want to make sure your blog isn't so specific that there aren't enough people looking for that particular information or you run out of things to write about. Focus your blog on a distinct angle (e.g., technology for young kids), and make sure your subject is one that you're both passionate about and feel you could write tons of posts on. Once you've decided on your blog's theme, stick to it. Consistency and organization is the key to getting the audience you've already attracted to keep coming back for your uploads even if they don't like every single one of your posts.

**TEXT B.**

It's virtually impossible to come up with a totally original topic to blog about, so don't go crazy trying to find something that no one has done before. Instead, your first and main goal should be to continuously develop creative content and give a truly unique view on whatever topic you're blogging about. Readers want to feel that you know your topic well. So be sure to research how others are presenting similar information, and then develop innovative ways to do it better or in a more unique, attention-getting, and memorable way. You'll want to be organized and keep a constant eye on what your competition is doing, plus stay up-to-date on trends happening within the blogosphere. Don't underestimate the value of interacting and sharing ideas, since this is a way of keeping your blog current.

**TEXT C.**

To build and maintain a steady audience, every new blog entry should focus on the readers, offering information and content that are valued by them. For a blog to be successful, you must stay on topic and think about the needs and expectations of your target audience. You can't expect to please all you readers all the time, but do expect to be evaluated on your content. After all, it's human nature to have an opinion and to want to share it with others. Once you set a schedule for posting new content, it's essential to meet it, so plan accordingly and don't be over-ambitious. You'll need time to research, write and revise your work in detail. You're better off promising new content once and being able to deliver. Readers will return to your blog if they know when new content is available.

**TEXT D.**

Don't focus exclusively on publishing content. You should additionally encourage your readers to post feedback and comments, interact with each other, share their ideas, and improve your content by adding their own information. This will help you increase your reader volume through virtual word-of-mouth. But keep track of where the information is shared, as in the end it's your own, unique, intellectual property being used. The Internet keeps us all connected, and people want to feel like they're a part of something, and not only silent observers. Of course, you should expect that you will eventually experience some hostility; that is, some people will be negative, argumentative or not agree with what you have written in your blog and will tell you this by leaving a strong comment. Learn to deal with negative comments by always being respectful, learning from mistakes and understanding that you can't please everyone.

### Part 3

You are going to read an article about a special horse farm for young women in California. Ten sentences have been removed from the text. From the sentences (A – I), choose the one that fits each gap (17 – 24). There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0):

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#### TAKING THE REINS

Debra Avery has been a horse lover since she was a little girl in San Diego. (0). X. There she gained the confidence only found while riding a horse. Years later, she married into a horse-loving family and frequently rode on her father-in-law's ranch in central California. (17) \_\_\_\_\_. And it was these memories which awoke her desire of wanting to help other young women reap the benefits of connecting with horses.



(18) \_\_\_\_\_. Good luck struck one day as Debra was out with fellow rider Judith Hopkins. While riding, Debra mentioned an inheritance from her father-in-law and her desire to use it to serve underprivileged girls. Judith had the same dream. (19) \_\_\_\_\_. They founded *Taking the Reins* (or TTR) in 1998. (20) \_\_\_\_\_. The organization serves more than 400 young women from the city in after-school, weekend, and summer programs that feature horse riding and care, as well as gardening. (21) \_\_\_\_\_. Few, if any, have previous horse experience.

TTR uses farm and ranch experiences to teach its four pillars of development: responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and self-confidence. Says Director Dr. Jane Haven, "A large number of our girls don't have good social skills. (22) \_\_\_\_\_. Horses bring out their desire for interaction in such a wonderful way."

Jane also sees members of TTR's mentoring program excel academically. (23) \_\_\_\_\_. Almost all of them have gone on to obtain a university degree.

After a few weeks in the program, the young women sit a little higher in their saddles. (24) \_\_\_\_\_. There's just something about sitting up on the back of a horse that gives them a boost of confidence, something they can take home with them and which might well be the first step towards empowerment in their lives.

- X. Her family couldn't afford a horse of its own, so Debra borrowed rides at the local equestrian center.
  
- A. "I always wanted to run a horse program for girls like me," says Debra. "To help them gain the courage to be around a horse and to care for a horse."
  
- B. Most of them live below the poverty line and often haven't had a secure home environment, much less space in the open air in which to have fun.
  
- C. She had even already begun to think of a name for a charitable organization.
  
- D. Twenty percent of them finish high school and while some attend university, most drop out within the first year.
  
- E. Debra remembered her childhood lessons with the mares and ponies at the riding center.
  
- F. However, I can't count how many of them have found their first real friends thanks to sharing this experience at TTR.
  
- G. Not only do they seem more confident on the horse, they also start projecting this image of self-assurance.
  
- H. Today it occupies two acres along the Los Angeles River, just minutes away from Hollywood.
  
- I. A hundred percent of the women involved for four years or more have graduated high school.

# WRITING

## Part 1

1. This task is obligatory for all candidates.

In your English class you have been talking about television programmes.

Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the following topic:

*“The programmes on TV are not worth watching nowadays”. Do you agree?*

**Write an essay of 175-225 words, giving reasons for your point of view.**

You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style that is appropriate for the task.

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## Part 2

2. Choose one task from (a) or (b) below.

**Either:**

- (a) You have seen an announcement on the webpage *World Travel Review*:

**REVIEWERS WANTED!**

What did you think of the last place you stayed in when you were on holiday?  
Write a review of the hotel, apartment or house where you stayed for our travel website. Describe what the place was like and the facilities that were available.  
Explain why you did or did not like your stay there.

We will publish the best reviews on our webpage 😊

**Write a review of 175-225 words on your answer sheet.**

You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style that is appropriate for the task.

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TURN OVER THE PAGE

Or:

(b) You have seen this announcement in a magazine called *Internet Now*:

**DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE WEBPAGE WHERE YOU CAN READ THE NEWS?**

Next month, our magazine will include a section called "The Best News Websites". If there is a webpage that you visit frequently to read about current national or international events, why not write a review about it? Describe the webpage, say what you like the most about it and explain why you would recommend it to other people.

We'll publish our favourite review in next month's magazine.

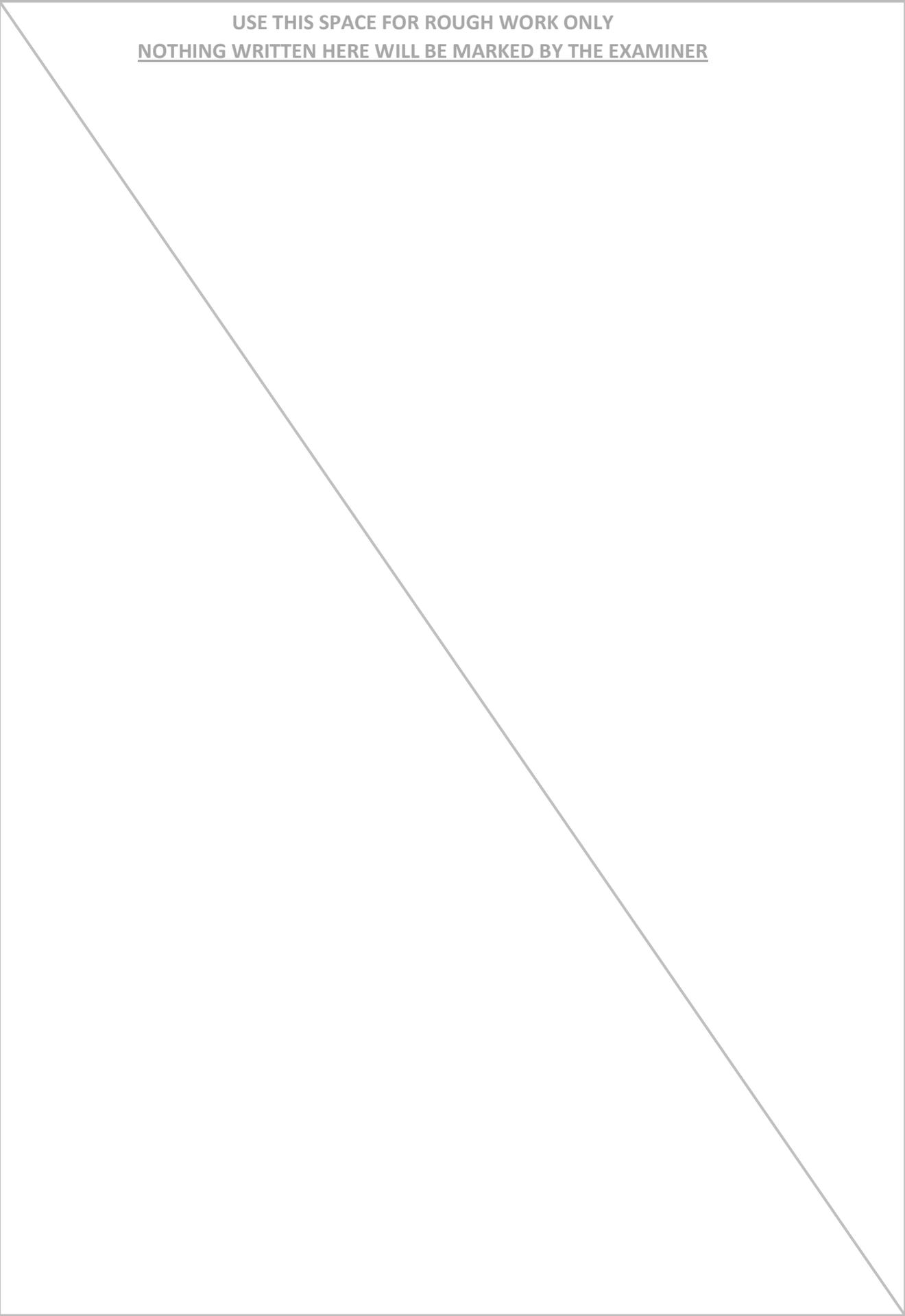
**Write a review of 175-225 words on your answer sheet.**

You must use grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style that is appropriate for the task.

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USE THIS SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK ONLY  
NOTHING WRITTEN HERE WILL BE MARKED BY THE EXAMINER

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