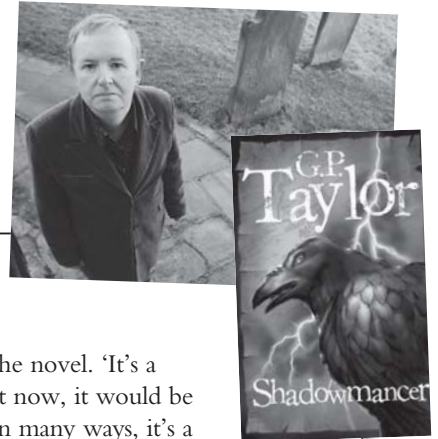


Reading

FCE Part 1

Multiple choice

- 1 You are going to read a newspaper article about a writer. For questions 1–8, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the article.



A writer's life: G P Taylor

J K Rowling may be responsible for the revival of fantasy fiction. But her contemporary rivals, many of whom have benefited from her success, seem reluctant to give her credit for starting a trend. Philip Pullman, for example, points out that *Northern Lights*, the first volume in his trilogy *His Dark Materials*, was published a year before Harry Potter's adventures began. So it comes as a surprise when G P Taylor concedes that he only wrote a novel because of the enormous popularity of Harry Potter.

Taylor is the Yorkshire vicar who sold his motorbike to self-publish 2,000 copies of his first novel, *Shadowmancer*, a book that was subsequently picked up by publishers Faber & Faber and got to number one in the New York Times bestseller list. His novels conjure up dark, **chilling** worlds in which the supernatural threatens to take over, yet he describes his life as a writer in flatly functional terms. For example, he is able to name the exact day that he became a novelist: March 21, 2002. 'It was one of those **seminal** moments in my life. Harry Potter was becoming very popular. And I thought, "This woman's written a book. I might write one."'

'I got a copy of Harry Potter, counted the number of words that were on the page, measured the width of the margin, counted the number of chapters in the book, how many pages were in the book and set my computer screen up so that it would have 468 words on the page. My chapters were the same length as the Harry Potter chapters; I thought, "This must be how you write a book."'

The Harry Potter formula has its faults, of course. Stephen King was once asked what he thought of Rowling's novels. Were they 'thought-provoking'?
 line 35 King thought not. But did that matter, he wondered, in a 'fantasy-adventure aimed primarily at children and published in the heart of the summer vacation'? His conclusion was **unequivocal**: 'Of course not. What kids on summer vacation want – and probably deserve – is simple, uncomplicated fun.'

Shadowmancer is a simple and uncomplicated fantasy – and Taylor, who is his own most effective critic,

makes few further claims for the novel. 'It's a great story, but if I'd written it now, it would be a completely different book. In many ways, it's a **clumsy** classic. There are a lot of things in there that I would get rid of. And yet, I think that's the big attraction. It's because it's an incredible adventure story, written by a non-writer, just a storyteller.'

Taylor returns to this distinction between writing and storytelling a number of times, distancing himself from grand and **lofty** ideas of the novelist's purpose. He describes himself as a 'fairly uneducated, council-house kid' who ran away to London as a teenager, 'a bit of a chancer, with ideas above his station'. He read Dickens, lots of Orwell – 'they were **trendy** books to read' – and Kerouac. But he is uncomfortable talking at any length about favourite novels or influences beyond Rowling: 'I have not read all that many books. I'm not, you know, a very **literate** person.'

Taylor was a rock-music promoter in his twenties and remains a showman, happiest in front of a crowd. He describes the talks he gives in schools and at book festivals, dressed up as a sea captain or as an 18th-century highwayman in a long black coat. 'You're using your face, you're using your body, you're acting out what you're doing.' The business of putting his thoughts in writing can be problematic in comparison. As a storyteller, in order to demonstrate shock or alarm to an audience he will 'pause between sentences and show a wide-eyed, staring face. But to describe that in English ...'

This impatience with the limitations of language can be a positive asset: in *Tersias*, Taylor's new fantasy, the speed of the narrative and the scale of the events that overwhelm the characters mean there is no time for the story to get bogged down. That said, it is unusual to hear a writer speak in such a **dismissive** way of his craft. *Shadowmancer* has been taken on by Universal Pictures, and Taylor does nothing to hide the fact that he thinks 'the movie's more exciting than the book'.
 line 78

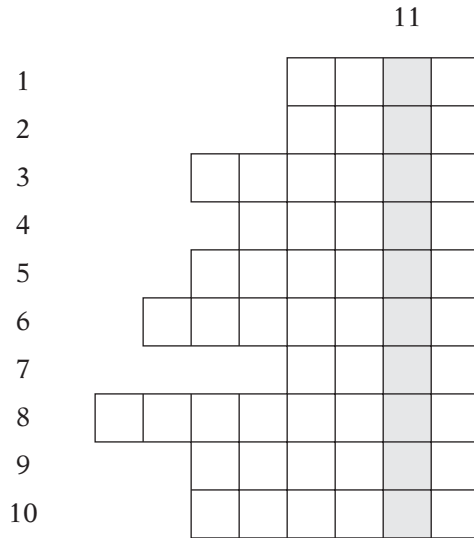
- 1 The writer says that many fantasy fiction writers would not agree that
 - A they have copied their ideas from J K Rowling.
 - B J K Rowling's success has contributed to their own.
 - C fantasy fiction will remain fashionable for many years.
 - D J K Rowling is a writer of fantasy fiction in the true sense.
 - 2 The writer is surprised by
 - A the success of Taylor's books.
 - B the short time Taylor has been a writer.
 - C the number of books Taylor has published.
 - D Taylor's reasons for writing his first book.
 - 3 What aspect of the Harry Potter books does Taylor admit to imitating?
 - A the writing style
 - B the storylines
 - C the layout
 - D the cover design
 - 4 What does 'that' refer to in line 35?
 - A the Harry Potter formula
 - B the novels' target audience
 - C the timing of the novels' publication
 - D the novels' failure to make people think
 - 5 What does Taylor say about *Shadowmancer*?
 - A He is aware of its limitations.
 - B He did not write all of it himself.
 - C He is going to write a revised edition.
 - D It does not deserve the praise it receives.
 - 6 What opinion does Taylor have of himself?
 - A He is very proud of his achievements as a writer.
 - B He thinks he is a better writer than J K Rowling.
 - C He does not regard himself as a serious novelist.
 - D He feels he deserves greater recognition.
 - 7 What do we learn about the talks Taylor gives?
 - A He enjoys them more than being a promoter.
 - B He couldn't do them without dressing up.
 - C He finds them easier than writing.
 - D He likes shocking people.
 - 8 What does the writer mean by 'there is no time for the story to get bogged down' (line 78)?
 - A The story moves on too quickly.
 - B The plot is never prevented from developing.
 - C Emotions are not dealt with in sufficient detail.
 - D The story is not always as exciting as it could be.
- 2 Match the words in **bold** in the text with the following meanings. Use the context to help you.
- | | |
|---|-------|
| a expressed very clearly and firmly | _____ |
| b important and having a great influence | _____ |
| c showing that you think something is not important | _____ |
| d frightening | _____ |
| e careless and unskilful | _____ |
| f intelligent and well-educated | _____ |
| g modern and fashionable | _____ |
| h noble and important | _____ |

Vocabulary

Wordlist on page 203 of the Coursebook

A Cinema and films

Use the clues below to help you complete the grid with words related to cinema and films. When you have all the answers you will find an extra item of vocabulary for number 11 down.



- 1 the people who act in a film
- 2 the story of a film
- 3 actors wear this, sometimes changing their appearance completely
- 4 a part of a film in which the action occurs in one place at one time, eg a love _____, an action _____
- 5 a film which is intended to make you laugh
- 6 special _____ are unusual images or sounds created by using special techniques
- 7 another word for 'role'
- 8 a man who performs a dangerous piece of action in a film instead of the actor
- 9 a box _____ hit is a film which is very successful
- 10 a film that has a similar story and title to a film made earlier

B Expressions with take

Lexical phrase list on page 125 and Phrasal verb list on page 123

Complete the gaps with an appropriate word from the box. In 1-6 pay special attention to the prepositions in bold.

advice	risk	interest	notice	blame
courage	pity	care	offence	joke

- 1 He takes a very keen _____ **in** music and often goes to concerts.
- 2 Don't say anything negative about her hair; she's very sensitive and might take _____ **at** your remarks.
- 3 I was walking along a country road in the rain when a driver took _____ **on** me and stopped to give me a lift.
- 4 If a team loses, it's normally the manager who takes the _____ **for** the defeat and not the players.
- 5 Our neighbour has agreed to take _____ **of** the dogs while we're on holiday.
- 6 The doctor told her to stop smoking, but she didn't take any _____ **of** him. She still smokes 30 a day.
- 7 Although she really wanted to study archaeology, she took her parents' _____ and went to law school.
- 8 Jamie likes making fun of other people but he can't take a _____ himself. He gets so angry.
- 9 It took a lot of _____ to ride his motorbike again after the accident.
- 10 She was taking a big _____ when she changed career, but fortunately everything went well and she really likes her new job.

C Phrasal verbs with *take*

Complete each of the gaps with an appropriate particle.

- 1 She takes _____ her father; they're both as disorganized as each other.
- 2 I'd love to take _____ golf, but it's such an expensive sport.
- 3 We haven't really taken _____ the new boss; he's a little too formal for us.
- 4 Our maths teacher, Mrs Hill, is going to have a baby so Mr Bennett is taking _____ until she comes back.
- 5 They've taken _____ another receptionist at work; Alison couldn't manage on her own.
- 6 I had to stop going to yoga classes; they were taking _____ too much of my time.

Language focus



Grammar reference on pages 208 and 209 of the Coursebook

A Tenses

- 1 Complete each of the gaps with an appropriate past tense form of the verb in brackets. Choose from the past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple and past perfect continuous.
 - 1 Susana _____ (live) in Germany for three months when she _____ (start) going out with Reiner. At that time he _____ (train) to be a teacher and she _____ (meet) him at a college disco.
 - 2 When I _____ (hear) about the motorway accident on the radio, I immediately _____ (phone) my son to check that he _____ (get) back safely. He _____ (tell) me he _____ (take) a different route home.
 - 3 We _____ (watch) a particularly romantic scene of a film at the cinema when my boyfriend's mobile phone _____ (go) off. He _____ (forget) to switch it off.
 - 4 By the time we _____ (get) to the party they _____ (eat) all the food. In fact, it was so late that most of the guests _____ (already/leave) and only two or three people _____ (still/dance).
- 2 Complete the gaps in this story with the verbs in the box. Put the verbs in an appropriate past tense form.

go	hold	wait	tell	take	get
pass	sit	finish	drive	be	start

When I (1) _____ my dad that I (2) _____ all my exams, he (3) _____ me to our local drive-through McDonalds to celebrate. While we (4) _____ at the window for some more chips to be cooked, I (5) _____ to the toilet inside the restaurant to wash my hands. Once I (6) _____, I rushed outside, jumped into the car and (7) _____ eating the chips that my dad (8) _____ in his hand. It was then that I heard an unfamiliar, and angry-sounding cough. I turned to discover that it wasn't my dad in the driving seat but a rather red-faced man; I (9) _____ into the wrong car! My dad (10) _____ already _____ away from the window where they serve the food and he (11) _____ in the car a short distance away, laughing at me. Needless to say, I didn't think it (12) _____ very funny!

B So and such

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.

- We had such a lot of homework to do at the weekend!
so
We had _____ to do at the weekend!
- I thought there would be more people here.
so
I didn't think there would be _____ here.
- The food was so delicious that I couldn't stop eating.
such
It was _____ I couldn't stop eating.
- I enjoyed myself so much I didn't want to come home.
good
I had _____ time I didn't want to come home.
- It was such an interesting book that I stayed up all night to finish it.
so
I was _____ that I stayed up all night to finish it.

C Linking words

In 1–6 underline the most suitable linking word or expression.

- Last summer we stayed in an apartment near the beach *during/for/in* three weeks.
- As/During/Whereas* I was walking to school this morning, I found a £1 coin.
- I looked everywhere for my glasses. *In the end/At the end/At last* I had to buy a new pair.
- You're here *by the time/at the end/at last!* Where have you been? We were worried.
- Afterwards/After/After that* she'd taken the dog for a walk, she made a cup of tea.
- 'I saw the new Matt Damon film last night.' 'What did you do *afterwards/after/at last?*'

Use of English**FCE Part 3****Word formation: Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed**

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**.

The word you require may be an adjective or an adverb. It might be positive or negative.

- Scream* was probably the most _____ film I've ever seen. **FRIGHT**
- I get so _____ when my dad starts singing. **EMBARRASS**
- As the day of the exam approached, Karen became _____ nervous. **INCREASE**
- a** I think I'll go straight to bed. It was a very _____ journey. **TIRE**
b Yes, you must be _____ . **EXHAUST**
- I didn't really enjoy the film. The special effects were OK but the plot was rather dull and _____ . **INTEREST**
- Johnny Depp is not one of my favourite actors but he gave a _____ good performance in *Sleepy Hollow*. **SURPRISE**
- You look a little _____ . Don't you understand what you have to do in this exercise? **CONFUSE**
- It was quite _____ to read so many negative reviews of the film. Critics wrote that the main characters were _____ , but personally, I was very _____ by the quality of the acting and would certainly recommend the film to other people. **ANNOY**
CONVINCE
IMPRESS

FCE Part 1

Multiple-choice cloze

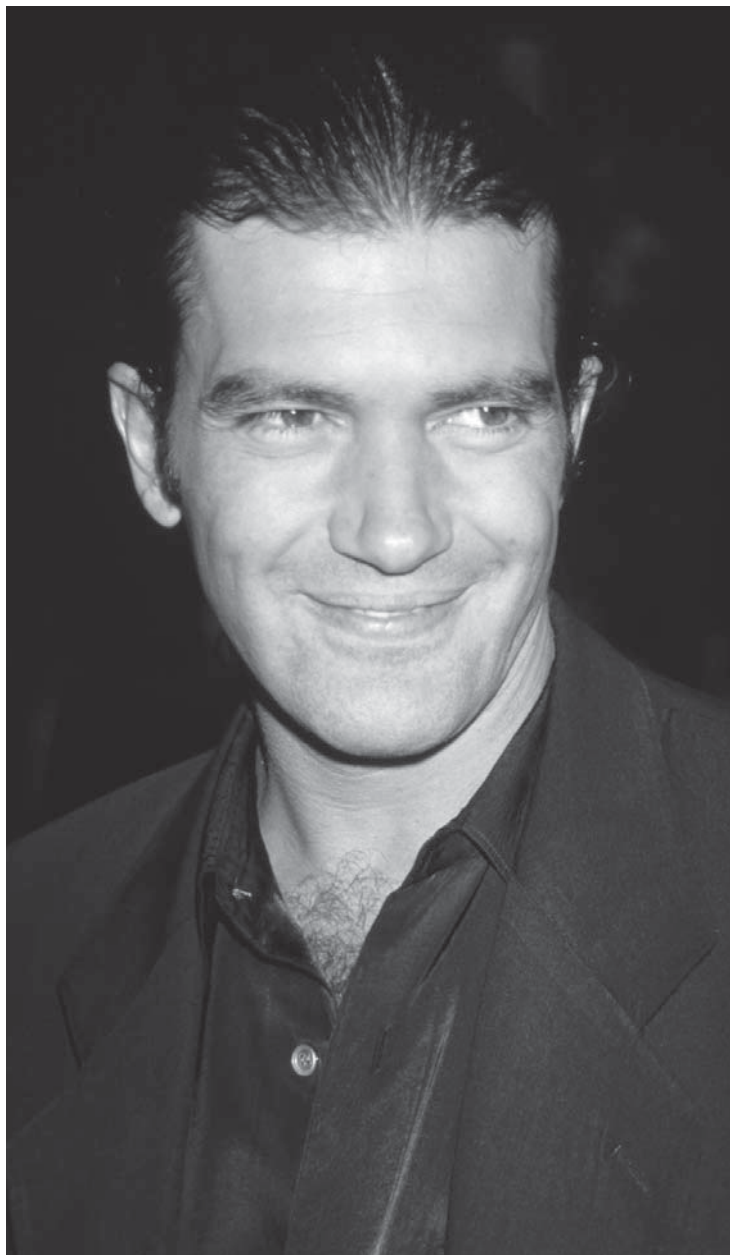
For questions 1–12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A lucky break

Actor Antonio Banderas is (0) used to breaking bones, and it always seems to happen when he's (1) _____ sport.

In the film *Play it to the Bone*, he (2) _____ the part of a middleweight boxer alongside Woody Harrelson. During the making of the film Harrelson kept complaining that the fight (3) _____ weren't very convincing, so one day he suggested that he and Banderas should have a fight for real. The Spanish actor wasn't (4) _____ on the idea at first, but he was (5) _____ persuaded by his co-star to put on his gloves and climb into the boxing ring. However, when he realized how seriously his (6) _____ was taking it all, he began to regret his decision to fight. And then in the third round, Harrelson hit Banderas (7) _____ hard in the face that he actually broke his nose.

He was (8) _____ of the time he broke his leg during a football match in his native Malaga. He had always (9) _____ of becoming a soccer star, of performing in front of a big crowd, but doctors told him his playing days were probably over. 'That's when I decided to take (10) _____ acting; I saw it as (11) _____ way of performing, and achieving recognition. What happened to me on that football (12) _____ was, you might say, my first lucky break.'



- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 0 | A familiar | B <u>used</u> | C normal | D annoyed |
| 1 | A showing | B making | C doing | D losing |
| 2 | A plays | B does | C gives | D fights |
| 3 | A actions | B matches | C scenes | D stages |
| 4 | A interested | B keen | C enthusiastic | D happy |
| 5 | A lastly | B eventually | C at the end | D after |
| 6 | A competitor | B contender | C opponent | D participant |
| 7 | A very | B more | C such | D so |
| 8 | A remembered | B reminded | C recorded | D replayed |
| 9 | A hoped | B pretended | C dreamed | D looked forward |
| 10 | A up | B on | C to | D over |
| 11 | A further | B additional | C different | D another |
| 12 | A match | B pitch | C court | D course |

Writing

FCE Part 2

Essays: Advantages and disadvantages

- 1 a Read the following Writing Part 2 question and then follow the instructions in **b** below.

You have recently had a class discussion comparing films and books. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement:

It is better to read a book than see a film version of the book.

Write your **essay** in **120–180** words.

- b** Read one student's plan and notes below and then the essay she wrote. As you read the essay put a tick (✓) next to those points in the notes which she decided to include in her answer. One of the points has already been ticked.

Essay	
Book vs Film version	
Plan	
Paragraph 1	Introduction
Paragraph 2	Advantages of book and disadvantages of film version
Paragraph 3	Advantages of film and disadvantages of book
Paragraph 4	Conclusion
Advantages and Disadvantages	
Book	Film
Advantages of book	Advantages of film version
can read anywhere and at any time	visual – makes story more memorable
good for mind – you use imagination ✓	can improve a story and make it more interesting
can learn new words in your own language	special effects – all scenes in book are possible
more entertainment from a book –	more elements in a film; music, colour,
lasts long time	actors/actresses
can read a book many times	can see a film many times
Disadvantages of book	Disadvantages of film
too much effort needed	film not always good interpretation
not everyone can read	too much violence
	film cuts and changes to story

Nowadays, many people prefer going to cinema to reading the same story in a book. Both forms of entertainment have their advantages and disadvantages.

In the one hand, books help developing your imagination. You can decide what do the characters and places in the story looks like, whereas the film only gives you one interpretation, which may not be the best. Furthermore, the enjoyment from a book lasts more longer than from a film, and you can read it wherever and whenever you want. Another disadvantage of films is that they cut sometimes the most interested parts of the book, or change the story completely.

On the other hand, films are very visual, and this makes the story more memorable. Moreover, special effects are such good now that the most scenes of a book can to be shown on the screen. Besides this, some people prefer watching the film version because it takes less effort that reading.

On balance, I think always it is better to read the story first. After you can see it at the cinema if you want compare.

- 2 a Read the examiner's comments on the example essay and then follow the instructions in **b**.

<p><i>Strong Points</i></p> <p><i>This is clearly a well planned answer. The ideas are grouped logically into paragraphs and a number of linking words have been used to connect the different points. The essay is written in an appropriately formal style and there is a good range of vocabulary.</i></p>
<p><i>Weak Points</i></p> <p><i>There are a number of grammatical errors throughout the essay.</i></p>

- b** Read the student's essay again and correct the mistakes she has made. There are 15 mistakes altogether. Pay particular attention to the following areas of grammar:
- verb forms
 - use of gerund and infinitive
 - comparative forms
 - position of frequency adverbs
 - use of articles
 - *so/such*
 - adjectives ending in *-ing/-ed*
 - prepositions
- 3 a Read the following Writing Part 2 question. Read the advice in **b** before you write your answer.

You have recently had a class discussion comparing DVD and the cinema. Now your teacher has asked you to write an essay, giving your opinion on the following statement:

It is better to watch a film at home on DVD than at the cinema.

Write your **essay** in **120–180** words.

- b** Before you write your answer make sure you plan what you are going to say first. You should:
- Write a paragraph plan giving a general idea of what you intend to include in each paragraph. Here is a possible plan:
 - Paragraph 1 Introduction: general statement
 - Paragraph 2 Advantages of DVD and disadvantages of cinema
 - Paragraph 3 Advantages of cinema and disadvantages of DVD
 - Paragraph 4 Conclusion
 - Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of watching films at home on DVD and at the cinema.

<p>Advantages of DVD</p> <p>eg more comfortable watching a film at home</p>	<p>Advantages of cinema</p>
<p>Disadvantages of DVD</p>	<p>Disadvantages of cinema</p>

- Decide which of these points you are going to include in your answer. Write your essay following your paragraph plan.

Don't forget!

- Connect your ideas using linking devices: page 35 in the Coursebook has a selection of these.
- Check your work for mistakes when you have written your essay: use the checklist in **2b** above.