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# Exam overview

➤ See pages 167–172 for more detailed information and task strategies.

Cambridge *Certificate in Advanced English* has four papers. Paper 1 receives 40% of the total marks and the other three papers have 20% each. The pass mark is based on an overall mark (you do not need to pass every paper to pass the exam). There are three pass grades (A, B and C) and two fail grades (D and E).

Paper	Task type	Task description
<b>Paper 1: Reading and Use of English</b> 1 hour 30 minutes Eight parts 56 questions in total	<b>Part 1:</b> multiple-choice cloze (8 questions) <b>Part 2:</b> open cloze (8 gaps) <b>Part 3:</b> word formation (8 gaps) <b>Part 4:</b> key word transformation (6 questions) <b>Part 5:</b> multiple choice (6 questions) <b>Part 6:</b> cross-text multiple matching (4 questions) <b>Part 7:</b> gapped text (6 questions) <b>Part 8:</b> multiple matching (10 questions)	<b>Part 1:</b> Choosing a word or phrase from four options to fill in gaps in a text. <b>Part 2:</b> Filling in gaps in a text with an appropriate word. <b>Part 3:</b> Changing the form of a given word to make it fit the gaps in a text. <b>Part 4:</b> Using a given word to complete a sentence so that it means the same as a previous sentence. <b>Part 5:</b> Answering four-option multiple-choice questions on a text. <b>Part 6:</b> Matching a prompt to the relevant part of one of four texts. <b>Part 7:</b> Completing a gapped text with paragraphs which have been removed and placed in jumbled order. <b>Part 8:</b> Matching information to 4–6 different texts (or different parts of a text).
<b>Paper 2: Writing</b> 1 hour 30 minutes Two tasks (one compulsory, the other a choice out of three options) 220–260 words each	<b>Part 1:</b> essay (compulsory) <b>Part 2:</b> one writing task: the choice may include a letter, a proposal, a review or a report	<b>Part 1:</b> An essay based on two points in the input text. <b>Part 2:</b> Carrying out a writing task, using an appropriate format and style. There are three task types to choose from.
<b>Paper 3: Listening</b> Approximately 40 minutes Four parts 30 questions in total	<b>Part 1:</b> multiple choice (6 questions) <b>Part 2:</b> sentence completion (8 questions) <b>Part 3:</b> multiple choice (6 questions) <b>Part 4:</b> multiple matching (10 questions)	<b>Part 1:</b> Three short unrelated extracts of around 1 minute each; each extract has two three-option multiple-choice questions. <b>Part 2:</b> A 3–4-minute monologue with eight sentence completion questions. <b>Part 3:</b> A 4-minute interview or discussion with six four-option multiple-choice questions. <b>Part 4:</b> Five short related monologues of around 30 seconds each. There are two tasks of five questions each, which must be selected from a list of eight options.
<b>Paper 4: Speaking</b> Approximately 15 minutes Four parts	<b>Part 1:</b> conversation, giving personal information (2 minutes) <b>Part 2:</b> 'long turn', giving information and expressing opinions (1 minute each candidate) <b>Part 3:</b> collaborative task, exchanging information and ideas (3–4 minutes) <b>Part 4:</b> discussion, developing the topic from Part 3 (5 minutes)	<b>Part 1:</b> The interlocutor asks each candidate questions about themselves. <b>Part 2:</b> Each candidate, individually, compares two out of the three photos given (1 minute) and comments briefly on the other candidate's photos (30 seconds). <b>Part 3:</b> Each candidate works with a partner for 2 minutes to discuss a task based on a diagram. They then try to reach a decision in 1 minute. <b>Part 4:</b> The interlocutor leads a discussion between the two candidates, developing the topics related to Part 3.