

GOLD

B2 First

NEW EDITION



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Exam information

The *Cambridge English: First* examination is made up of four papers, each testing a different area of ability in English. The Reading and Use of English paper is worth 40 percent of the marks (80 marks), and each of the other papers is worth 20 percent (40 marks each). There are five grades. A, B and C are pass grades; D and E are fail grades.

Reading and Use of English (1 hour 15 minutes)

Paper 1 has seven parts. Parts 1–4 contain grammar and vocabulary tasks within texts or as discrete items. Parts 5–7 contain texts and accompanying reading comprehension tasks. You write your answers on an answer sheet during the test.		
Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze	<i>Focus</i>	Vocabulary/Lexico-grammatical
	<i>Task</i>	You read a text with eight gaps. You choose the best word or phrase to fit in each gap from a set of four options (A, B, C or D).
Part 2 Open cloze	<i>Focus</i>	Grammar/Lexico-grammatical
	<i>Task</i>	You read a text with eight gaps. You have to think of the most appropriate word to fill each gap. You must use one word only. No options are provided.
Part 3 Word formation	<i>Focus</i>	Vocabulary/Lexico-grammatical
	<i>Task</i>	You read a text with eight gaps. You are given the stems of the missing words in capitals at the ends of the lines with gaps. You have to change the form of each word to fit the context.
Part 4 Key word transformation	<i>Focus</i>	Grammar and vocabulary
	<i>Task</i>	There are six items. You are given a sentence and a 'key word'. You have to complete a second, gapped sentence using the key word. The second sentence has a different grammatical structure but must have a similar meaning to the original.
Part 5 Multiple-choice questions	<i>Focus</i>	Detail, opinion, attitude, text organisation features (e.g. exemplification, reference), tone, purpose, main idea, implication
	<i>Task</i>	There are six four-option multiple-choice questions. You have to choose the correct option (A, B, C or D) based on the information in the text.
Part 6 Gapped text	<i>Focus</i>	Understanding text structure, cohesion, coherence, global meaning
	<i>Task</i>	You read a text from which six sentences have been removed and placed in jumbled order after the text. There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use. You must decide from where in the text the sentences have been removed.
Part 7 Multiple matching	<i>Focus</i>	Specific information, detail, opinion and attitude
	<i>Task</i>	You read ten questions or statements about a text which has been divided into sections, or several short texts. You have to decide which section or text contains the information relating to each question or statement.

Writing (1 hour 20 minutes)

The Writing paper is divided into two parts, and you have to complete one task from each part. Each answer carries equal marks, so you should not spend longer on one than another.

Part 1	<i>Focus</i>	Outlining and discussing issues on a particular topic
	<i>Task</i>	Part 1 is compulsory, and there is no choice of questions. You have to write an essay based on a title and notes. You have to write 140–190 words.
Part 2	<i>Focus</i>	Writing a task for a particular purpose based on a specific topic, context and target reader.
	<i>Task</i>	Part 2 has three tasks to choose from which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a letter or email • an article • a report • a review. You have to write 140–190 words for Part 2.

Listening (approximately 40 minutes)

There are four parts in the Listening paper, with a total of thirty questions. You write your answers on the question paper and then you have five minutes at the end of the exam to transfer them to an answer sheet. In each part you will hear the text(s) twice. The texts may be monologues or conversations between interacting speakers. There will be a variety of accents.

Part 1 Extracts with multiple-choice questions	<i>Focus</i>	Each extract will have a different focus, which could be: main point, detail, speaker purpose, feeling, attitude and opinion, function and agreement between speakers.
	<i>Task</i>	You hear eight short, unrelated extracts of about thirty seconds each. They may be monologues or conversations. You have to answer one three-option multiple-choice question (A, B or C) for each extract.
Part 2 Sentence completion	<i>Focus</i>	Specific information, detail, stated opinion
	<i>Task</i>	You hear a monologue lasting about three minutes. You complete ten sentences with information heard on the recording.
Part 3 Multiple matching	<i>Focus</i>	Gist, detail, function, attitude, purpose, opinion
	<i>Task</i>	You hear a series of five monologues, lasting about thirty seconds each. The speakers in each extract are different, but the situations or topics are all related to each other. You have to match each speaker to one of eight statements or questions (A–H). There are three extra options that you do not need to use.
Part 4 Multiple-choice questions	<i>Focus</i>	Opinion, attitude, gist, main idea
	<i>Task</i>	You hear an interview or conversation which lasts about three minutes. There are seven questions. You have to choose the correct option (A, B or C).

Speaking (approximately 14 minutes)

You take the Speaking test with a partner. There are two examiners. One is the 'interlocutor', who speaks to you, and the other is the 'assessor', who just listens. There are four different parts in the test.

Part 1 Interview (2 minutes)	<i>Focus</i>	General interactional and social language
	<i>Task</i>	The interlocutor asks each of you questions about yourself, such as where you come from or what you do in your free time.
Part 2 Individual long turn (4 minutes)	<i>Focus</i>	Organising your ideas, comparing, describing, expressing opinions
	<i>Task</i>	The interlocutor gives you a pair of photographs to compare, answer a question about and give a personal reaction to. You speak by yourself for about a minute while your partner listens. Then the interlocutor asks your partner a question related to the topic. A shorter answer is expected. You then change roles.
Part 3 Collaborative task (4 minutes)	<i>Focus</i>	Interacting with your partner, exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation
	<i>Task</i>	You are given a task to discuss together for 1–2 minutes, based on a written instruction and prompts. You then have a minute to try and reach a decision together. There is no right or wrong answer to the task and you don't have to agree with each other. It is the interaction between you that is important.
Part 4 Discussion (4 minutes)	<i>Focus</i>	Expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and disagreeing
	<i>Task</i>	The interlocutor asks you both general questions related to the topic of Part 3, and gives you the chance to give your opinions on other aspects of the same topic.

For more information see the [Writing reference](#) (page 165), the [General marking guidelines](#) (page 180) and the [Exam focus](#) (page 186).