



Cambridge English: First Writing Part 1



Aim of this webinar

- To look briefly at the *Cambridge English: First* exam and the changes for 2015
- To explore Part 1 of the *Cambridge English: First Writing* paper
- To look at the task and testing focus
- To suggest activities to prepare for Part 1 of the *Cambridge English: First Writing* paper





Cambridge English: First

Revised: 3 hours 29 minutes		Current: 3 hours 59 minutes	
Reading and Use of English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 15 minutes• 7 parts• 52 questions	Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour• 3 parts• 30 questions
		Use of English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 45 minutes• 4 parts• 42 questions
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 20 minutes• 1 compulsory question (essay); 1 from choice of 3 (or 4)	Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 20 minutes• 1 compulsory question (email letter); 1 from choice of 5
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 minutes• 4 parts• 30 questions	Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 minutes• 4 parts• 30 questions
Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 minutes• 4 parts	Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 minutes• 4 parts



Cambridge English: First Writing paper

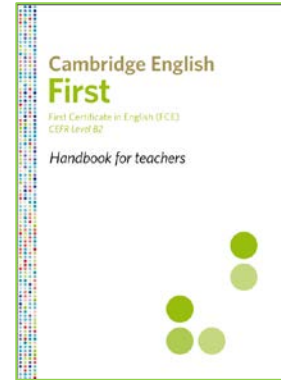




Cambridge English: First Writing paper

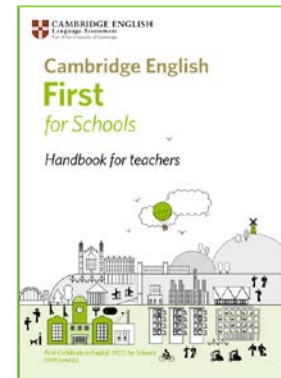
What is staying the same?


- Timing:** 1 hour 20 minutes
- Parts:** 2
- Questions:** 4 for First
5 for First for Schools



Candidates are required to complete two tasks:

- **Part 1:** a compulsory task
- **Part 2:** one task from a choice





Cambridge English: First Writing paper

What is changing?

Part 1 (compulsory task): essay (140–190 words)

Part 2: (140–190 words)

Cambridge English: First Part 2 (choice of 3)	Cambridge English: First for Schools Part 2 (choice of 4)
article	article
informal email/letter	informal email/letter
formal letter	formal letter
review	review
report	story
	essay, article, review or letter on the set text



Writing Part 1

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Some people say the fashion industry has a bad effect on people's lives.
Do you agree?

Notes

Write about:

1. whether people's appearance is important
2. the price of clothes
3. (your own idea)



Areas to focus on in class

- react to the question – answer it
- brainstorm third content point
- expand on all content points
- plan effectively
- look at essay structure
- essay conventions
 - opening and concluding paragraphs
- language
 - give opinions,
 - agree or disagree
 - linking words or phrases



Thinking about the question

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

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The question and the content points

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.



Disagree

- Good for the economy – helps make money for companies and countries
- Helps people feel that they belong
- Can help you gain confidence and feel proud of how you look

...ance is important

...own idea)

Agree

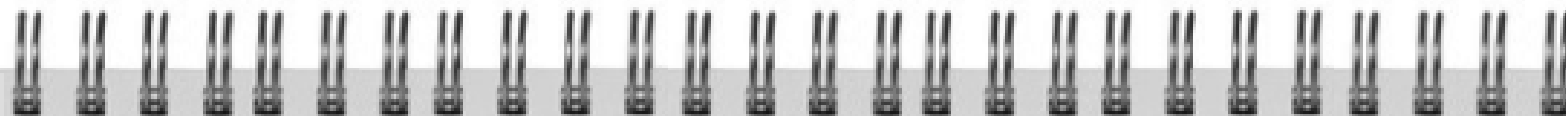
- It's expensive to keep buying new clothes
- People feel bad if they don't have money to buy new fashions
- It makes some people feel different if they aren't fashionable or if they look different



Thinking around the topic

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.



Some people say the fashion industry has a bad effect on people's lives.
Do you agree?

Thinking around the topic

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Some people say the fashion industry has a bad effect on people's lives.
Do you agree?





Back to the question...

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.





and the content points

In your English class you have been talking about the fashion industry. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Some people say the fashion industry has a bad effect on people's lives.
Do you agree?

Notes
Write about:

1. whether people's appearance is important
2. the price of clothes
3. (your own idea)

Agree

- A. It's expensive to keep buying new clothes.
- B. It can discourage recycling
- C. It makes some people feel different if they aren't fashionable or if they look different.



Writing • Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

- 1 In your English class you have been talking about education. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay for homework.

Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

**Some parents teach their children at home rather than sending them to school.
Is this a good or a bad thing for the children?**



Writing • Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

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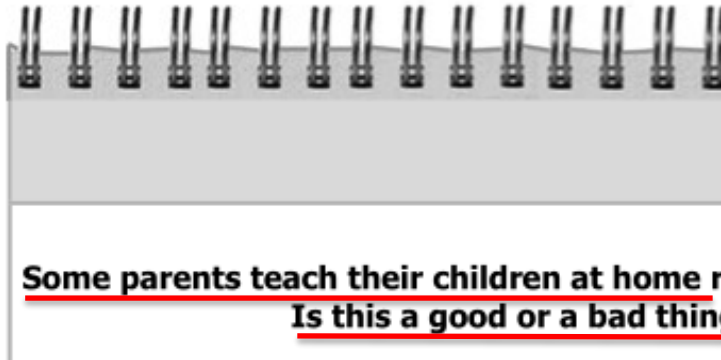


Writing • Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

- 1** In your English class you have been talking about e...
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Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving rea...



- Environment – home = school
- Facilities
- Variety of teachers
- Difficult to have a parent as a teacher
- Follow your strengths
- Study what you want to
- One-to-one time
- School is important for making friends



Writing • Part 1

You **must** answer this question. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

- 1** In your English class you have been talking about education. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay for homework.

Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Some parents teach their children at home rather than at school.
Is this a good or a bad thing for the children?

Notes
Write about:

1. having a parent as a teacher
2. making friends
3. (your own idea)

- Environment – home = school
- Facilities
- Variety of teachers
- Difficult to have a parent as a teacher
- Follow your strengths
- Study what you want to
- One-to-one time
- School is important for making friends

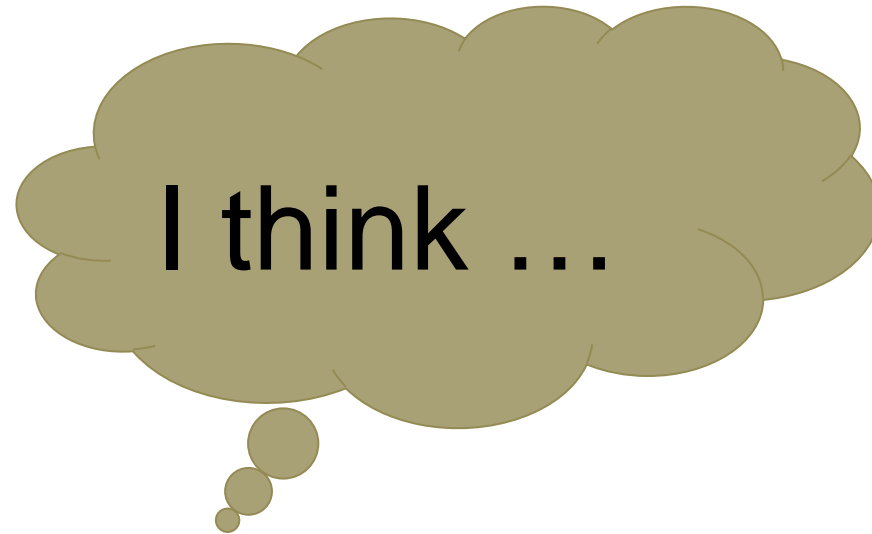


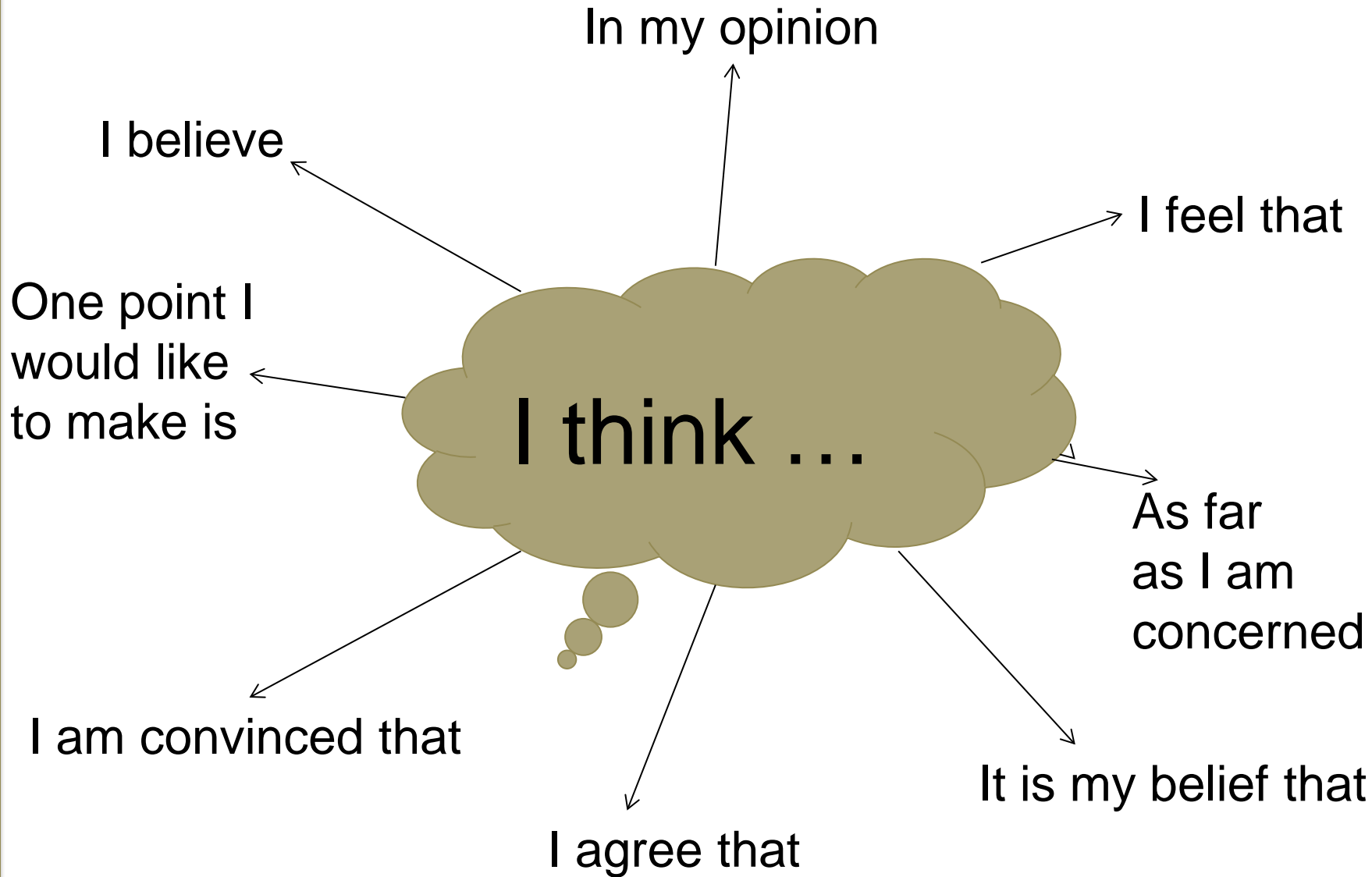
Opening and closing paragraph

- Use question to write opening paragraph
- Use paraphrase
- Conclusion should round up what has been said in a concise way – give writer's opinion



Language and repetition







Linking words and expressions

Function

1. Introduce new ideas
2. Add information
3. Comparison
4. Weigh up arguments
5. Contrast
6. Give reasons
7. Conclude

Expression

- A. To sum up ...
- B. In order to decide whether to ... or not
- C. To consider the advantages and disadvantages
- D. Besides/moreover/furthermore
- E. This is because of ...
- F. Similarly
- G. Whereas



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Feedback on writing

- I like the way you ...
- You used language such as ...
- I liked ... because ...
- You could improve ... by ...
- I would change ... to ..., because ...



Marking





Assessment criteria

B2	Content	Communicative Achievement	Organisation	Language
5	All content is relevant to the task. Target reader is fully informed.	Uses the conventions of the communicative task effectively to hold the target reader's attention and communicate straightforward and complex ideas, as appropriate.	Text is well organised and coherent, using a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns to generally good effect.	Uses a range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, appropriately. Uses a range of simple and complex grammatical forms with control and flexibility. Occasional errors may be present but do not impede communication.
4	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 3 and 5.</i>			
3	Minor irrelevances and/or omissions may be present. Target reader is on the whole informed.	Uses the conventions of the communicative task to hold the target reader's attention and communicate straightforward ideas.	Text is generally well organised and coherent, using a variety of linking words and cohesive devices.	Uses a range of everyday vocabulary appropriately, with occasional inappropriate use of less common lexis. Uses a range of simple and some complex grammatical forms with a good degree of control. Errors do not impede communication.
2	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 1 and 3.</i>			
1	Irrelevances and misinterpretation of task may be present. Target reader is minimally informed.	Uses the conventions of the communicative task in generally appropriate ways to communicate straightforward ideas.	Text is connected and coherent, using basic linking words and a limited number of cohesive devices.	Uses everyday vocabulary generally appropriately, while occasionally overusing certain lexis. Uses simple grammatical forms with a good degree of control. While errors are noticeable, meaning can still be determined.
0	Content is totally irrelevant. Target reader is not informed.	<i>Performance below Band 1.</i>		



Candidate C

Candidate answer

The society we live today is characterised by technology in constant development, fast speed processes, information travelling and getting to people at a blink of an eye and a complex web of social networking. In this context, the fashion industry is becoming increasingly important and having a more and more paramount role in our lives.

On one hand, the fashion industry is undeniably a source of profit and income. It hires millions of people all over the world and generates millions of dollars every year. Furthermore, such profitable business is also believed to be able to spread and make known the culture of a people, encouraging and enhancing a better understanding of each other.

Nevertheless, for those who are neither impressed nor motivated by numbers and figures, the fashion industry is seen as one which segregates people, isolating those who not fit their laws and commands. It is stated that people place too much importance on appearance and the material, world, sadly true, and the fashion industry just spurs on such situation. Moreover, not only are the costs of fashion item unrealistically high, it is thought to be a money better spent on more pressing issues, such as poverty and hunger.

I do believe that the fashion industry, as it is today, has a harmful effect, because it values a minority of people in detriment to the majority. However, it has such a wide reach that, it put into a good use, it can save lives.

Subscale

mark

Content

Communicative Achievement

Organisation

Language



Candidate answer

Candidate C

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Nevertheless, for those who are neither impressed nor seen as one which segregates people, isolated place too much importance on appearance and on such situation. Moreover, not only are the better spent on more pressing issues, such

I do believe that the fashion industry, as it is detrimental to the majority. However, it has

Subscale	mark
Content	5
Communicative Achievement	5
Organisation	5
Language	5



Candidate answer

Candidate A

In today's world, the fashion industry has a strong importance in people's lives. The fashion industry say to the society what to wear and creates new types of clothes all the time.

Some people claim that the fashion industry has a bad effect on people's lives, they say that the fashion industry creates clothes that the society has to wear. Furthermore, the clothes' price is extremely high and people, who can't afford it, should not be in the society.

In the other hand, the fashion industry guide the people to be in a good appearance, because, nowadays, the appearance of the person is more important than the person itself.

In my opinion, the fashion industry doesn't has a bad influence on people's lives. It's something which was created to help people what to wear.

Subscale

mark

Content

Communicative Achievement

Organisation

Language



Candidate answer

Candidate A

In today's world, the fashion industry has a strong importance in people's lives. The fashion industry say to the society what to wear and creates new types of clothes all the time.

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In my opinion, the fashion industry doesn't
created to help people what to wear.

Subscale	mark
Content	5
Communicative Achievement	2
Organisation	2
Language	2



Further information

Classroom ideas for *Cambridge English: Key for Schools* and *Preliminary for Schools*

17 and 19 November 2014

- University of Cambridge
- Cambridge English Language Assessment
- 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, UK
- Tel: +44 (0)1223 553997
- Fax: +44 (0)1223 553621
- Email: helpdesk@cambridgeenglish.org

- Keep up to date with what's new via the
- Cambridge English Language Assessment website:
www.cambridgeenglish.org

- For information on Cambridge English webinars for teachers:
•www.cambridgeenglish.org/webinars

