



Cambridge English: ESOL Skills for Life

From January 2015

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A popular choice ...

- Certificates in ESOL Skills for Life launched in 2004/2005
- In the following 10 years, Cambridge English has received well over 1 million entries for these exams
- Entries from FE colleges, private training providers, adult education services, prisons, charities, secondary schools, volunteer groups, faith groups, HEIs ...



A new era (from January 2015) ...

- **Progression** to GCSE English, Functional Skills English
- Contribute to the **employability** agenda
- Located on the **Qualifications and Credit Framework**
- Specific content still derived from the **Adult ESOL Core Curriculum**, and **National Standards for Adult Literacy**



Changes for 2015

- Credit-based units of assessment
- Some amendments to test content and format
- Scheduled dates for Reading and Writing tests
- Windows for Speaking and Listening tests



Scheduled dates

- Dates to coincide with established peak entry periods
- Windows for Speaking and Listening to allow flexibility



Entry 1 Reading

Learning Outcomes The learner will:	Assessment Criteria The learner can:
1. Be able to gain meaning from text	1.1 Follow a short text on a familiar topic 1.2 Use language features to work out meaning in short text on a familiar topic
2. Be able to identify the purpose of text	2.1 Identify the purpose of short text on a familiar topic
3. Be able to find information in text	3.1 Obtain relevant information from short text on a familiar topic 3.2 Recognise symbols in text 3.3 Recognise words in text 3.4 Recognise digits correctly
4. Be able to recognise letters	4.1 Identify letters of the alphabet in upper and lower case correctly



The QCF – a key change

- **Credits**
 - Speaking and Listening: 12
 - Writing: 9
 - Reading: 6
- **Guided Learning Hours:**
 - 270 GLH for full certificate
 - 120 GLH for Speaking and Listening award
 - 90 GLH for Writing award
 - 60 GLH for Reading award



Our starting point:

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!”

- **Content of the tests will continue to reflect the everyday experience of the ESOL learner**
- **Majority of task types and texts used, and the level of difficulty, will remain the same**
- **Length of the tests will remain the same**
- **Marking procedures will not change**



QCF Level	CEFR	Main Suite	IELTS
(Level 3)	C2	Proficiency	8.5 – 9.0
Level 2	C1	Advanced	7.0 – 8.0
Level 1	B2	First	5.5 – 6.5
Entry 1, 2, 3	B1	Preliminary	4.0 – 5.0
	A2	Key	
	A1		



What are the key features of the Cambridge English qualifications?

- **Wholly externally assessed**
- **Profiled results for individual learner feedback**
- **Fast turn-round of results**
- **All-unit certificate, or individual unit awards**
(See handbook or website for Qualification Reference Numbers.)



Can the Cambridge English qualifications be used for:

- * residency and citizenship applications?
- * visa applications e.g. spouse visas, Tier 4?

- ✓ **Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), UK citizenship**
- ✓ **Visa applications – subject to special arrangements**



What are the precise titles of the new qualifications?

Examples:

- **Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (QCF)**
- **Cambridge English Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Writing) (Entry 1) (QCF)**



THE LEARNER'S PERSPECTIVE

- **Fair and reliable**
- **Relevant, realistic, familiar topics**
- **Convenient**
 - **eg. A range of dates scheduled throughout the year, swift turnaround**
- **Supportive**
 - **e.g. access to achievement, candidate feedback, on-paper guidance**

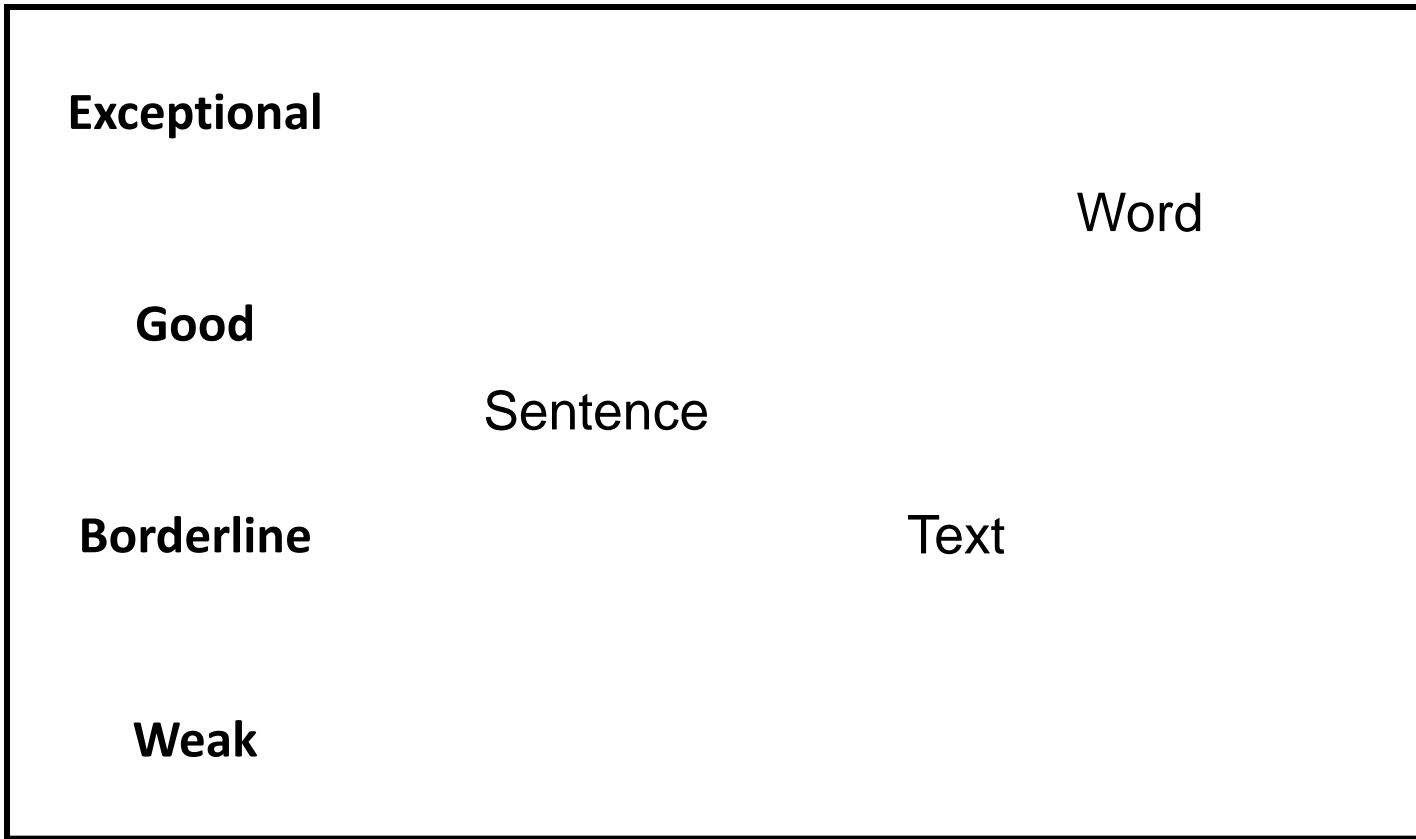


THE TUTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

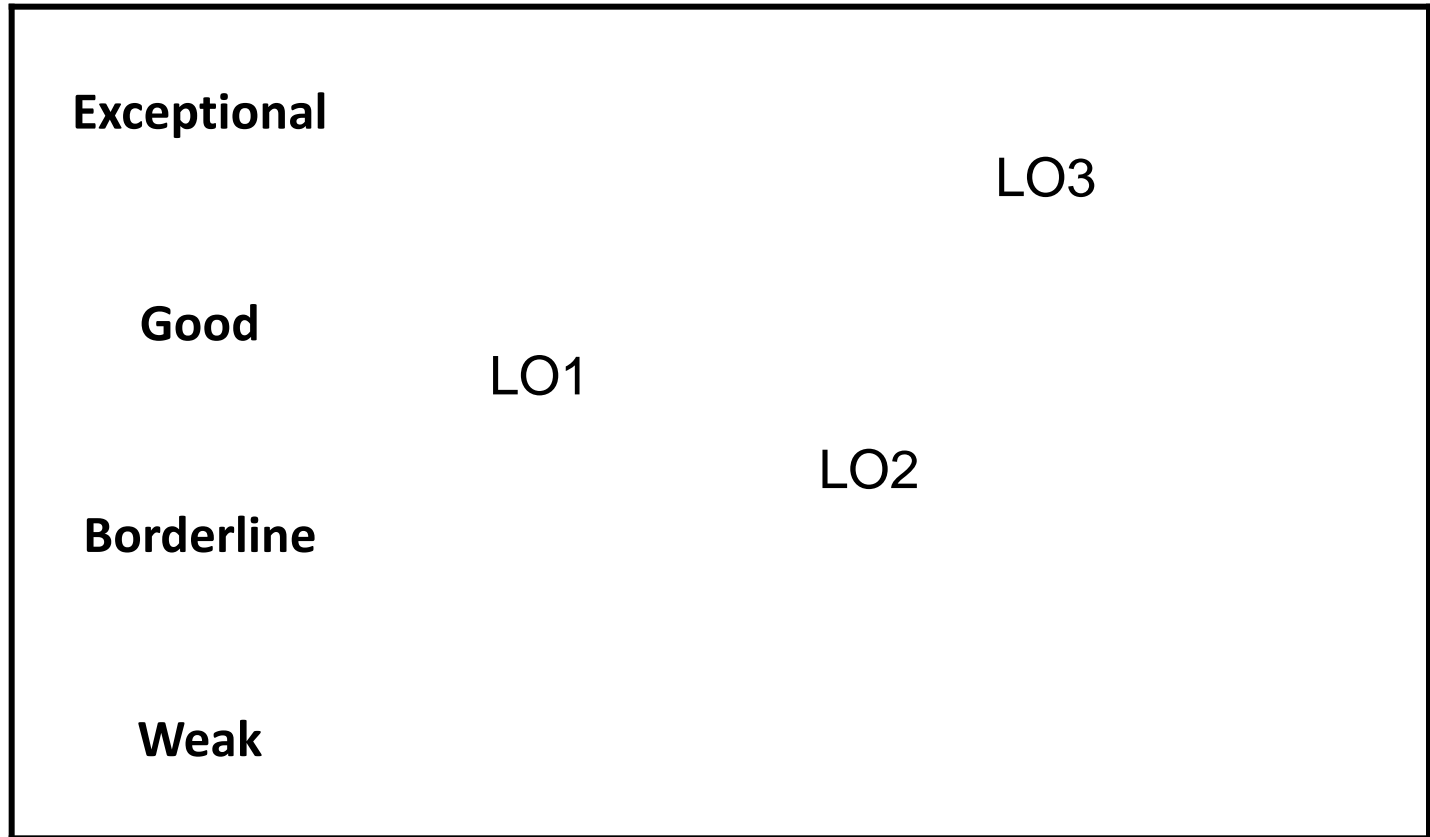
- **Benefits of external assessment**
 - **Playing to strengths**
 - **Motivation and partnership**
- **Quality assured**
 - **Effective and rigorous question paper construction**
 - **Extensive pre-testing**
- **Support for tutors (and administrators)**
 - **Seminars/webinars, sample papers, Helpdesk, web resource, etc.**



Statement of Results



Revised Statement of Results





THE CENTRE'S PERSPECTIVE

- Straightforward centre registration process
- Cost-effective utilisation of staff
- One-stop ESOL solution for providers
- Access to Cambridge branding



Entry conditions

Availability

- 9 sessions per level per unit per year,
except:
- 5 sessions per year each for L1 and L2
Reading




THE TESTS

- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- **Speaking and Listening**



What changes are being made to the content of the Reading tests from January 2015?

Units and levels	Changes to test format
Reading Entry 1 to 3	No longer be tasks focusing on proofreading skills, e.g. incorrect spelling, capital letters, etc.
Reading Level 1 and 2	No longer be tasks focusing on proofreading skills, e.g. incorrect spelling, capital letters, etc.



What changes are being made to the content of the Writing tests from January 2015?

Units and levels	Changes to test format
Writing Entry 1 to 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Form for completion•Space for candidates to plan added to question papers•Format for answers should be appropriate to genre, e.g. opening and closing formulae in letters
Writing Level 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Form for completion with open and closed features•Space for candidates to plan added to question papers•Format for answers should be appropriate to genre, e.g. opening and closing formulae in letters



What changes are being made to the content of the Speaking and Listening tests from January 2015?

Units and levels	Changes to test format
Speaking and Listening Entry 1 to 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Amended task at Entry 3 where candidates plan an activity together.• As a result, timing of Phase 1a reduced from 4-5 minutes to 3 minutes. Overall time of test is 22 minutes (previously 20-22 minutes).
Speaking and Listening Level 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Amended task at Level 1 where candidates plan an activity together.•Minor changes to timing within Level 2 sections, but no change to overall timing•In phase 2b, candidate sheet replaced by verbal prompt for the task



Mode	Entry 1	Entry 2	Entry 3
Reading	50 minutes	1 hour	1 hour 15 minutes
Writing	40 minutes	50 minutes	1 hour
Speaking and Listening	16 – 18 minutes	18 – 20 minutes	22 minutes



Mode	Level 1	Level 2
Reading	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
Writing	1 hour 30 minutes	1 hour 30 mins
Speaking & Listening	24 minutes	26 minutes



IN SUMMARY:

- From January 2015, the ESOL Skills for Life qualifications will be located on the QCF.
- There will be some discrete changes to the content of the exams.
- Scheduled dates will be announced within the next few weeks.



IN SUMMARY:

- **From January 2015, content of the tests will continue to reflect the everyday experience of the ESOL learner**
- **Majority of task types and texts used, the level of difficulty, the equivalences with other exams, will remain the same**
- **Length of the tests will remain the same**
- **Marking procedures will not change**
- **Wholly externally assessed**
- **High levels of support**

**Many thanks for
your attention ...**

Any questions?