Changes to Cambridge English: Advanced, Cambridge English: First and Cambridge English: First for Schools

Changes to the specification for examinations from January 2015
Cambridge Assessment
A leading authority

Part of Cambridge University

150 years’ experience

Not for profit

Delivering world-class assessment

Leading-edge and operational research on assessment in education

Influencing thinking through publishing and consultancy
Our reach

Cambridge English exam centres

- 4 m candidates
- 130 countries
- 400 staff
- 24 offices
- 2,700 test centres
- 36,000 preparation centres
- 20,000 examiners
- 13,500 recognising organisations

Office, Staff or Representative:
- Los Angeles
- Mexico City
- São Paulo
- Buenos Aires
- St Petersburg
- Moscow
- Warsaw
- Berlin
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- Paris
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- Madrid
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- Athens
- Istanbul
- Dubai
- Pune
- Delhi
- Lahore
- Chennai
- Shanghai
- Guangzhou
- Beijing
- Seoul
- Taipei
- Ho Chi Minh City
- Kuala Lumpur
- Sydney
Global recognition of Cambridge English exams

Recognised by over 13,500 institutions in 130 countries

For full list of organisations worldwide accepting Cambridge English exams visit www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition
Outline

• Aims of the revised specification
• Overview
• Detailed look at Cambridge English: First and Cambridge English: Advanced
• Summary, key dates and further support
Aims of the revised exams

• higher education
• career enhancement
• modern, fresh appeal
• up-to-date methodical approach
• user-friendly and accessible
• set the standards for B2 and C1 exams
**Cambridge English: First**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revised: 3 hrs 29 mins</th>
<th>Current: 3 hrs 59 mins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading and Use of English</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 hr 15 mins</td>
<td>• 1 hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 7 parts</td>
<td>• 3 parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 52 questions</td>
<td>• 30 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of English</strong></td>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 hr 20 mins</td>
<td>• 1 hr 20 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 compulsory question (essay); 1 from choice of 3</td>
<td>• 1 compulsory question (email letter); 1 from choice of 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Listening</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 hr 20 mins</td>
<td>• 40 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 compulsory question (essay); 1 from choice of 3</td>
<td>• 4 parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 30 questions</td>
<td>• 30 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listening</strong></td>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 40 mins</td>
<td>• 14 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 4 parts</td>
<td>• 4 parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 30 questions</td>
<td>• 4 parts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Cambridge English: Advanced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Revised: 3 hrs 55 mins</th>
<th>Current: 4 hrs 40 mins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading and Use of English</strong></td>
<td>• 1 hr 30 mins &lt;br&gt;• 8 parts &lt;br&gt;• 56 questions</td>
<td><strong>Reading</strong> &lt;br&gt;• 1 hr 15 mins &lt;br&gt;• 4 parts &lt;br&gt;• 34 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>• 1 hr 30 mins &lt;br&gt;1 compulsory question (essay); 1 from choice of 3 (no set text)</td>
<td><strong>Writing</strong> &lt;br&gt;• 1 hr 30 mins &lt;br&gt;1 compulsory question (variety); 1 from choice of 5 (including two set texts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Listening</strong></td>
<td>• 40 mins &lt;br&gt;• 4 parts &lt;br&gt;• 30 questions</td>
<td><strong>Listening</strong> &lt;br&gt;• 40 mins &lt;br&gt;• 4 parts &lt;br&gt;• 30 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong></td>
<td>• 15 mins &lt;br&gt;• 4 parts</td>
<td><strong>Speaking</strong> &lt;br&gt;• 15 mins &lt;br&gt;• 4 parts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In summary:

• Both *Cambridge English: First* and *Cambridge English: Advanced* are shorter

• The Reading and Use of English papers have been combined

• Part 1 of the Writing paper is an essay
Detailed look at revision to Cambridge English: First
Which of these tasks are in the current Reading and Use of English papers?

1) multiple-choice cloze
2) open cloze
3) word formation
4) key word transformation
5) multiple choice
6) gapped text
7) multiple matching
Cambridge English: First
Reading and Use of English paper

Number of parts  7
Number of questions  52
Timing  1 hour 15 minutes

Task types
• Part 1: multiple-choice cloze  (8 questions)
• Part 2: open cloze  (8 questions)
• Part 3: word formation  (8 questions)
• Part 4: key word transformation  (6 questions)
• Part 5: multiple choice  (6 questions)
• Part 6: gapped text  (6 questions)
• Part 7: multiple matching  (10 questions)
Cambridge English: First Writing paper

Part 1 question
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 the environment. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

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

**Every country in the world has problems with pollution and damage to the environment. Do you think these problems can be solved?**

**Notes**

**Write about:**

1. transport
2. rivers and seas
3. ... (your own idea)
Cambridge English: First Writing paper

Part 2 question
Part 2

Write an answer to one of the questions 2 – 4 in this part. Write your answer in 140 – 190 words in an appropriate style on the opposite page. Put the question number in the box at the top of the page.

2 You have seen the following announcement in an international music magazine:

Music lovers! Can you help us?

Write an article about the best music concert you’ve ever seen.

We will publish the best articles next month.

Send us your article, and you could see your name in print!

Write your article.

3 Your English teacher has asked you to write a report on the leisure facilities in your area. You should explain what the most popular leisure facilities in your area are and say why you think they are popular.

Write your report.

4 You have received a letter from your Australian friend, Tim. Read this part of the letter and then write your letter to Tim.

I leave school in June and I want to come to your country. First I’d like to spend some time travelling. Then I’d like to find a job for a few months. Can you give me some advice on travelling and working in your country?

Thanks,
Tim

Write your letter.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cambridge English: First – Part 2</th>
<th>Cambridge English: First for Schools – Part 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>article</td>
<td>article</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>email/letter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>review</td>
<td>review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>report</td>
<td>story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay, article, review or letter on the set text</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Cambridge English: First Listening paper

• Approximately 40 minutes
• 4 parts
• All tasks retained
• Change to Part 1 – the options are not read out
• Change to Part 3 – there are two additional distractors
Part 3

You will hear five writers talking. For Questions 19 – 23, choose from the list A – H what each speaker says. Use the letters only once. There are three extra letters which you do not need to use.

A  Writing brings in a lot of money.

B  I knew I could earn a lot writing for TV.

C  I get ideas from things I heard as a child.

D  Writing is what I’ve always done.

E  I knew someone in the business.

F  Writing is an escape from my work.

G  I read a lot as a child.

H  Writing is a very creative process.

Speaker 1  19
Speaker 2  20
Speaker 3  21
Speaker 4  22
Speaker 5  23
Cambridge English: First Speaking paper

Part 1
The timing has reduced from 3 minutes to 2 minutes.

Part 2
The candidate response has increased from 20 seconds to 30 seconds.

Part 3
Split rubrics and written prompts replace visuals.
The timing is now 4 minutes.
Cambridge English: First changes

The changes are clear.

I’m glad the test is shorter.

I’d like to read more about the changes.

Where can I find more information?

I’m pleased that tasks have been retained.
Detailed look at the changes to Cambridge English: Advanced
Cambridge English: Advanced Reading and Use of English paper

Number of parts  8
Number of questions  56
Timing  1 hour 30 minutes

Task types

• Part 1: multiple-choice cloze  (8 questions)
• Part 2: open cloze  (8 questions)
• Part 3: word formation  (8 questions)
• Part 4: key word transformation  (6 questions)
• Part 5: multiple choice  (6 questions)
• Part 6: cross-text multiple matching  (4 questions)
• Part 7: gapped text  (6 questions)
• Part 8: multiple matching  (10 questions)
Cambridge English: Advanced
Writing paper
Part 1 question
Part 1

You must answer this question. Write your answer in 220 – 260 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

1 You have listened to a radio discussion programme about facilities which should receive money from local authorities. You have made the notes below:

**Which facilities should receive money from local authorities?**

- museums
- sports centres
- public gardens

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

- "Museums aren’t popular with everybody!"
- "Sports centres mean healthier people."
- "A town needs green spaces — parks are great for everybody."

Write an essay discussing two of the facilities in your notes. You should explain which facility it is more important for local authorities to give money to, giving reasons in support of your answer.

You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.
Part 1

You must answer this question. Write your answer in 220 – 260 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

1 Your class has attended a panel discussion on what methods governments should use to encourage healthy eating. You have made the notes below.

Notes: answers must include two of these

Opinions: candidates can use in their own words

Methods governments could use to encourage healthy eating:

- legislation
- education
- price cuts

Some opinions expressed in the discussion:

“Individuals should make their own decisions about health.”

“Schools, not parents, should teach children to eat healthily.”

“Maybe people would eat healthy food if it was cheaper.”

Write an essay for your tutor discussing two of the methods in your notes. You should explain which method you think is more important for governments to consider and provide reasons to support your opinion.

You may, if you wish, make use of the opinions expressed in the discussion, but you should use your own words as far as possible.
Cambridge English: Advanced Writing paper

Part 2:

• Choice of three questions
• No set text
• Text types:
  • email/letter
  • proposal
  • report
  • review
Cambridge English: Advanced Listening paper

- Approximately 40 minutes
- 4 parts
- All tasks retained
# Cambridge English: Advanced Speaking test

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<td>Individual long turn by each candidate, based on three pictures. The listening candidate must then answer a question.</td>
<td>1-minute long turn, plus 30-second response (total: 4 minutes)</td>
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<td>Two-way conversation between candidates, based on instructions with written prompts. Discussion and decision-making tasks.</td>
<td>2-minute discussion; 1-minute decision-making task (total: 4 minutes)</td>
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<td>Three-way discussion with interlocutor on topics related to Part 3.</td>
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Cambridge English: Advanced Speaking test

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</table>
Cambridge English: Advanced Speaking Part 3

- choosing a university
- what might people have to consider when making these decisions?
- starting a family
- finding a job
- getting married
- moving to another country
I’m so pleased that the test is shorter.

I’m glad that all the same areas are being tested.

It’s a good idea to combine Reading and Use of English.

I’ll need some ideas for the new Writing Part 1.
New microsite for revised exams

• Information about all the changes
• Videos, specifications, sample papers, teaching tips, classroom activities

www.cambridgeenglish.org/teaching2015
Teaching Support website

- Information about all Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations and teaching qualifications
- Teaching resources for each part of each exam
- Lots more features to support teachers

www.cambridgeenglish.org/teachingsupport
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- Cambridge English: First (FCE)
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)
Courses

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Complete First for Schools

Feb '14

Cambridge English
Compact First for Schools
Second Edition

Sep '14

For revised exam from March 2015

Student's Book without answers

Barbara Thomas
Laura Matthews

Version 1.1 October 2013
Official preparation materials for the revised 2015 exams
Courses

- Mar–Apr ’14
- Apr–May ’14
- Sep ’14

Cambridge English

Complete Advanced

Objective Advanced

Compact Advanced

Version 1.1 October 2013
Exam Practice

Cambridge English

FIRST for Schools 1
WITHOUT ANSWERS
AUTHENTIC EXAMINATION PAPERS FROM CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT
for revised exam from 2015

FIRST 1
WITHOUT ANSWERS
AUTHENTIC EXAMINATION PAPERS FROM CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT
for revised exam from 2015

ADVANCED 1
WITHOUT ANSWERS
AUTHENTIC EXAMINATION PAPERS FROM CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT
for revised exam from 2015

May '14
Official support

• Shop for official preparation materials:
  – Cambridge English Language Assessment
    www.cambridgeenglish.org/prepare-and-practise
  – Cambridge University Press
    www.cambridge.org/elt/exams

• Free resources and information:
  – Teachers www.teachers.cambridgeenglish.org
  – Candidates www.cambridgeenglish.org
  – Recognising organisations
    www.cambridgeenglish.org/recognition
Further information


Further information

Making learning fun with apps and games
16 and 18 December 2013

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