Cambridge First Certificate in English

WITH ANSWERS

Official examination papers from University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations
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Introduction

This collection of four complete practice tests comprises papers from the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations First Certificate in English (FCE) examination; students can practise these tests on their own or with the help of a teacher.

The FCE examination is part of a suite of general English examinations produced by Cambridge ESOL. This suite consists of five examinations that have similar characteristics but are designed for different levels of English language ability. Within the five levels, FCE is at Level B2 in the Council of Europe's *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment*. It has also been accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in the UK as a Level 1 ESOL certificate in the National Qualifications Framework. The FCE examination is widely recognised in commerce and industry and in individual university faculties and other educational institutions.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Council of Europe Framework Level</th>
<th>UK National Qualifications Framework Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>CPE Certificate of Proficiency in English</td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAE Certificate in Advanced English</td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCE First Certificate in English</td>
<td>B2</td>
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<td>PET Preliminary English Test</td>
<td>B1</td>
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Further information

The information contained in this practice book is designed to be an overview of the exam. For a full description of all of the above exams, including information about task types, testing focus and preparation, please see the relevant handbooks which can be obtained from Cambridge ESOL at the address below or from the website at: www.CambridgeESOL.org

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Introduction

The structure of FCE: an overview

The FCE examination consists of five papers.

Paper 1  Reading  1 hour
This paper consists of three parts, each containing a text and some questions. Part 3 may contain two or more shorter related texts. There are 30 questions in total, including multiple-choice, gapped-text and multiple-matching questions.

Paper 2  Writing  1 hour 20 minutes
This paper consists of two parts which carry equal marks. In Part 1, which is compulsory, candidates have to write either a letter or an email of between 120 and 150 words. In Part 2, there are four tasks from which candidates choose one to write about. The range of tasks from which questions may be drawn includes an article, an essay, a letter, a report, a review and a short story. The last question is based on the set books. These books remain on the list for two years. Look on the website or contact the Cambridge ESOL Local Secretary in your area for the up-to-date list of set books. The question on the set books has two options, from which candidates choose one to write about. In this part, candidates have to write between 120 and 180 words.

Paper 3  Use of English  45 minutes
This paper consists of four parts and tests control of English grammar and vocabulary. There are 42 questions in total. The tasks include gap-filling exercises, word formation and sentence transformation.

Paper 4  Listening  40 minutes (approximately)
This paper consists of four parts. Each part contains a recorded text or texts and some questions, including multiple-choice, sentence completion and multiple-matching. Each text is heard twice. There is a total of 30 questions.

Paper 5  Speaking  14 minutes
This paper consists of four parts. The standard test format is two candidates and two examiners. One examiner takes part in the conversation while the other examiner listens. Both examiners give marks. Candidates will be given photographs and other visual and written material to look at and talk about. Sometimes candidates will talk with the other candidate, sometimes with the examiner, and sometimes with both.

Grading

The overall FCE grade is based on the total score gained in all five papers. Each paper is weighted to 40 marks. Therefore, the five FCE papers total 200 marks after weighting. It is not necessary to achieve a satisfactory level in all five papers in order to pass the examination. Certificates are given to candidates who pass the examination with grade A, B or C. A is the highest. D and E are failing grades. All candidates are sent a Statement of Results which includes a graphical profile of their performance in each paper and shows their relative performance in each one.

For further information on grading and results, go to the website (see page 5).