

A strategic partnership for language testing

National Education Examinations Authority

China



In a long-term strategic partnership, dating back to the 1990s, Cambridge Assessment English is working with China's National Education Examinations Authority (NEEA) to deliver English language qualifications ranging from primary school to professional level.

NEEA, a department of the Chinese Ministry of Education, oversees examinations across China, at all ability levels and in all subjects. English language examinations are considered particularly important, as English language proficiency is considered a real asset for Chinese citizens, and also part of the Government's policy of 'opening China up' to the outside world.

A number of Cambridge English Qualifications have become widely recognised across China. For example, nearly 2 million Chinese children aged between 7 and 12 have taken a Pre A1 Starters, A1 Movers or A2 Flyers exam since their introduction in 1996. Four exam sessions are held each year, taken by up to 150,000 students. Since 1993, over a million older candidates have taken B1 Business Preliminary, B2 Business Vantage or C1 Business Higher, designed to improve

the language skills of those already in – or hoping to enter – employment. NEEA has established around 80 Cambridge English Qualifications for business test centres in 27 provinces, and holds up to seven test sessions every year.

In addition to Cambridge English Qualifications for business, IELTS (International English Language Testing System) has become highly popular. A joint initiative between Cambridge English, the British Council and IDP Australia, IELTS has become the world's leading test for those wanting to study or work in a context where English is the language of communication. Over 500,000 Chinese candidates take the IELTS test every year, further demonstrating the influence and reach of Cambridge English in China.

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