

Assessment services

How we can help

Cambridge Assessment English is the world's largest provider of English language assessment. We bring our expertise in assessment design, delivery, operations and alignment to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) to provide a range of bespoke assessment consultancy services. These services are delivered by world experts in assessment and are aimed at sharing best practice to ensure students are offered fair, valid and reliable assessments. We adopt a holistic approach, sharing our knowledge with you to develop your own capacity in order to create assessments that meet internationally recognised standards which suit your context.

What we offer

These separate services can be offered as stand-alone activities or as part of a complete capacity-building project.

Assessment review

Our assessment experts conduct an evaluation of your English language tests to determine test validity and offer guidance on areas for improvement.

Exam alignment

We can provide verification of your exam's alignment to the CEFR, producing an analysis report and providing you with recommendations.

Test audit

We examine your processes and documents related to test production and administration, and offer guidance on how you can improve the process, realising efficiencies and operational cost savings.

Test design consultancy

Our assessment experts provide you with guidance and expertise when designing a new test construct or advising on test design. The level of involvement will depend on the existing tools, structure and testing system that you have in place.

Assessment training

We provide face-to-face training on all aspects of assessment, from theory to practice, enabling you to build capacity in your team and feel confident that you are meeting international standards.

Endorsement

Our experts audit your processes on an annual basis against specified requirements and monitor your adherence to these processes. We would then agree with you a joint statement that is displayed on the candidate's certificate.

Key benefits for you

- We work with you to develop capacity by transferring our expert knowledge and skills and adapting to your context
- As part of the University of Cambridge, we provide the advantage of a reputable, objective evaluation
- We adopt a research-based approach to the alignment of your assessments to international and national standards
- We can help you increase efficiency and effectiveness of your exam production processes, with the potential for a reduction in operational expenditure in the future

Case studies



National Bilingual Project

Ministerio de Educación Nacional (MEN)

Colombia

The Colombian Ministerio de Educación Nacional (MEN) wanted to improve the quality of English language learning and sought guidance from Cambridge Assessment English. We carried out a preliminary benchmarking exercise involving 3,000 school and university students to establish existing levels of English language.

MEN and the national testing body, Instituto Colombiano para el Fomento de la Educación Superior (ICFES), used the results to develop standards for national English tests.

We produced the English component of the Colombian state sector exams, the Saber 11 (national school-leaving examination) and Saber Pro (higher education) to these standards and linked them to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

We also undertook local capacity-building to recruit and train a team of item writers to produce the English components of the Saber tests. We have since worked together with ICFES over a number of years to help them fine tune their tests' alignment to the CEFR and provide continuing professional development to their item writers.

Today, Colombia has its own team of trained item writers building tests to our format and linked to CEFR standards. These tests are delivered to nearly 1 million students annually. The National Bilingual Project continues working towards its goals of 70% of final-year high school students achieving Level B1 in English and 100% of final-year English teacher trainees achieving Level B2 or higher.

For more information on our English language consultancy, visit:

cambridgeenglish.org/consultancy



Auditing a high-stakes national school English test

Foundation Innove

Estonia

We delivered a comprehensive audit of the Year 12 English test used in state schools across Estonia. Working with Estonian-based education competency consultancy Foundation Innove, we considered key aspects of the test, provided recommendations for future test enhancements, and delivered knowledge transfer workshops designed to build local capacity.

The Year 12 test, which targets Levels B1 and B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), is used by many students to support entry to university both in Estonia and overseas. This is therefore a high-stakes test and as a result Innove considers external evaluation essential for ongoing development and to ensure the test continues to meet international standards.

We reviewed all aspects of the test development process, including test construction and CEFR alignment, and provided detailed recommendations for further enhancements. We also ran a series of bespoke training workshops in order to transfer knowledge from our experts to the Innove team, thereby building local capacity. The workshops, held in-country, focused on the production of test items aligned to the CEFR, following our recommendations.

Feedback has been very positive: Innove was very satisfied with the project and is keen to work with us again, while workshop delegates all rated the sessions either good or excellent.

Contact the team at:

consultancy@cambridgeenglish.org