



Cambridge Assessment
English

How to decide if your students are ready to take an exam



This guide offers practical advice and resources to help teachers decide if a student is ready to take a Cambridge English Qualification. From pretesting and sample papers, to tips on informing parents that their child is exam ready, we have a range of useful information and revision resources available.



Deciding if your students are exam ready

Here are a few ways to help decide whether your students are ready for their exams.

Sample papers

Check if your students are ready to register for an exam with sample papers. They can help to build your students' confidence by familiarising them with the exam format and also identify which areas a student needs more practice in. For example, if students need to improve their listening skills, teachers can find free listening resources on our website.

Most of our exams are available to take as either paper-based or computer-based exams, and we have free sample tests for both. As the formats of these exams are the same you can use both to help your students prepare, no matter which type of exam they are taking.

Next steps

- ✓ Explore our full range of exam preparation materials, including free Listening tests: cambridgeenglish.org/exam-preparation
- ✓ If your students are taking A2 Key for Schools and levels above, read our guide on how to convert sample test scores to the Cambridge English Scale: cambridgeenglish.org/images/210434-converting-practice-test-scores-to-cambridge-english-scale-scores.pdf
- ✓ Look at our wide range of official support materials available for purchase that we have created with Cambridge University Press: cambridge.org/gb/cambridgeenglish/official-exam-preparation-materials/exam

Assessing speaking and writing

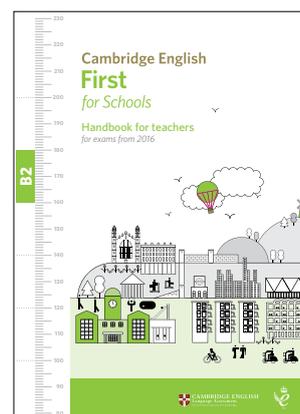
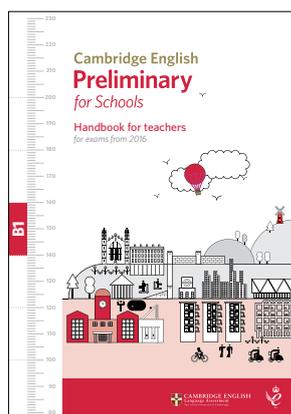
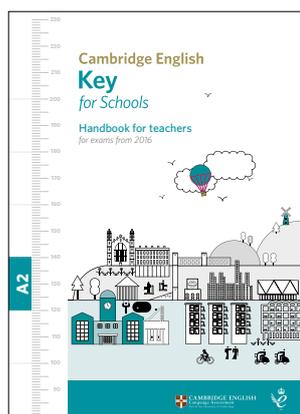
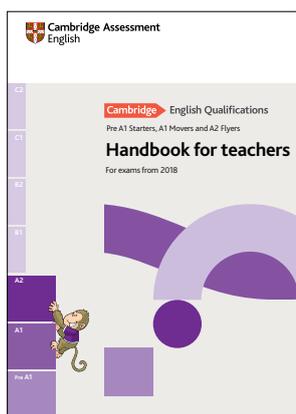
Each Cambridge English Qualification comes with a free *Handbook for Teachers*. It includes useful information on the speaking and writing criteria for each exam.

Download the handbook to see writing tasks and Speaking test videos which include examiner marks and comments. This will help to give you a better understanding of what is expected in the Speaking and Writing tests, and helps you make a more informed decision on whether your students are ready to sit their exam.

Next steps



Search and download our *Handbooks for Teachers*, plus the speaking and writing criteria guides in our free resource finder: cambridgeenglish.org/resources-for-teachers



Handbooks for Teachers

Pretesting

Pretesting is a free service offered by Cambridge Assessment English, which gives students the opportunity to practise taking a Cambridge English Qualification using genuine questions under exam conditions.

After taking the Reading, Listening and Use of English tests, the students are given scores. Writing papers are marked by genuine Cambridge Assessment English examiners, and candidates receive information about how they performed in the Writing test. Please note there is no pretesting for speaking.

Next steps



Download our guide to pretesting:
cambridgeenglish.org/Images/126024-guide-to-pretesting.pdf



Register your school to take part in pretesting:
cambridgeenglish.org/why-choose-us/producing-exams/pretesting

How to inform parents

It's important to inform parents that their child is ready to take the exam, as well as letting them know about the registration process and the next available exam date.

Here are a couple of ways to communicate to parents that you believe their child is ready to take an exam:

- share your student's sample paper results with their parents – the sample paper is a great way to demonstrate a student's readiness to take the exam
- use the letter template to inform parents their child is ready to take an exam:
cambridgeenglish.org/registering-for-the-exam

If you believe a student is not ready for the exam, it helps to take parents through an improvement plan, so they can see their child's progress.

How to register your students for an exam

Find an exam centre

It's time to find an authorised exam centre and register your students.

Your local exam centre will tell you how to make the practical arrangements. It may also be possible to hold exams at your school, but this will depend on the number of candidates, your location and the capacity of your venue, which can all be discussed with your chosen exam centre.

Find your nearest centre: cambridgeenglish.org/find-a-centre



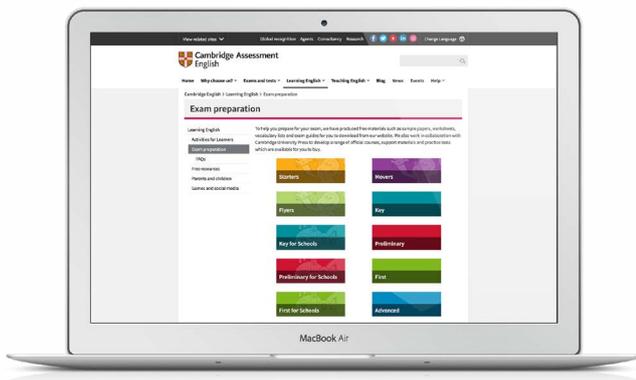
Resources for exam revision

As the exams draw closer, support your students through their exam preparation using the resources available on our website. We have a broad range of free revision materials for teachers to use, including:

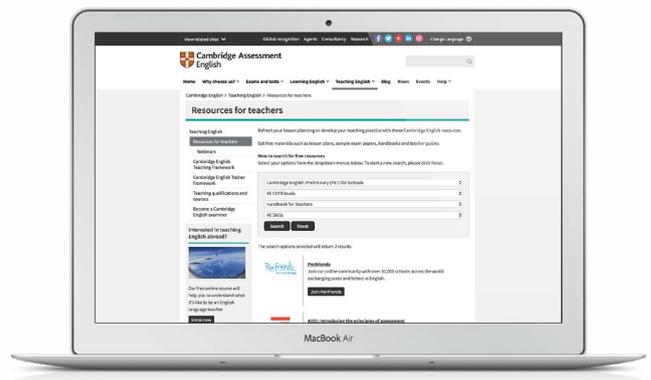
- wordlists – to revise vocabulary needed for an exam
- information for parents – a dedicated page for parents on the best ways to support their child
- free practice activities – for students to revise at home.

Next steps

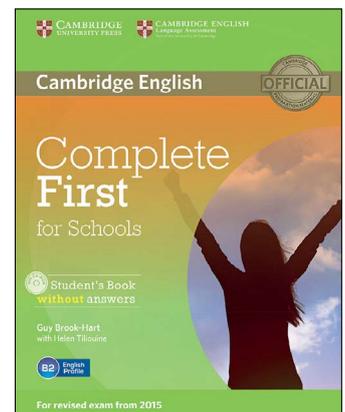
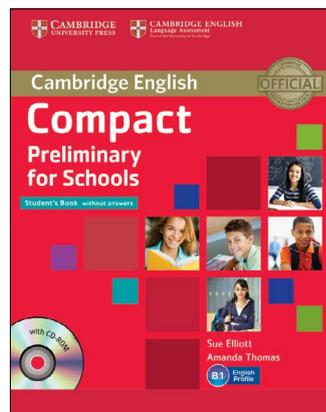
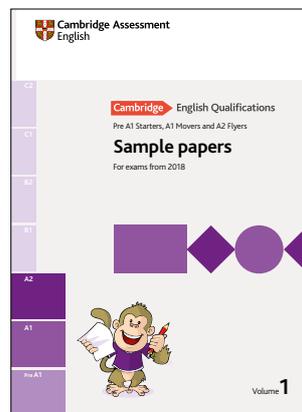
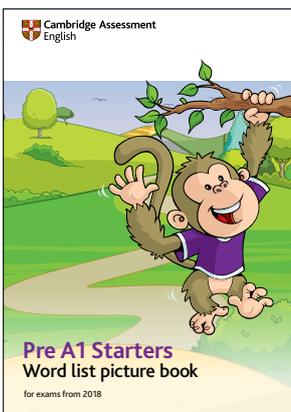
- ✔ To help support your students preparing for their exams we have a wide range of free exam preparation materials for every Cambridge English Qualification: cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/exam-preparation
 - ✔ Visit our website for more information on preparing your students for the exam day:
 - tips on getting ready for exam day
 - exam-day tips
 - speaking test exam-day tips
 - exam-day experience videos for students
- cambridgeenglish.org/preparing-for-the-exam



Exam preparation page



Resources for teachers page



Some of the many materials available

A few facts and figures about us:

- 5.5 million assessments taken every year
- Accepted by over 20,000 organisations worldwide
- 2,800 exam centres in 130 countries
- Over 50,000 preparation centres
- Providing English language assessment since 1913

We help people learn English and prove their skills to the world

We are Cambridge Assessment English. Part of the University of Cambridge, we help millions of people learn English and prove their skills to the world.

For us, learning English is more than just exams and grades. It's about having the confidence to communicate and access a lifetime of enriching experiences and opportunities.

With the right support, learning a language is an exhilarating journey. We're with you every step of the way.

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