

B2 First Overview of the Listening Paper

Aims of the lesson	To give students an overview of the format of the B2 First Listening paper (Paper 3)
Time needed	20 minutes
Materials required	Classroom Handout 1 (one per student) Overview Text Handbook or exam specifications http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications/first/exam-update-for-2015/

1. It might be a good idea to record yourself reading the **Overview Text** as this will give your students some listening practice. If you are unable to record the script, you can read it out in class.
2. Tell your students that you are going to be looking at the B2 First Listening paper. Ask students what they know about the exam, but don't confirm or tell them too much about the exam at this stage.
Timing: 5 mins
3. Put your students in pairs/small groups and give them a copy of **Classroom Handout 1**. Students work together to match the questions to the answers.
Timing: 5 mins
4. To check the answers, read/play the script at a natural, reasonable speed. Students listen and check their answers. This is intended to give the students some listening exam practice.
Timing: 3 mins
5. Once you have read the text, give your class 1–2 minutes to discuss the answers. Then read the text again at the same speed. Students use the second listening to double-check their answers and deal with any queries.

Answers

- | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 2. J | 3. K | 4. B | 5. I | 6. H |
| 7. C | 8. G | 9. L | 10. A | 11. E | 12. D |

Suggested follow-up activities

You could give out an actual sample listening paper and get students to check the answers to the quiz below with the relevant parts of the test. You could extend the task further by asking what type of task each one is.

A sample listening paper can be found in the **Handbook for Teachers**

<http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications/first/exam-update-for-2015/>

Additional Information

In Paper 3, candidates may be tested on their understanding of gist, main points, detail or specific information, or their ability to deduce meaning from a text. They may listen to monologues or interacting speakers from a variety of sources. The paper contains four parts and there are 30 questions in total.

In Part 1, the multiple-choice section, candidates will hear eight short, unrelated extracts of approximately 30 seconds each. Before each extract, candidates hear a question and they have to choose the answer from three choices.

In Part 2, candidates will hear a monologue. The text lasts 3-4 minutes. Candidates are required to complete 10 sentences with the information heard on the recording.

In Part 3, multiple matching, candidates hear five short related monologues of approximately 30 seconds each. They then must choose the correct answer for each of the five questions from eight possible options.

In Part 4, candidates hear a dialogue lasting 3-4 minutes. There are seven multiple-choice questions, each with three options.

The number of questions in each section does not change from one paper to another. Candidates hear each section twice, and the test lasts approximately 40 minutes.

Candidates must write all their answers on a separate answer sheet. They may write on the question paper as they listen, but must transfer answers to the answer sheet. Five minutes are allocated at the end of the test for candidates to do this. Candidates show their answers by shading the lozenge or by writing out their answers for Part 2.

Each question carries 1 mark. The total score is then adjusted to give a mark out of 40, which is 20% of the total exam. Parts 1, 3 and 4 are marked by computer; Part 2 is marked by trained, experienced markers.

Classroom Handout 1

How much do you know about the B2 First Listening paper? Match the questions on the left with the correct answers on the right.

The first one has been done for you as an example.

1	How many parts are there in the Listening test?	a	one
2	How many questions are there?	b	twice
3	How many questions does each part have?	c	on the question paper
4	How many times do you hear the extracts?	d	Parts 1, 3 and 4 are computer-marked; Part 2 is marked by trained markers.
5	How long is the Listening test?	e	30 marks; 20% of the total FCE exam
6	Where do candidates write their final answers?	f	4
7	Where do candidates write their answers while they are listening?	g	during the 5 minutes' transfer time allowed at the end of the test
8	When should candidates write their answers on the answer sheet?	h	on a separate answer sheet
9	How do candidates write their answers?	i	approximately 40 minutes
10	How many marks is each question worth?	j	30
11	What is the total number of marks awarded?	k	Part 1: 8; Part 2: 10; Part 3: 5; Part 4: 7
12	Who marks the Listening test?	l	they shade the lozenge or write their answer out for Part 2

Overview Text

In Paper 3, candidates may be tested on their understanding of gist, main points, detail or specific information, or their ability to deduce meaning from a text. They may listen to monologues or interacting speakers from a variety of sources. The paper contains **four parts** and there are **30 questions** in total.

In Part 1, the multiple-choice section, candidates will hear **eight** short, unrelated extracts of approximately 30 seconds each. Before each extract, candidates hear a question and they have to choose the answer from three choices.

In Part 2, candidates will hear a monologue. The text lasts 3-4 minutes. Candidates are required to complete **10 sentences** with the information heard on the recording.

In Part 3, multiple matching, candidates hear five short related monologues of approximately 30 seconds each. They then must choose the correct answer for each of the **five questions** from eight possible options.

In Part 4, candidates hear a dialogue lasting 3-4 minutes. There are **seven multiple-choice questions**, each with three options.

The number of questions in each section **does not change** from one paper to another. Candidates **hear each section twice**, and the test lasts approximately **40 minutes**.

Candidates must write all their answers **on a separate answer sheet**. They may write on **the question paper as they listen**, but must transfer answers to the answer sheet. **Five minutes are allocated at the end of the test** for candidates to do this. Candidates show their answers by **shading the lozenge or by writing out their answers for Part 2**.

Each question carries **1 mark**. The total score is then adjusted to give a mark out of **40**, which is **20%** of the total exam. **Parts 1, 3 and 4 are marked by computer; Part 2 is marked by trained, experienced markers.**