CAMBRIDGE English

Cambridge Digital
English Qualifications

A guide to **hybrid marking** of Writing for exam centres



Same accuracy, faster results

We have introduced hybrid marking of Writing for levels A2, B1, B2 and C1 of Cambridge English Qualifications Digital.

Hybrid marking means that an automarker is used alongside human examiners. This approach combines the benefits of technological efficiency and human expertise to deliver faster results with the same level of accuracy as fully human-marked exams. Each of our automarkers is trained on tens of thousands of exam-specific candidate responses as marked by certified Cambridge English Qualifications examiners.

Which levels?

Hybrid marking is currently used for the following exams:

- A2 Key Digital
- A2 Key for Schools Digital
- B1 Preliminary Digital
- B1 Preliminary for Schools Digital
- B2 First Digital
- B2 First for Schools Digital
- C1 Advanced Digital

For a deeper dive into automarking, read our full whitepaper, **'Automarking in language assessment: Key considerations for best practice'.**



A hybrid approach: benefit from technological efficiency and human expertise

Each exam has its own automarker, which is trained on tens of thousands of candidate responses marked by certified Cambridge English Qualifications examiners. They are designed to complement human markers, not replace them.

Automarker scores are only released after passing several quality control checks. These checks include a confidence score model that identifies automarked responses that should be reviewed by a human marker. These checks also include systems that look for unusual answers to catch possible malpractice, which are also reviewed by human markers.

As an additional quality procedure, humans mark a percentage of responses. These are selected at random to monitor the performance of the automarker. This hybrid approach combines the efficiency of technology with the expertise and judgment of human markers. It means that candidates can receive either an automarker score or an examiner's score, and that any automarker score will be as reliable as that of a certified Cambridge English Qualifications examiner.



Prepare the same way

Preparation for both the digital and paper-based exams remains unchanged. The test construct is the same and candidates should write for the person indicated by the task. We have ensured the technology aligns with the established assessment criteria for Writing.



Receive results more quickly

We are committed to the fairness, quality and reliability of our assessments. Automarking provides the same results, but even more quickly.

Your questions answered

Will automarking be introduced for other CEFR levels?

C2 Proficiency remains solely human-marked for now. We will keep you informed about any future changes.

Will automarking be introduced for paper-based exams?

All paper-based exams will continue to be exclusively human-marked for the time being.

Will the standards remain the same?

Each automarker is consistent and keeps the same standards over time. We will review each automarker periodically, but standards will not change.

What is the enquiry process for automarked results?

The process remains unchanged. If a candidate believes that their exam result is not fair, they must contact their exam centre immediately.

When was automarking of Writing introduced?

Some Writing papers have been hybrid-marked since Cambridge English Qualifications Digital were launched in March 2024. We have since worked on a white paper explaining our approach.

How are human examiners trained to mark when digital exam tasks are randomised?

Examiners are trained and certified on a representative range of tasks covering the core task types for the exam. There are quality assurance processes in place to monitor their marking quality.

What criteria do our automarkers evaluate?

The Cambridge English Qualifications Digital automarkers are trained to mark using the same mark scheme as human markers, such as Content, Language, Communicative Achievement and Organisation.

Is there a single automarker for all Cambridge English Qualifications Digital exams?

No. Each exam has its own automarker that is unique to that exam. For example, in the B1 Preliminary exam, the automarker has been uniquely trained on B1 Preliminary responses, as marked by certified B1 Preliminary examiners.

To learn more about Cambridge English Qualifications Digital in general, go to

cambridge.org/qualifications-digital

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