



Cambridge

English Qualifications

A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools for exams from 2020

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1–5 of the Reading and Writing paper. Correct answers in Parts 1–5 are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
28	140	Level B1
20	120	Level A2
13	100	Level A1
7	82*	–

*minimum score reported for A2 Key

Writing

The Writing section consists of Parts 6 and 7 of the Reading and Writing paper. Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level. Parts 6 and 7 are marked using assessment scales which are linked to the CEFR. 0–5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Organisation; and Language. There are a possible 15 marks for Part 6 and 15 possible marks for Part 7. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 15 possible marks for each part. In total, there are 30 possible marks in the Writing paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
26	140	Level B1
18	120	Level A2
12	100	Level A1
8	82*	–

*minimum score reported for A2 Key

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 25 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
23	140	Level B1
17	120	Level A2
11	100	Level A1
6	82*	–

*minimum score reported for A2 Key

Speaking

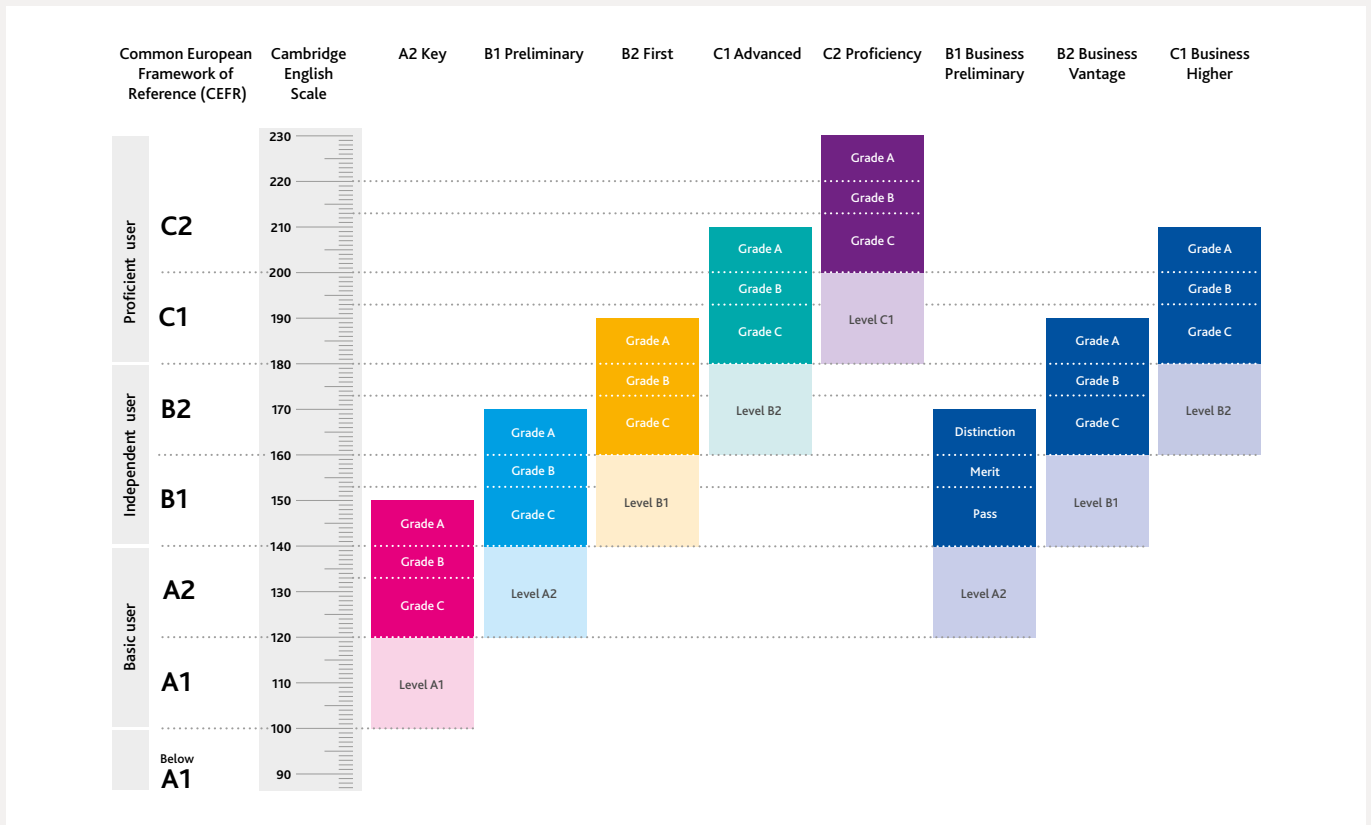
Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners certificated to examine at the level. Candidate speaking performances are assessed using scales which are linked to the CEFR. The assessor gives 0–5 marks for each of the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. Marks for each of these criteria are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then multiplied by three. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 45 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
41	140	Level B1
27	120	Level A2
18	100	Level A1
10	82*	–

*minimum score reported for A2 Key

The Cambridge English Scale explained

A guide to converting practice test scores to Cambridge English Scale scores



Most Cambridge English Qualifications are now reporting results on the Cambridge English Scale.

For B2 First, B2 First for Schools, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency, candidates receive an individual score for each of the four skills – reading, writing, listening, speaking – and Use of English. In the live exams, each of the skills and Use of English are equally weighted, and a candidate's overall score is calculated by adding all of the individual scores together and dividing by five (and then rounding to the nearest whole number).

For B1 Preliminary, B1 Preliminary for Schools and B1 Business Preliminary, B2 Business Vantage and C1 Business Higher, candidates receive an individual score for the four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. In the live exams, each skill is equally weighted, and a candidate's overall score is calculated by adding all of the individual scores together and dividing by four (and then rounding to the nearest whole number).

For A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools, candidates receive an individual score for each paper in the exam – Reading and Writing, Listening, and Speaking. In the live exams, the Reading and Writing paper tests two skills so the score is doubled. A candidate's overall score is calculated by adding all of the individual scores together and dividing by four (and then rounding to the nearest whole number).

A candidate's grade and Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level are based on their performance across the whole qualification, and there is no requirement to achieve a minimum score in each paper.

The following tables can be used as guidance to help you convert practice test scores to Cambridge English Scale scores.

Please note that these only apply when using official Cambridge English practice tests.

The conversion tables are intended to help you provide an indication of your students' readiness to take the relevant qualification. The scores you provide may not always reflect the results the students may achieve in a Cambridge English live exam. They should not be used to try to predict precise scores in the live exam, but can be a useful diagnostic tool, indicating areas of relative strength and weakness.

The scores needed on any given exam to achieve the scores on the Cambridge English Scale shown in the tables below will vary due to a number of factors, so scores close to CEFR boundaries need to be reviewed carefully. We recommend that this is approximately three Cambridge English Scale score points above and below the score needed to achieve the level, e.g. 157–163 for Level B2. Students who achieve only slightly higher than the Cambridge English Scale score for a given level on a practice test may not achieve that level in the live exam, and we recommend that they continue working to improve so that they reach the desired level.