

Cambridge English Legal

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After the exam

How to use this guide

You can print this document if you wish, but the best way to use Information for candidates is to read it on screen. Click the links in the document to access other useful online resources such as videos and practice tests, and to find the information you need.

Why take Cambridge English: Legal?

Whether you are a law student or a practising lawyer, if you want to work in an international legal setting, *Cambridge English: Legal* can provide concrete evidence of your level of English.

The exam is designed to determine whether candidates whose first language is not English have an adequate level of English to function efficiently, in terms of language ability, in the international legal environment. It is based on realistic tasks of the kind legal practitioners would be expected to encounter in their daily working lives.

Cambridge English: Legal is linked to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) frameworks of levels. The exam is set at CEFR Levels B2–C1. Results at Level C1 may be used as evidence of the level of language necessary to work at a managerial or professional level or to follow a course of academic study at university level.

To ensure that the exam accurately reflects the realities of the international legal environment, it has been produced in co-operation with TransLegal, Europe's leading firm of lawyer-linguists. For more information about TransLegal, please visit:

www.translegal.com







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Why take a Cambridge English exam?

Cambridge English Language Assessment offers the world's leading range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English. More than 4 million people in over 130 countries take Cambridge English exams each year.

Develop effective communication skills

 Cambridge English examinations cover all four language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing – as well as testing your use of grammar and vocabulary. They include a range of different types of question which test how well you can use English, so that you develop the full range of skills you need to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts.

A world of opportunity

Thousands of employers, universities and government departments around the
world recognise Cambridge English exams, so a Cambridge English exam is a
valuable qualification to have when you need to provide evidence of your level of
English for a job or when you apply for a place to study.

Quality you can trust

• We test all our questions on candidates before we put them into a 'live' examination. This makes sure that they are fair, at the right level, that the content is suitable for all candidates and that you have enough time to answer them. You can therefore be sure that your result is a true measure of your level of English.







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What does Cambridge English: Legal involve?

This booklet is a brief introduction to *Cambridge English: Legal*. We show examples from each part of the exam, but in some cases we do not show the full text or all the questions. If you would like to see a full sample paper, you can download one **here**.

Papers/time allowed/marks %	Content
1 Test of Reading 1 hour 15 minutes 25% of the marks for the exam	6 parts54 questions
2 Test of Writing 1 hour 15 minutes 25% of the marks for the exam	2 partsPart 1: letter (120–180 words)Part 2: memorandum (200–250 words)
3 Test of Listening About 40 minutes 25% of the marks for the exam	4 parts30 questions
4 Test of Speaking 16 minutes per pair of candidates 25% of the marks for the exam	• 4 parts







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1 Test of Reading

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Part 1

There are two tasks in Part 1. For each task you have to read a text in which there are six gaps. After the text, there is a choice of four possible answers for each gap and you have to choose the right one.

The example below is a text from a reference book on contracts. Read the text and try to find the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap (7-12). Remember that you have to read two texts like this one and answer 12 questions in the real exam.

PROVISION FOR LATE CHARGES UNDER LEASE

7	Α	derive	В	acquire	С	collect	D	incur
8	Α	affirm	В	classify	С	ascertain	D	locate
9	Α	contained	В	limited	С	held	D	bound
10	A	imposed	В	dictated	С	obliged	D	required
11	Α	owing	В	scheduled	С	due	D	unpaid
12	Α	practising	В	exercising	С	commanding	D	undertaking







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Part 2

In Part 2 of the Test of Reading, you have to read a text in which there are 12 gaps. You have to find the right word for each gap. Each gap requires one word only.

In the example below, the text is part of an extract from a journal article about competition. Read the text and try to find the best word for each gap. The first gap (0) is an example and the correct answer is 'there'. In the real exam, the text is longer and there are seven more gaps for which candidates have to find the right word.

PRINCIPLES OF COMPETITION

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Part 3

There are two tasks in Part 3. For each task you have to read a text in which there are gaps. In the box to the right of the text there is a 'base' word for each numbered gap. You have to use this base word to make a new word which will fill the gap and complete the sentence.

The text below is a news item from a legal journal. Have a look at the gaps (31–36) and see if you can find the correct answers from the base words given. Remember that in the real exam there is another text with six more missing words for you to find.

Ruling on Proceeds of Crime Act

Uncertainty had arisen because Section 328 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 makes it an (33) for a person to be involved in an arrangement which he knows or suspects would (34) (by whatever means) the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property by or on behalf of another person.

Lawyers had been taking the view that to avoid (35)proceedings or prosecution when in receipt of suspicious information from clients under circumstances of legal privilege, they had to make a (36) to the National Criminal Intelligence Service and obtain consent to continue.

- 31 EVADE
- 32 REGULAR
- 33 OFFEND
- 34 FACILE
- 35 DISCIPLINE
- 36 DISCLOSE







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Part 4

In Part 4, you have to read six statements and a text which is divided into four sections or four short texts. You have to match each statement to a paragraph or text, so you have to be able to read the text quickly and find the information you need. You will have to use some paragraphs or texts more than once.

In the example below, we show you a text from a journal article about client selection. Read the statements (38–42) and try to decide which paragraph (A, B, C or D) includes information to support each statement.

- A financial outcome for a firm may be the reverse of that intended.
- 39 It can be prudent for a firm to move into a specialty that is less affected by fluctuations in the economy.
- 40 A bad decision may result in a drain on a firm's resources.
- 41 It is undesirable for commercial pressures to determine the continuation or otherwise of representation.
- 42 A firm may underestimate the requirements of an aspect of law in which it lacks experience.

The Prudent Course

Ethical and Practical Considerations in Client Selection

- A Like many other segments of society, law firms keenly feel the effects of an economic downturn. Corporations carefully examine their bottom line, and ask lawyers to deliver more for less. In such circumstances a law firm has several options to increase its profitability. Seeking to enhance or establish a practice in an area of law that seems impervious to economic swings, or in an emerging area with a high demand for legal services, is one logical response. In fact, it is a most judicious response if a firm is willing to expend the resources time and money to become immersed in the area.
- Law firms with a long-range plan are generally better positioned to weather an economic downturn. A problem arises, however, when a firm, without a plan for survival, reacts precipitously when its client base and/or income begin to decrease dramatically. For example, a response of this nature may cause a firm that focuses on regulatory or transactional work confident of its attorneys' analytical, research, and writing abilities to decide that it is competent to begin litigation practice. Such a firm is not likely to appreciate the nuances of the practice area, the importance of being familiar with how the court systems work, and the in-depth knowledge required of the procedural and evidentiary rules.
- A second reaction to a weakened economy that results in fewer new clients is to keep existing clients when prudence and objectivity counsel withdrawal from a case. Another option is to become less discriminating when accepting clients. But feeling the effects of a weakened economy should not cause a firm to panic and resort to accepting clients indiscriminately. On the contrary, a firm needs to remain vigilant and adhere to its established client selection process. Likewise, if ethical or practical concerns dictate that a firm should no longer act for a client, the firm should not allow the amount of revenue it receives from the client to cloud its judgment.
- Pailure to maintain rigorous standards for client selection can jeopardize an attorney's reputation, increase stress and decrease morale within the firm, and ultimately have a negative impact on the firm, rather than provide the remuneration the firm envisioned in entering into a relationship with an improperly screened client. If a firm has to assign lawyers to represent it in charges of malpractice, or has to retain outside counsel for that purpose, its bottom line is being adversely affected. Potentially, these lawyers will have to spend several hours each day documenting every detail of every conversation with in-house counsel, and a substantial amount of time apprising management of evolving issues and discussing how to resolve them.







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Part 5

In Part 5, you have to read a text in which there are seven gaps. Each gap represents a missing sentence and the first gap (0) is an example. After the text, there are eight sentences and you have to decide which sentence best fits each gap. There will always be one sentence which doesn't fit any of the gaps.

The following text is an extract from a letter of advice from a lawyer to a client. Read the text and the sentences (A–H) and try to decide which sentence belongs in each gap. The sentence you need for the first gap (0) is H.

You have requested advice regarding your legal position in a suit filed against you by Jermain Equipment Co. (the "Claimant") related to an equipment rental agreement. You have been sued for damages based on an alleged breach of contract.

- A Specifically, it obviates the need for an in-depth factual analysis of the shareholder's participation.
- **B** As a result of this action, the interpretation of the clause of the original agreement relating to rental payments became a matter of dispute.
- C However, there is an argument, increasingly supported by judges and prominent legal scholars, that provided the inadequacy is later cured, as it was in this case, the would-be company should be given the status of a company in fact at the time of contract.
- D In a case of this nature, it would operate as an injustice to permit such a contention to be advanced.
- **E** If not, your chances of avoiding liability are greatly diminished.
- F The Company has failed to make contractual payments despite receiving and using the equipment.
- **G** However, there is a significant development in the law towards allowing claims only against those who actively participated in the management of such a company.
- **H** That is to say, facts and circumstances may come to light which would require us to significantly modify our advice.







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Part 6

In Part 6, you have to read a single text and answer some multiple-choice questions about it. There are four choices for each question and the order of the question follows the order of the information in the text.

In the example below we show you part of an extract from a reference book on contracts and four of the seven questions which appeared in the real exam. Read the text and try to choose the right answer (A, B, C or D) for each question shown (49–52).

9.2 Types of Mistake

The word *mistake* is generally used in the law of contracts to refer to an erroneous belief – 'a belief that is not in accord with the facts.' To avoid confusion, it should not be used, as it sometimes is in common speech, to refer to an improvident act, such as the making of a contract, that results from such an erroneous belief. Nor should it be used, as it occasionally is by courts and writers, to refer to a situation in which two parties attach different meanings to their language.

An erroneous belief is not a mistake unless it relates to the facts as they exist at the time the contract is made. A poor prediction of events that are expected to occur after the contract is made is not a mistake. The law of mistake deals only with the risk of error relating to the factual basis of agreement – the state of affairs at the time of agreement. It does not deal with the risk of error as to future matters. Cases of poor prediction are dealt with by the doctrines of impracticability and frustration, which are thought to be more suited to adjusting the relationship between the parties under their agreement.

In some cases, however, the line between a mistake as to an existing fact and a poor prediction as to a future event is hard to draw, especially when the parties have extrapolated from existing facts to set their expectations as to future use. Leasco v Taussig is an example. In February 1971, Taussig, who had been an officer at Leasco's subsidiary MKI, made a contract with Leasco to buy MKI. In May, however, he sought to avoid the contract on the ground that the parties had erred in estimating MKI's pre-tax earnings for the period ending with September 1971 as \$200,000. In fact the company lost \$12,000, and Taussig argued the parties had shared a mistake as to the existing fact 'that they were dealing with a company which would earn \$200,000 in the fiscal year ending September 30, 1971.' The court, however, held that this was merely a poor prediction as to a future event. Therefore, each party bore a risk that the earnings might not be as estimated, and each was bound even though, 'as it turned out, one party got a better bargain than anticipated.'

line 48

49 What is the writer doing in the first paragraph?

- A explaining why a word is misused
- B identifying the appropriate legal usage of a term
- **C** giving examples of common legal errors
- **D** suggesting a wider interpretation of a particular term
- 50 In the second paragraph, what does the writer say about cases involving poor prediction
 - A They occur more often than cases involving a mistake of fact.
 - **B** They do not normally result from a breakdown in relationships.
 - C They are not dealt with under the law of mistake.
 - **D** They can be more difficult to resolve than mistakes of fact.
- 51 Taussig argued that he was not held by his contract with Leasco because
 - A Leasco's anticipated takeover of MKI had failed.
 - B MKI's financial record was worse than he thought.
 - C MKI's projected income had been miscalculated.
 - Leasco had underestimated the value of MKI's stock.
- What does the word 'bargain' in line 48 refer to?
 - A the expectation that MKI's turnover would rise
 - B the terms of the contract working in Leasco's favour
 - a high degree of competence on the part of Leasco's lawyers
 an attempt by Taussig to enforce the terms of the contract







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2 Test of Writing

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes

Part 1

For Part 1 of the Test of Writing, you have to write a letter of 120–180 words in response to a letter that is provided. You have to include the points specified in the 'handwritten' notes. Remember to use the normal conventions of letter writing in your answer, but you don't have to include postal addresses.

The letter you have to read presents five points to which you must respond in your answer, but you should also take advantage of the opportunity to expand on the information given to demonstrate the range of your English.

In the example below, you are a lawyer representing Ms Sandra Meyer. Ms Meyer is the subject of a disciplinary investigation by her employer, Scansoft. Robert Woodly, Director of Human Resources at Scansoft, has written to you with a statement of Scansoft's position.

Read the letter from Mr Woodly, on which you have already made some handwritten notes. You have to write a reply to Mr Woodly on behalf of Ms Meyer and you should use all the information in your notes.

	I have been informed that you are acting on behalf of Ms S Meyer.	
She says everyone's	Ms Meyer is the subject of a disciplinary investigation, following the discovery of confidential documents in her briefcase as she was leaving the premises on 1st June.	
doing it. Why?	She claimed she was taking them home to work on them overnight. This is contrary to company policy.	
Discrimination?	She was stopped by a security guard at the gate, and she was asked to present her briefcase for inspection. When she did so, the confidential documents were found.	Staff not told.
	The company takes a very serious view of such behaviour and, if the investigation confirms the circumstances outlined above, this will lead to termination of employment.	
A meeting -	While the investigation is in progress, Ms Meyer will be suspended without pay.	
suggest time	Yours sincerely,	Unusual!
and place.	*Robert Woodly	Normal company
	Director of Human Resources Scansoft	procedures?







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Part 2

For Part 2 of the Test of Writing, you have to write a memorandum of 200–250 words.

The task includes four content points which you must cover in your answer, but remember that you may have to write more for some points than others. You should develop law-related topics and discuss law-related issues in a non-technical way in your memorandum.

Have a look at the example below and think how you would answer this question.

You **must** answer this question.

You are leaving on an extended course of study and are transferring your case load to a colleague. A client, a major supermarket, is involved in a dispute concerning the quality of fruit delivered by a long-time supplier.

Write a **memorandum** to your colleague to brief him on the case. Your memorandum should:

- give some information on the client
- explain what the client has done to try to find a solution
- present the options available to the client
- outline possible results of legal action.







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3 Test of Listening

Time: 40 minutes (approximately)

In the exam you will hear each recording twice.

You can find the recordings for the tasks below here.

Part 1

In Part 1 of the Test of Listening, you have to listen to three short recordings set in a range of legal contexts. The recordings may be either monologues or dialogues and there is an introductory sentence on the question paper which explains the situation.

For each recording, there are two multiple-choice questions, each with three options. The questions may be about the purpose of a speaker or attitude, opinion or agreement in dialogues. They may focus on what one speaker says, or may ask you to listen for the gist of the whole text.

Below we show you the questions for two of the three recordings from Part 1 of the Test of Listening. For each extract, listen to the recording and try to choose the best answer (A, B or C) for each question. In the real exam, remember that there is one more recording and there are two more questions to answer.

Extract One

You will hear a trainee lawyer who works for an international law firm talking about his six-month placement in the firm's Milan office.

- 1 He feels that the Milan office was a good choice for the placement because
 - A he had already had contact with some of the people there.
 - B it provided a contrast to his usual working environment.
 - C it gave him the chance to work in new areas of the law.
- 2 He believes that as a result of his placement he is now
 - A more accurate in his work generally.
 - B more able to delegate work effectively.
 - C more aware of the value of some of his usual work.

Extract Two

You will hear a conversation between a lawyer and her client.

- 3 What problem does the client have?
 - A A neighbour is suing him for damages.
 - **B** He's unable to continue with certain aspects of his business.
 - **C** The local authority is accusing him of contravening its zoning laws.
- 4 How does the lawyer feel about the forthcoming hearing?
 - A unsure whether it will finally resolve the matter or not.
 - **B** concerned about the evidence the opposition will bring to it.
 - **C** worried that it will rely on the understanding of technical detail.







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Part 2

The recording for Part 2 is a longer discussion or interview lasting 3–4 minutes. You have to listen to the recording and answer five multiple-choice questions about what you hear. There are three options for each question and they follow the order of information in the recording.

In this example, you hear part of a consultation between a lawyer and a new client, Anna Krupa, who is planning to set up her own business. You have to listen to the recording and choose the right answer (A, B or C) for each of the questions below.

- 7 The law firm has previously represented Anna's husband in
 - A a dispute involving his inheritance.
 - B setting up his own commercial venture.
 - **C** an insurance claim regarding his company.
- 8 What does Anna tell the lawyer about her current situation?
 - A She is in full-time employment at present.
 - **B** She is completing a course of further study.
 - **C** She is putting resources into ideas of her own.
- 9 What made Anna decide to leave her last employer?
 - A She was unable to get on with her new boss.
 - **B** She felt she was not making sufficient progress in her career.
 - **C** She was dissatisfied with a change to her employee benefits package.
- Anna thinks that the restrictive covenant in her previous employment agreement
 - A is no longer binding on her.
 - **B** imposes limits on where she can work.
 - **C** prevents her from disclosing company policy.
- 11 What is Anna's next priority for her proposed business venture?
 - A ensuring that her new invention is protected by a patent
 - B establishing the most economic way of moving forward
 - C finding the right employees and appropriate office space









Part 3

In Part 3, you will hear a recording containing information which lasts 3–4 minutes. There are then nine incomplete sentences which summarise the information in the recording. You have to listen to the recording and find the correct information to complete each sentence.

For most of the answers you will need to listen for a single word phrase (usually no more than three words).

The example below is an announcement at a seminar about a future conference on the subject of taxation law in South America. You have to listen to the recording and complete the sentences.

Conference on tax incentives in Latin America 17 th –18 th March
The conference will be useful for
(12) as well as corporate lawyers.
Early registration allows young lawyers, university teachers
and (13) to pay a lower fee.
IBA members registering after 18 th February pay a conference fee of
(14)
Delegates get materials in advance plus a week's access
to the association's (15)
Part of the conference is being organised as a
(16) for young lawyers.
On day one, sessions will focus on tax issues in sectors such as
financial services and the (17) and industries.
On day two, the sectors focused on include ecotourism,
utilities and (18)
Each session will include both a presentation and a
(19) on a particular issue.
Once fees are paid, the organisers will provide documentation
for delegates who need to obtain a (20)







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Part 4

In Part 4 you will hear five short recordings in which five different speakers talk about the same topic. For each speaker, there are two tasks, each with six options. You have to match each speaker to one of the options for each task. There is one option which you do not need to use.

In the following example, five different employees of a law firm called Haddiscoe are talking about working for the company. You have to listen to the recording and match each speaker to the thing which impressed them about working for the company initially (Task One) and what each speaker regards as the most valuable experience they have gained whilst with the firm (Task Two).

You will hear the recording twice. While you listen you must complete both tasks.

TASK ONE

For questions 21-25, choose from the list A-F the thing that impressed each speaker about the firm initially.

A the firm's recruitment procedures

Speaker 1 (21)

B the attitude of immediate colleagues

Speaker 2 (22)

C the firm's ambitious plans for the future

Speaker 3 (23)

D the range of work available to junior staff

Speaker 4 (24)

E the flexible working arrangements on offer

Speaker 5 (25)

F the image projected by the firm's literature

TASK TWO

For questions 26 - 30, choose from the list A - F what each speaker regards as the most valuable experience they have gained whilst with the firm.

A getting involved in staff training

Speaker 1 (26)

B learning to choose which projects to work on

Speaker 2 (27)

C being involved with high-profile clients

Speaker 3 (28)

D working with the firm's other branches

Speaker 4 (29)

E being given responsibility for whole projects

Speaker 5 (30)

F working with highly knowledgeable colleagues

colleagues







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4 Test of Speaking

Time: 16 minutes per pair of candidates

You take the Test of Speaking with another candidate.

Part 1 - Interview

In this first part of the Test of Speaking, the examiner who talks to you (the interlocutor) will lead a discussion with both of you. You will have to answer questions about yourself and about your legal studies and/or legal work experience, such as:

- What area of the law do you find the most interesting? (Why?)
- In your opinion, is studying law more difficult than studying other subjects?
- How do lawyers advertise their services in your country?

This part of the test takes about 2 minutes.

Part 2 - Long turn

In this part of the test you have to speak for 1 minute without interruption. The interlocutor will give you a choice of two law-related topics and you will have 1 minute to choose your topic and prepare your talk. You may have to give information and/or express and justify opinions.

Your partner will get a different set of topics to choose from, but you should pay attention when they are speaking because the interlocutor will ask each of you to ask a question after the other has spoken.

Have a look at the set of Part 2 tasks below. Choose one and think about what you would say. Prepare to talk for 1 minute on the topic you choose. If you want, you may use the three prompts to help you structure your talk.

Task 1A

Contract Law

- the most important points of a contract
- · what effect an oral contract has
- what happens if a contract is broken

Task 1B

English Use In International Business Law

- the effect of the increased use of the English language in business transactions
- the level of English needed
- the importance of language in law







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Part 3 - Collaborative task

Part 3 of the Test of Speaking tests your ability to take part in a discussion with the other candidate and work towards reaching a decision. You have to work with your partner to carry out a task based on some verbal and written instructions which the examiner will give you.

This part lasts 4 minutes and you have to talk with your partner for about 3 minutes.

Have a look at the example of a Part 3 task about the work of a commercial lawyer below. Consider each of the three discussion points and think about what you would say.

Task 21

The Work of a Commercial Lawyer

You are preparing a presentation on the work of the commercial lawyer for a group of students interested in entering the legal profession. Decide what information to give the students.

Discussion points:

- whether to specialise or offer a wider service
- amount of time spent doing court work and office work
- different ways in which clients are charged for work

Part 4 - Discussion

In this part of the test you have to take part in a discussion with the other candidate related to the topic of the task you did in Part 3. The interlocutor will ask both of you some questions.

Here are some of the questions the interlocutor asked in Part 4 after the Part 3 discussion about the work of a commercial lawyer:

- Do you think commercial lawyers' associations are a good idea?
- In what ways can communication with lawyers in other countries be useful?







Practice materials

If you would like more practice material to help you prepare for the exam, there are past papers and a full sample paper available free to download **here**.







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Results Online

Our free Online Results Service is the quickest and easiest way to access your exam results. Signing up to this service will mean you receive an email as soon as your results have been released. You can then go online and check your results.

You can register **here**.

You will need your Candidate ID and Secret Number from your Confirmation of Entry. We recommend that you register promptly so that you are ready to log in quickly and easily on the day the results are released.

What people have said about Cambridge English: Legal

"Cambridge English: Legal is a perfect benchmark for legal professionals and law students who want to stay competitive in international legal practice."

Sang Uk Ha, Adjunct Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Law School, South Korea

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