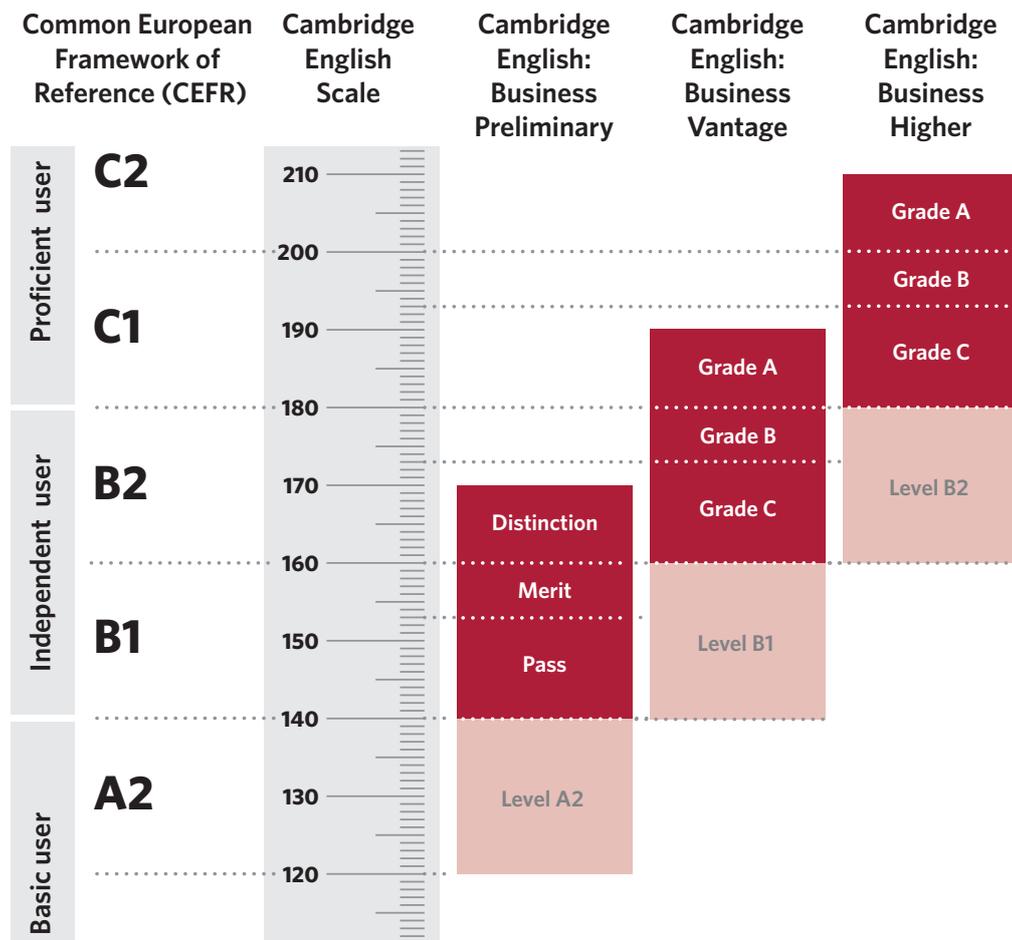


Cambridge English

The Cambridge English Scale explained

A guide to converting *Cambridge English: Business Certificates* practice test scores to Cambridge English Scale scores



Cambridge English: Business Preliminary, Vantage and Higher will be reporting results on the Cambridge English Scale from February 2016.

Candidates receive an individual score for each of the four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. In the live exams, each of the skills are 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). A candidate’s grade and CEFR level are based on their performance across the whole test, 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 practice tests.

The conversion tables are intended to help you provide an indication of your students’ readiness to take the relevant exam. 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 test to achieve the scores on the Cambridge English Scale shown in the tables below will vary due to a number of factors, so borderline scores need to be reviewed carefully. The borderline is approximately three Cambridge English Scale score points above and below the score needed to achieve the level, e.g. 137–143 for Level B1. 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.

Cambridge English BEC Preliminary

Cambridge English: Business Preliminary

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1-7 of the Reading and Writing paper. Correct answers in Parts 1-7 are worth 1 mark each. There are 45 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
39	160	Level B2
30	140	Level B1
18	120	Level A2
9	102*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Preliminary

Writing

The Writing section consists of Parts 8-9 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 using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. Part 1 is worth 10 marks and Part 2 is worth 20 marks. There are 30 possible marks in the Writing section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
27	160	Level B2
20	140	Level B1
13	120	Level A2
8	102*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Preliminary

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
26	160	Level B2
20	140	Level B1
12	120	Level A2
6	102*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Preliminary

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners who are certificated to examine at the level. Candidate speaking performances are assessed using scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. The assessor gives a mark of 0-5 for each of the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0-5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then doubled. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 30 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
27	160	Level B2
18	140	Level B1
12	120	Level A2
7	102*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Preliminary

Cambridge English BEC Vantage

Cambridge English: Business Vantage

Reading

The Reading paper consists of 5 parts. Correct answers in Parts 1–5 are worth 1 mark each. There are 45 possible marks in the Reading paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
38	180	Level C1
27	160	Level B2
19	140	Level B1
10	122*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Vantage

Writing

The Writing paper consists of 2 parts. Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. Part 1 is worth 10 marks and Part 2 is worth 20 marks. There are 30 possible marks in the Writing section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
26	180	Level C1
18	160	Level B2
12	140	Level B1
7	122*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Vantage

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
25	180	Level C1
19	160	Level B2
13	140	Level B1
8	122*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Vantage

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners who are certificated to examine at the level. Candidate speaking performances are assessed using scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. The assessor gives a mark of 0–5 for each of the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement and this mark is doubled. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 30 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
27	180	Level C1
18	160	Level B2
12	140	Level B1
7	122*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Vantage

Cambridge English BEC Higher

Cambridge English: Business Higher

Reading

The Reading paper consists of 6 parts. Correct answers in Parts 1–6 are worth 1 mark each. There are 52 possible marks in the Reading paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
42	200	Level C2
32	180	Level C1
23	160	Level B2
14	142*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Higher

Writing

The Writing paper consists of 2 parts. Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. Part 1 is worth 10 marks and Part 2 is worth 20 marks. There are 30 possible marks in the Writing section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
26	200	Level C2
18	180	Level C1
12	160	Level B2
7	142*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Higher

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
24	200	Level C2
18	180	Level C1
13	160	Level B2
8	142*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Higher

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners who are certificated to examine at the level. Candidate speaking performances are assessed using scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. The assessor gives a mark of 0–5 for each of the following criteria: Grammatical Resource; Lexical Resource; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication and these marks are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement and this mark is multiplied by 5. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 75 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
68	200	Level C2
45	180	Level C1
30	160	Level B2
17	142*	-

*minimum score reported for Business Higher