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Cambridge ESOL

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Cambridge Key English Test 5

*Examination papers from
University of Cambridge
ESOL Examinations*



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A guide to KET

The KET examination is part of a group of examinations developed by Cambridge ESOL called the Cambridge Main Suite. The Main Suite consists of five examinations which have similar characteristics but are designed for different levels of English language ability. Within the five levels, KET is at Level A2 (Waystage) in the *Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment*. It has been accredited in the UK as an Entry Level 2 ESOL certificate in the National Qualifications Framework.

Examination	Council of Europe Framework Level	UK National Qualifications Framework Level
CPE Certificate of Proficiency in English	C2	3
CAE Certificate in Advanced English	C1	2
FCE First Certificate in English	B2	1
PET Preliminary English Test	B1	Entry 3
KET Key English Test	A2	Entry 2

KET is a popular exam with candidates who are learning English out of personal interest and for those who are studying for employment reasons. It is also useful preparation for higher level exams, such as PET (Preliminary English Test) and other Cambridge ESOL examinations.

KET is an excellent first step, helping you to build your confidence in English and measure your progress. If you can deal with everyday basic written and spoken communication (for example: read simple articles, understand signs and notices, write simple notes and emails), then this is the exam for you.

There are two versions of KET available: KET and KET for Schools. KET for Schools was introduced to meet the needs of the increasing number of younger candidates taking KET. Both KET and KET for Schools follow exactly the same format and the task types, testing focuses and level of the question papers are identical. The only difference in the two versions of the exams is that the content and treatment of topics in KET for Schools are particularly targeted at the interests and experience of younger people.

Topics

These are the topics used in the KET exam:

Clothes	People	Shopping
Daily life	Personal feelings, opinions and experiences	Social interaction
Entertainment and media	Personal identification	The natural world
Food and drink	Places and buildings	Transport
Health, medicine and exercise	School and study	Travel and holidays
Hobbies and leisure	Services	Weather
House and home		Work and jobs
Language		

KET content: an overview

Paper	Name	Timing	Content	Test focus
Paper 1	Reading/ Writing	1 hour 10 minutes	Nine parts: Five parts (Parts 1–5) test a range of reading skills with a variety of texts, ranging from very short notices to longer continuous texts. Parts 6–9 concentrate on testing basic writing skills.	Assessment of candidates' ability to understand the meaning of written English at word, phrase, sentence, paragraph and whole text level. Assessment of candidates' ability to produce simple written English, ranging from one-word answers to short pieces of continuous text.
Paper 2	Listening	30 minutes (including 8 minutes transfer time)	Five parts, ranging from short exchanges to longer dialogues and monologues.	Assessment of candidates' ability to understand dialogues and monologues in both informal and neutral settings on a range of everyday topics.
Paper 3	Speaking	8–10 minutes per pair of candidates	Two parts: In Part 1, candidates interact with an examiner. In Part 2, they interact with another candidate.	Assessment of candidates' ability to answer and ask questions about themselves and about factual, non-personal information.

*A guide to KET***Paper 1 Reading and Writing***Paper format*

The Reading section contains five parts. The Writing section contains four parts.

Number of questions

There is a total of 56 questions: 35 in Reading and 21 in Writing.

Sources

Authentic and adapted-authentic real-world notices, newspaper and magazine articles, simplified encyclopaedia entries.

Answering

Candidates indicate answers either by shading lozenges (Reading) or by writing answers (Writing) on an answer sheet.

Timing

1 hour 10 minutes.

Marks

Each item carries one mark, except for question 56 (Part 9), which is marked out of 5. This gives a total of 60 marks, which is weighted to a final mark out of 50. This represents 50% of the total marks for the whole examination.

Preparing for the Reading section

To prepare for the Reading section, you should read the type of English used in everyday life; for example, short newspaper and magazine articles, advertisements, tourist brochures, instructions and recipes, etc. It is also a good idea to practise reading short communicative messages, including notes, emails and cards. Remember, you won't always need to understand every word to be able to do a task in the exam.

Before the exam, think about the time you need to do each part and check you know how to record your answers on the answer sheet (see page 146).

Part	Task type and format	Task focus	Number of questions
1	Matching. Matching five prompt sentences to eight notices, plus an example.	Gist understanding of real-world notices. Reading for main message.	5
2	Three-option multiple choice. Five sentences (plus an integrated example) with connecting link of topic or story line.	Reading and identifying appropriate lexical item.	5

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3	<p>Three-option multiple choice.</p> <p>Five discrete three-option multiple-choice items (plus an example) focusing on verbal exchange patterns.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Matching.</p> <p>Five matching items (plus an example) in a continuous dialogue, selecting from eight possible responses.</p>	<p>Functional language.</p> <p>Reading and identifying the appropriate response.</p>	10
4	<p>Right/Wrong/Doesn't say OR Three-option multiple choice.</p> <p>One long text or three short texts adapted from authentic newspaper or magazine articles.</p> <p>Seven three-option multiple-choice items or Right/Wrong/Doesn't say items, plus an example.</p>	<p>Reading for detailed understanding and main idea(s).</p>	7
5	<p>Multiple-choice cloze.</p> <p>A text adapted from an original source, for example encyclopaedia entries, newspaper and magazine articles.</p> <p>Eight three-option multiple-choice items, plus an integrated example.</p>	<p>Reading and identifying appropriate structural words (auxiliary verbs, modal verbs, determiners, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, etc.).</p>	8

Preparing for the Writing section

To prepare for the Writing section, you should take the opportunity to write short messages in real-life situations, for example to your teacher or other students. These can include invitations, arrangements for meetings, apologies for missing a class, or notices about lost property. They can be handwritten or sent as email.

Before the exam, think about the time you need to do each part and check you know how to record your answers on the answer sheet (see page 147).

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Part	Task type and format	Task focus	Number of questions
6	Word completion. Five dictionary definition type sentences (plus one integrated example). Five words to identify and spell.	Reading and identifying appropriate lexical item, and spelling.	5
7	Open cloze. Text type that candidates can be expected to write, for example a short letter or email. Ten spaces to fill with one word (plus an integrated example) which must be spelled correctly.	Reading and identifying appropriate words, with a focus on structure and/or lexis.	10
8	Information transfer. Two short authentic texts (emails, adverts, etc.) to prompt completion of another text (form, note, etc.). Five spaces to fill with one or more words or numbers (plus an integrated example).	Reading and writing appropriate words or numbers, with a focus on content and accuracy.	5
9	Guided writing. Either a short input text or rubric to prompt a written response. Three messages to communicate in writing.	Writing a short message, note or postcard of 25–35 words.	1

Part 6

This part is about vocabulary. You have to produce words and spell them correctly. The words will all be linked to the same topic, for example jobs or food. You have to read a definition for each one and complete the word. The first letter of each word is given to help you.

Part 7

This part is about grammar and vocabulary. You have to complete a short, gapped text of the type you could be expected to write, such as a note and reply, or a short letter. You must spell all the missing words correctly.

Part 8

This part tests both reading and writing. You have to use the information in two short texts (for example a note, email or advertisement) to complete a document such as a form, notice, diary entry, etc. You will need to understand the vocabulary used on forms, for example *surname*, *date of birth*, etc. You will need to write only words or phrases in your answers, but you must spell correctly.

Part 9

You have to write a short message (25–35 words). You are told who you are writing to and why, and you must include three content points. To gain top marks, all three points must be included in your answer, so it is important to read the question carefully and plan what you are going to write. Before the exam, practise writing answers of the correct length. You will lose marks for writing fewer than 25 words, and it is not a good idea to write answers that are too long.

Mark Scheme for Part 9

There are five marks for Part 9. Minor grammatical and spelling mistakes are acceptable, but to get five marks you must write a clear message and include all three content points.

Mark	Criteria		
5	All three parts of the message clearly communicated. Only minor spelling errors or occasional grammatical errors.		
4	All three parts of the message communicated. Some non-impeding errors in spelling and grammar or some awkwardness of expression.		
3	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>All three parts of the message attempted. Expression requires interpretation by the reader and contains impeding errors in spelling and grammar.</td> <td>Two parts of the message clearly communicated. Only minor spelling errors or occasional grammatical errors.</td> </tr> </table>	All three parts of the message attempted. Expression requires interpretation by the reader and contains impeding errors in spelling and grammar.	Two parts of the message clearly communicated. Only minor spelling errors or occasional grammatical errors.
All three parts of the message attempted. Expression requires interpretation by the reader and contains impeding errors in spelling and grammar.	Two parts of the message clearly communicated. Only minor spelling errors or occasional grammatical errors.		
2	Only two parts of the message communicated. Some errors in spelling and grammar. The errors in expression may require patience and interpretation by the reader and impede communication.		
1	Only one part of the message communicated.		
0	Question unattempted, or totally incomprehensible response.		

*A guide to KET***Paper 2 Listening***Paper format*

This paper contains five parts.

Number of questions

25

Task types

Matching, multiple choice, gap-fill.

Sources

All texts are based on authentic situations, and each part is heard twice.

Answering

Candidates indicate answers either by shading lozenges (Parts 1–3) or by writing answers (Parts 4 and 5) on an answer sheet.

Timing

About 30 minutes, including 8 minutes to transfer answers.

Marks

Each item carries one mark. This gives a total of 25 marks, which represents 25% of the total marks for the examination.

Preparing for the Listening test

The best preparation for the Listening test is to listen to authentic spoken English for your level. Apart from in class, other sources of English include films, TV, DVDs, songs, the internet, English clubs, and other speakers of English, such as tourists, guides, friends and family.

You will hear the instructions for each task on the recording and see them on the exam paper. There are pauses in the recording to give you time to look at the questions and to write your answers. You should write your answers on the exam paper as you listen. You will have eight minutes at the end of the test to transfer your answers to the answer sheet (see page 148). Make sure you know how to do this and that you check your answers carefully.

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Part	Task type and format	Task focus	Number of questions
1	Three-option multiple choice. Short, neutral or informal dialogues. Five discrete three-option multiple-choice items with visuals (plus an example).	Listening to identify key information (times, prices, days of week, numbers, etc.).	5
2	Matching. Longer informal dialogue. Five items (plus an integrated example) and eight options.	Listening to identify key information.	5
3	Three-option multiple choice. Longer informal or neutral dialogue. Five three-option multiple-choice items (plus an integrated example).	Taking the 'role' of one of the speakers and listening to identify key information.	5
4	Gap-fill. Longer neutral or informal dialogue. Five gaps to fill with one or more words or numbers (plus an integrated example). Recognisable spelling is accepted, except with very high-frequency words (e.g. <i>bus</i> , <i>red</i>) or if spelling is dictated.	Listening and writing down information (including spelling of names, places, etc. as dictated on recording).	5
5	Gap-fill. Longer neutral or informal monologue. Five gaps to fill with one or more words or numbers (plus an integrated example). Recognisable spelling is accepted, except with very high-frequency words (e.g. <i>bus</i> , <i>red</i>) or if spelling is dictated.	Listening and writing down information (including spelling of names, places, etc. as dictated on recording).	5

*A guide to KET***Paper 3 Speaking***Paper format*

The paper contains two parts. The standard format for Paper 3 is two candidates and two examiners. One examiner acts only as an assessor and does not join in the conversation. The other examiner is called the interlocutor and manages the interaction by asking questions and setting up the tasks (see Paper 3 frames on pages 102–113).

Task types

Short exchanges with the interlocutor and an interactive task involving both candidates.

Timing

8–10 minutes per pair of candidates.

Marks

Candidates are assessed on their performance throughout the test. There are a total of 25 marks, making 25% of the total score for the whole examination.

Preparing for the Speaking test

Take every opportunity to practise your English with as many people as possible. Asking and answering questions in simple role plays provides useful practice. These role plays should focus on everyday language and situations, and involve questions

Part	Task type and format	Task focus	Timing
1	<p>Each candidate interacts with the interlocutor.</p> <p>The interlocutor asks the candidates questions.</p> <p>The interlocutor follows an interlocutor frame to guide the conversation, ensure standardisation and control level of input.</p>	<p>Language normally associated with meeting people for the first time, giving information of a factual, personal kind. Bio-data type questions to respond to.</p>	5–6 minutes
2	<p>Candidates interact with each other.</p> <p>The interlocutor sets up the activity using a standardised rubric.</p> <p>Candidates ask and answer questions using prompt material.</p>	<p>Factual information of a non-personal kind related to daily life.</p>	3–4 minutes

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about daily activities and familiar experiences. It is also a good idea to practise exchanging information in role plays about things such as costs and opening times of, for example, a local sports centre.

Assessment

You are assessed on your own individual performance and not in relation to the other candidate. Both examiners assess you: the assessor awards marks according to Grammar and Vocabulary, Pronunciation, and Interactive Communication; the interlocutor awards a mark for overall performance.

Grammar and Vocabulary

This refers to your ability to use vocabulary and structure. It also covers the ability to paraphrase to convey meaning.

Pronunciation

This refers to the intelligibility of speech. Having an accent from your first language is not penalised if it does not affect communication.

Interactive Communication

This refers to your ability to take part in the interaction appropriately. Hesitation while you search for language is expected and is not penalised so long as it does not strain the patience of the listener. Candidates are given credit for being able to ask for repetition or clarification if necessary.

Further information

The information in this practice book is designed to give an overview of KET. For a full description of all of the Cambridge Main Suite exams, including information about task types, testing focus and preparation, please see the relevant handbooks which can be obtained from Cambridge ESOL at the address below or from the website: www.CambridgeESOL.org.

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