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Introduction

Prepare for the exam with practice tests from Cambridge

Inside you'll find four authentic examination papers from Cambridge University Press & Assessment. They are the perfect way to practise – EXACTLY like the real exam.

Why are they unique?

All our authentic practice tests go through the same design process as the *B2 First* exam. We check every single part of our practice tests with real students under exam conditions, to make sure we give you the most authentic experience possible.

Students can practise these tests on their own or with the help of a teacher to familiarise themselves with the exam format, understand the scoring system and practise exam technique.

Cambridge English Qualifications	CEFR Level	UK National Qualifications
C2 Proficiency	C2	3
C1 Advanced	C1	2
B2 First	B2	1
B1 Preliminary	B1	Entry 3
A2 Key	A2	Entry 2

Further information

The information contained in this practice book is designed to be an overview of the exam. For a full description of all of the above exams, including information about task types, testing focus and preparation, please see the relevant handbooks which can be obtained from the Cambridge English website at: cambridgeenglish.org.

The structure of *B2 First*: an overview

The *Cambridge English Qualifications B2 First* examination consists of four papers:

Reading and Use of English: 7 Parts, 1 hour 15 minutes

In Parts 1 to 4, the test contains texts with accompanying grammar and vocabulary tasks, and separate items with a grammar and vocabulary focus. In Parts 5 to 7, the test contains a range of texts and accompanying reading comprehension tasks.

Writing: 2 Parts, 1 hour 20 minutes

In Part 1, which is **compulsory**, candidates have to write an essay of between 140 and 190 words, giving their opinion in response to a task. In Part 2, there are three tasks from which candidates choose **one** to write about. The range of tasks from which questions may be drawn includes an article, an email or letter, a report and a review. In this part, candidates have to write between 140 and 190 words.

Listening: 4 Parts, 40 minutes approximately

Each part contains a recorded text or texts and some questions, including multiple-choice, sentence completion and multiple-matching questions. Each text is heard twice.

Speaking: 4 Parts, 14 minutes (or 20 minutes for groups of 3)

The standard test format is two candidates and two examiners. Candidates will be given photographs and other visual and written material to look at and talk about.

	Overall length	Number of tasks/parts	Number of items
Reading and Use of English	1 hour 15 minutes	7	52
Writing	1 hour 20 minutes	2	-
Listening	approx. 40 mins	4	30
Speaking	14–20 mins	4	-
Total	3 hours 30 mins approximately		

Grading

All candidates receive a Statement of Results and candidates whose performance ranges between CEFR Levels B1 and C1 (Cambridge English Scale scores of 140–190) also receive a certificate.

- Candidates who achieve **Grade A** (Cambridge English Scale scores of 180–190) receive the First Certificate in English stating that they demonstrated ability at Level C1.
- Candidates who achieve **Grade B** or **C** (Cambridge English Scale scores of 160–179) receive the First Certificate in English at Level B2.
- Candidates whose performance is below B2 level, but falls within **Level B1** (Cambridge English Scale scores of 140–159), receive a Cambridge English certificate stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level B1.
- For further information on grading and results, go to the website (see page 4 for details).

Speaking: an overview for candidates

You take the Speaking test with another candidate (possibly two candidates), referred to here as your partner. There are two examiners. One will speak to you and your partner and the other will be listening. Both examiners will award marks.

Part 1 (2 minutes)

The examiner asks you and your partner questions about yourselves. You may be asked about things like 'your home town', 'your interests', 'your career plans', etc.

Part 2 (a one-minute 'long turn' for each candidate, plus a 30-second response from the second candidate. The total time for Part 2 is 4 minutes)

The examiner gives you two photographs and asks you to talk about them for one minute. The examiner then asks your partner a question about your photographs and your partner responds briefly.

Then the examiner gives your partner two different photographs. Your partner talks about these photographs for one minute. This time the examiner asks you a question about your partner's photographs and you respond briefly.

Part 3 (a 2-minute discussion followed by a one-minute decision-making task. The total time for Part 3 is 4 minutes)

The examiner asks you and your partner to talk together. They give you a task to look at so you can think about and discuss an idea, giving reasons for your opinion. For example, you may be asked to think about some changes in the world, or about spending free time with your family. After you have discussed the task for about two minutes with your partner, the examiner will ask you a follow-up question, which you should discuss for a further minute.

Part 4 (4 minutes)

The examiner asks some further questions, which leads to a more general discussion of what you have talked about in Part 3. You may comment on your partner's answers if you wish.