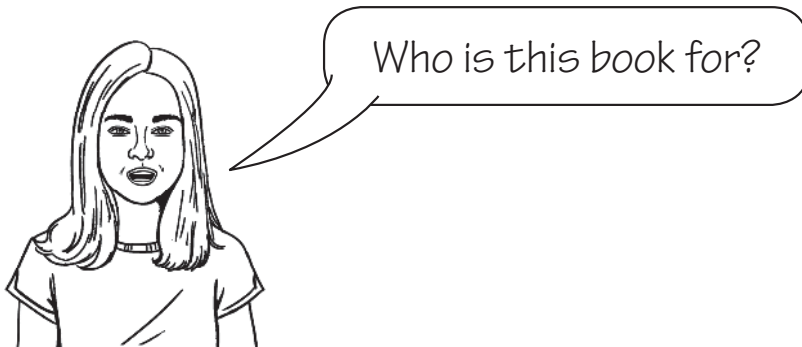


Introduction

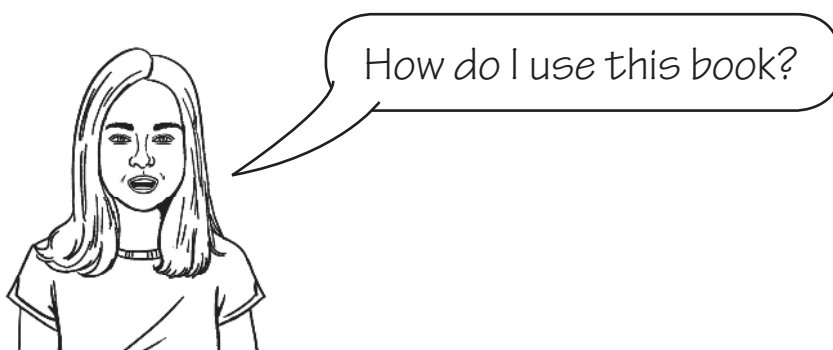


If you are aged between 11 and 15 and want to take **A2 Key for Schools**, this book is for **YOU!**



This book is called '**Trainer**' because it is full of exercises to help you get better and better at doing each part of **A2 Key for Schools**.

So, complete all the exercises then do all the practice papers! If you train and work hard, you will soon be ready to take **A2 Key for Schools!**



First, do the exercises on each **Training** page.
Then do the task on the **Exam Practice** page and check your answers.

On Training pages, you will find:



Cambridge Learner Corpus

This shows information about mistakes that some **A2 Key** candidates make. If you do these useful exercises, you will learn not to make these mistakes when you do **A2 Key for Schools!**



These are ideas to help you do well in the exam. For example: *Read the whole text. Try to understand what it says and why it was written.*

Remember

These are quick reminders about grammar points or vocabulary that you should learn. For example: *We use **is** with uncountable nouns, e.g. **air, money.***

On Exam Practice pages, you will find:

- an **A2 Key for Schools exam task** for you to try and complete
- further **tips** and **advice** to help you with different parts of the task

Tests 3, 4, 5 and 6

When you finish Tests 1 and 2, you will be ready to do complete **A2 Key for Schools practice tests**.

Tests 3, 4, 5 and 6 are just like real **A2 Key for Schools** Reading and Writing, Listening and Speaking papers. Doing these tests will help you even more to prepare for the exam.

Keep a record of your scores as you do the tests. You may find that your scores are good in some parts of the test, but you may need to practise other parts more. Make simple tables like this to help record your scores:

Paper 2 Listening

	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4	Part 5
Test 3					
Test 4					
Test 5					
Test 6					

Other features of the *A2 Key for Schools Trainer*

- **Visual material**

In the Speaking test, the examiner will give you some written information. The visual material on pages 154-155 will help you practise and become familiar with the type of information you will be given and help you increase your confidence.

- **Sample answer sheets**

Look at these to see what the *A2 Key for Schools* answer sheets in the test look like and learn how to complete them. Ask your teacher to photocopy them so that you can use them when you do practice tests.

- **Downloadable audio online**

Listen to these to practise the Listening paper. You will also need to listen to these to complete some of the Speaking Training exercises and to hear a demonstration of each part of the Speaking paper.

The structure of the *A2 Key for Schools* exam

The *A2 Key for Schools* exam has three papers:

Reading and Writing: 1 hour

You will need to be able to read and understand simple information that you might see on signs or read in brochures, newspaper or magazine articles. You will also have to choose words to fill gaps in a text and complete a text with your own words. You will have to write a short note or email that is a minimum of 25 words and a short story or description about three sequenced pictures of 35 words or more.

Listening: 30 minutes

You will need to be able to listen to and understand people who are talking together or people who are giving information about something. You will have to choose or write answers to questions which are about what these people say. Don't worry! The people talk very clearly and they don't talk fast!

Speaking: 8–10 minutes (13–15 minutes for three candidates)

You will need to be able to listen and understand what the examiner is saying. You will have to answer some simple questions about yourself. You will also be given some pictures to look at. You will talk about the pictures with another candidate and the examiner. You will then answer some more questions about the topic. You usually take the Speaking test with just one other candidate, but sometimes candidates take the Speaking test in groups of three.



Frequently asked questions



Is my English good enough for
A2 Key for Schools?

The level of the tests is Council of Europe Level A2. At A2 level, *Key* students can:

- understand simple instructions and questions
- write, talk or ask about simple information, opinions or ideas
- complete forms
- write short, simple letters, messages or emails about personal information.

For more information on ‘Can Do’ statements go to:

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/cefr>

Note that some candidates might be better than others (at speaking or writing, for example), but still get the same final **A2 Key for Schools** grade. The A2 ‘Can Do’ statements therefore help teachers to understand what **A2 Key** candidates should generally be able to do at this level.

What percentage grade do I need to
get to pass *A2 Key for Schools*?



The percentage of marks that candidates need to get for each grade may change from test to test. This is because tests cannot always be exactly the same. Some might be a little more difficult than others. However, the ranges of percentages for each grade of **A2 Key for Schools** are:

- Pass with Merit 85%, i.e. 85 out of 100 marks
- Pass 70% — 84%
- Narrow Fail 65% — 69%
- Fail 64% and below.

This information is included on your Statement of Results.



What marks do I need to pass each paper, and to pass the exam?

Candidates do not have to get a certain mark to pass each section of the test. The final mark for **A2 Key for Schools** is the total number of marks from all three papers: Reading and Writing, Listening and Speaking. There are an equal number of possible marks for Reading and Writing, Listening and Speaking at **A2 Key for Schools**.

Is *A2 Key for Schools* suitable for candidates of any age?



A2 Key for Schools is more suitable for students who are at school and aged from 11 to 15. To make sure that the material is not too difficult or too easy for this age group, all the parts of the Reading and Writing and Listening papers are pre-tested. This means that different groups of students try each part of the tests first. The parts will then only be used in real exams if the results of the tests show they are suitable for candidates who want to take **A2 Key for Schools**.



Can I use pens and pencils?

In **A2 Key** and **A2 Key for Schools**, candidates must use **pencil** in all papers.

What happens if I don't have enough time to finish writing?



You can only be given marks for what you write on your answer sheets, so if you cannot complete this, you will lose marks. Watch the clock, plan your time carefully and do not waste time by writing answers on other pieces of paper first. If you want to change an answer, just rub it out, write your correct answer then quickly move to the next question.

If I write in capital letters, will this affect my score?



No. You do not lose marks for writing in capital letters in **A2 Key for Schools**. Whether you choose to use capital letters or not, you should always make sure that your handwriting is clear and easy to read. Remember that the examiners can't mark a piece of writing that they can't read!