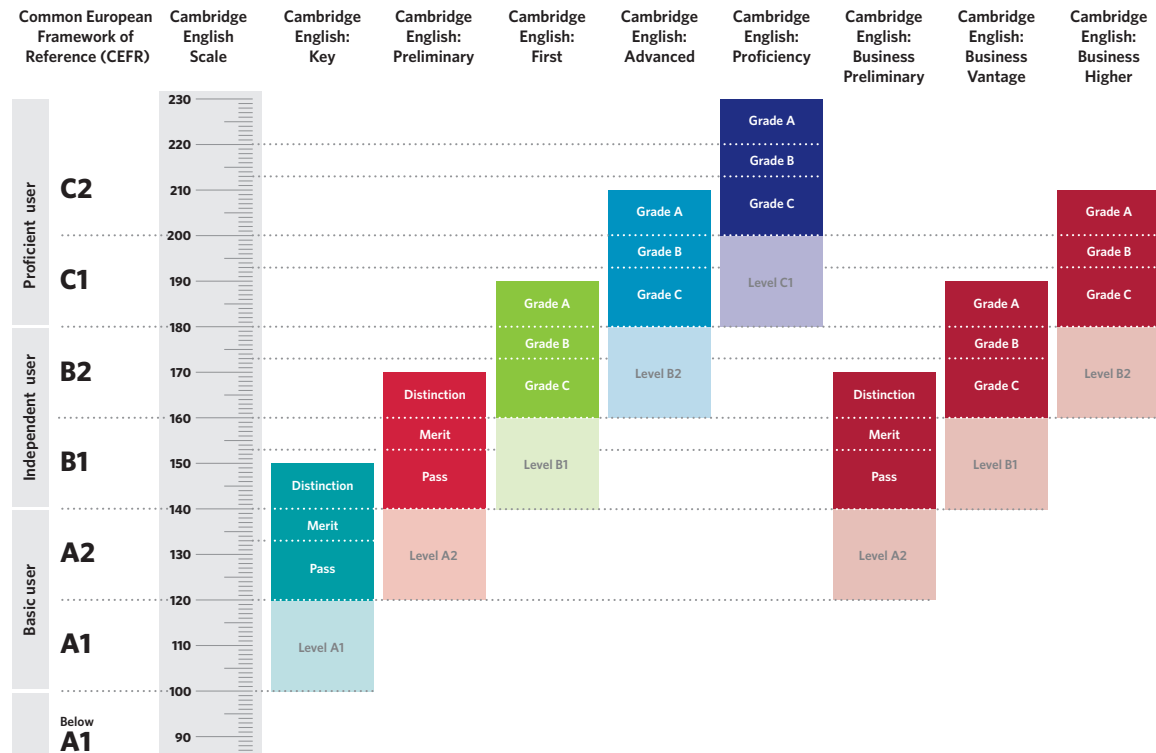


Cambridge English

The Cambridge English Scale explained

A guide to converting practice test scores to Cambridge English Scale scores



Most Cambridge English exams are now reporting results on the Cambridge English Scale.

For *Cambridge English: First*, *First for Schools*, *Advanced* and *Proficiency*, candidates receive an individual score for each of the four skills – reading, writing, listening, speaking – and Use of English. In the live exams, each of the skills and Use of English are equally weighted, and a candidate's overall score is calculated by adding all of the individual scores together and dividing by five (and then rounding to the nearest whole number).

For *Cambridge English: Preliminary*, *Preliminary for Schools*, and *Cambridge English: Business Certificates (Preliminary, Vantage and Higher)*, candidates receive an individual score for the four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. In the live exams, each skill is 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).

For *Cambridge English: Key* and *Key for Schools*, candidates receive an individual score for each paper in the exam – Reading and Writing, Listening and Speaking. In the live exams, the Reading and Writing paper tests two skills so the score is doubled. 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 English 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 scores close to CEFR boundaries need to be reviewed carefully. We recommend that this is approximately three Cambridge English Scale score points above and below the score needed to achieve the level, e.g. 157-163 for Level B2. 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 Key

Cambridge English Key *for Schools*

Reading and Writing

The Reading and Writing paper consists of 9 parts. Correct answers in Parts 1–8 are worth 1 mark each and Part 9 is worth 5 marks. There are 60 possible marks in the Reading and Writing paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
55	140	Level B1
40	120	Level A2
25	100	Level A1
13	82*	-

*minimum score reported for Key

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 25 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
23	140	Level B1
17	120	Level A2
11	100	Level A1
6	82*	-

*minimum score reported for Key

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners 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 0–5 marks for each of the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. Marks for each of these criteria are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then multiplied by three. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 45 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
41	140	Level B1
27	120	Level A2
18	100	Level A1
10	82*	-

*minimum score reported for Key



Cambridge English Preliminary

Cambridge English Preliminary *for Schools*

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1-5 of the Reading and Writing paper. Correct answers in Parts 1-5 are worth 1 mark each. There are 35 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
32	160	Level B2
25	140	Level B1
15	120	Level A2
7	102*	-

*minimum score reported for *Preliminary*

Writing

The Writing section consists of Parts 6-8 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. Correct answers in Part 6 are worth 1 mark each. Part 7 is marked using a short answer mark scheme and the total number of possible marks is 5. Part 8 is marked using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. 0-5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Communicative Achievement; Organisation; and Language. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 20 possible marks for this part, weighted to 15. There are 25 possible marks for writing.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
23	160	Level B2
17	140	Level B1
11	120	Level A2
6	102*	-

*minimum score reported for *Preliminary*

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 25 possible marks in the Listening paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
23	160	Level B2
18	140	Level B1
11	120	Level A2
5	102*	-

*minimum score reported for *Preliminary*

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners 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 0-5 marks 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	160	Level B2
18	140	Level B1
12	120	Level A2
7	102*	-

*minimum score reported for *Preliminary*

Cambridge English First

Cambridge English First for Schools

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 1 and 7 are worth 1 mark each. Correct answers in Parts 5 and 6 are worth 2 marks each. There are 42 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
37	180	Level C1
24	160	Level B2
16	140	Level B1
10	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Use of English

The Use of English section consists of Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 2 and 3 are worth 1 mark each. In Part 4, answers which are partly correct receive 1 mark and answers which are completely correct receive 2 marks. There are 28 possible marks in the Use of English section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
24	180	Level C1
18	160	Level B2
11	140	Level B1
7	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Writing

Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level. Answers are marked using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. 0–5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Communicative Achievement; Organisation; and Language. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 20 possible marks for each question. There are 40 possible marks for the whole paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
34	180	Level C1
24	160	Level B2
16	140	Level B1
10	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

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
27	180	Level C1
18	160	Level B2
12	140	Level B1
8	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners 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 0–5 marks for each of the following criteria: Grammar and Vocabulary; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. Marks for each of these criteria are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then multiplied by four. Examiners may award half marks. Marks for all criteria are then combined, meaning there are 60 marks available in the Speaking test.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
54	180	Level C1
36	160	Level B2
24	140	Level B1
14	122*	-

*minimum score reported for *First*

Cambridge English Advanced

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 1 and 8 are worth 1 mark each. Correct answers in Parts 5, 6 and 7 are worth 2 marks each. There are 50 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
43	200	C2
32	180	C1
23	160	B2
17	142*	-

*minimum score reported for *Advanced*

Use of English

The Use of English section consists of Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 2 and 3 are worth 1 mark each. In Part 4, answers which are partly correct receive 1 mark and answers which are completely correct receive 2 marks. There are 28 possible marks in the Use of English section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
23	200	C2
16	180	C1
11	160	B2
8	142*	-

*minimum score reported for *Advanced*

Writing

Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level. Answers are marked using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. 0–5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Communicative Achievement; Organisation; and Language. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 20 possible marks for each question. There are 40 possible marks for the whole paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
34	200	C2
24	180	C1
16	160	B2
10	142*	-

*minimum score reported for *Advanced*

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	200	C2
18	180	C1
13	160	B2
11	142*	-

*minimum score reported for *Advanced*

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners 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 0–5 marks for each of the following criteria: Grammatical Resource; Lexical Resource; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. Marks for each of these criteria are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then multiplied by five. 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
66	200	C2
45	180	C1
30	160	B2
17	142*	-

*minimum score reported for *Advanced*



Cambridge English Proficiency

Reading

The Reading section consists of Parts 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 1 and 7 are worth 1 mark each. Correct answers in Parts 5 and 6 are worth 2 marks each. There are 44 possible marks in the Reading section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
36	220	C2
28	200	C2
22	180	C1
14	162*	-

*minimum score reported for Proficiency

Use of English

The Use of English section consists of Parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Reading and Use of English paper. Correct answers in Parts 2 and 3 are worth 1 mark each. In Part 4, answers which are partly correct receive 1 mark and answers which are completely correct receive 2 marks. There are 28 possible marks in the Use of English section.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
22	220	C2
17	200	C2
13	180	C1
9	162*	-

*minimum score reported for Proficiency

Writing

Candidates' answers in the Writing paper are marked by trained examiners who are certificated to mark at the level. Answers are marked using assessment scales which are linked to the Common European Framework of Reference. 0–5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Communicative Achievement; Organisation; and Language. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 20 possible marks for each question. There are 40 possible marks for the whole paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR Level
34	220	C2
24	200	C2
16	180	C1
10	162*	-

*minimum score reported for Proficiency

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	220	C2
18	200	C2
14	180	C1
10	162*	-

*minimum score reported for Proficiency

Speaking

Candidates take the test in pairs, but are assessed on their individual performance by trained examiners 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 0–5 marks for each of the following criteria: Grammatical Resource; Lexical Resource; Discourse Management; Pronunciation; and Interactive Communication. Marks for each of these criteria are doubled. The interlocutor gives a mark of 0–5 for Global Achievement. This mark is then multiplied by five. 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
66	220	C2
45	200	C2
30	180	C1
17	162*	-

*minimum score reported for Proficiency

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

