

## Introduction

### Prepare for the exam with practice tests from Cambridge

Inside you'll find four authentic examination papers from Cambridge Assessment English. 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 for Schools* 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
<b>B2 First for Schools</b>	<b>B2</b>	<b>1</b>
B1 Preliminary for Schools	B1	Entry 3
A2 Key for Schools	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 Assessment English website at: [cambridgeenglish.org](http://cambridgeenglish.org).

## The structure of *B2 First for Schools*: an overview

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

### Reading and Use of English: 1 hour 15 minutes

Candidates need to be able to understand texts from publications such as fiction and non-fiction books, journals, newspapers and magazines.

### Writing: 1 hour 20 minutes

Candidates have to show that they can produce two different pieces of writing: a compulsory essay in Part 1 and one from a choice of four tasks in Part 2. Question 5 in Part 2 is based on a set reading text. These practice tests do not include this task as the set text changes every two years. You can find more information about the set text at the Cambridge English website (see page 4 for details).

### Listening: 40 minutes approximately

Candidates need to show they can understand the meaning of a range of spoken material, including lectures, radio broadcasts, speeches and talks.

### Speaking: 14 minutes (or 20 minutes for groups of 3)

Candidates take the Speaking test with another candidate or in a group of three, and are tested on their ability to take part in different types of interaction: with the examiner, with the other candidate and by themselves.

	Overall length	Number of tasks/parts	Number of items
<b>Reading and Use of English</b>	1 hour and 15 minutes	7	52
<b>Writing</b>	1 hour and 20 minutes	2	-
<b>Listening</b>	approx. 40 mins	4	30
<b>Speaking</b>	14 mins	4	-
<b>Total</b>	3 hours and 29 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 B2 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 B2 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** (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** (4 minutes)

The examiner asks you and your partner to talk together for 2 minutes. 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 related to your topic from Part 3. You may comment on your partner's answers if you wish.