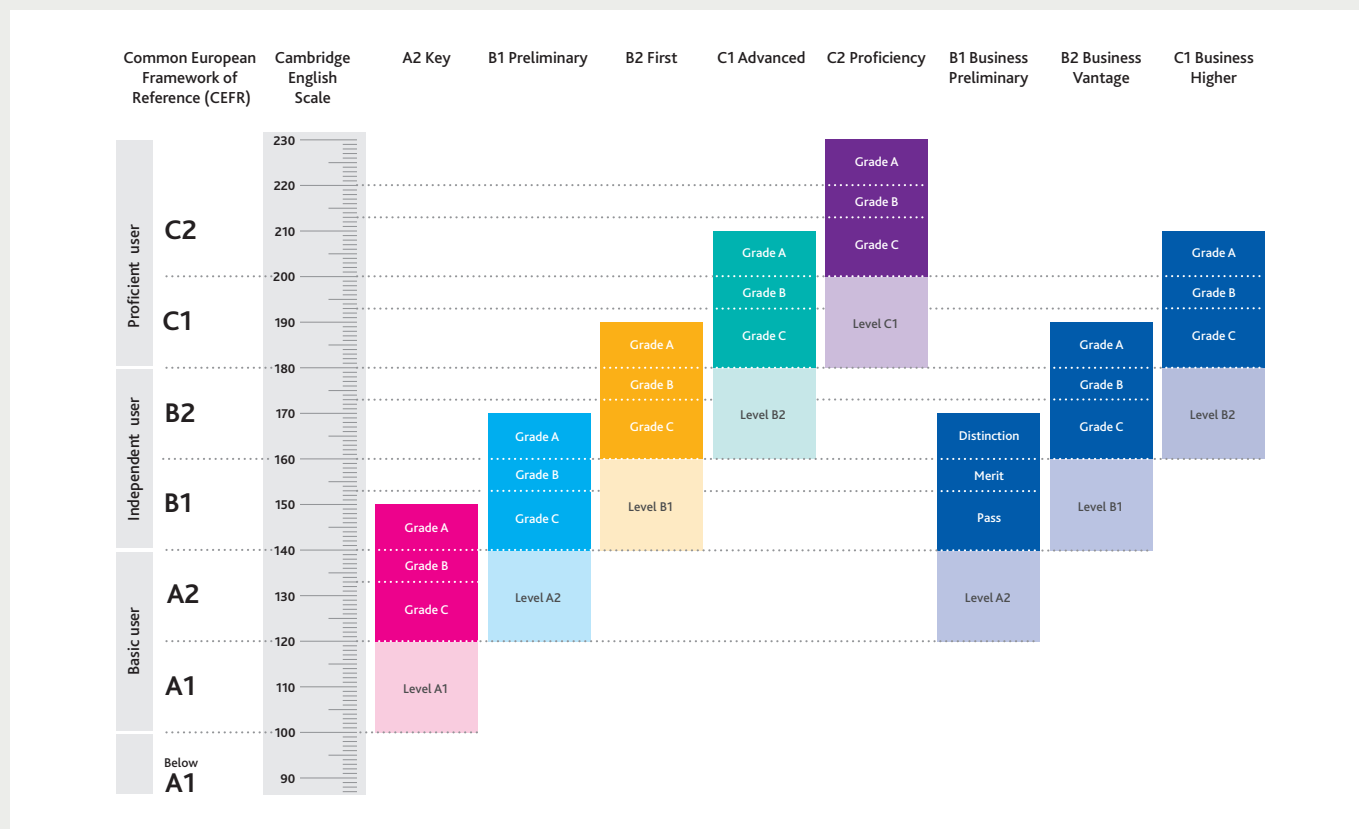


The Cambridge English Scale explained

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



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

For B2 First, B2 First for Schools, C1 Advanced and C2 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 B1 Preliminary, B1 Preliminary for Schools and B1 Business Preliminary, B2 Business Vantage and C1 Business 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 A2 Key and A2 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 Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) level are based on their performance across the whole qualification, 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 qualification. 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 exam 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 Qualifications

A2 Key and A2 Key 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 30 possible marks in the Reading section.

Writing

The Writing section consists of Parts 6 and 7 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. Parts 6 and 7 are marked using assessment scales which are linked to the CEFR. 0–5 marks are given for each of the following criteria: Content; Organisation; and Language. There are a possible 15 marks for Part 6 and 15 possible marks for Part 7. Whole marks only are awarded; there are no half marks given. Marks for each of the criteria are combined to give 15 possible marks for each part. In total, there are 30 possible marks in the Writing paper.

Listening

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

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 CEFR. 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
28	140	Level B1
20	120	Level A2
13	100	Level A1
7	82*	–

*minimum score reported for A2 Key

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
26	140	Level B1
18	120	Level A2
12	100	Level A1
8	82*	–

*minimum score reported for A2 Key

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 A2 Key

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 A2 Key

Cambridge
English Qualifications

B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools

Reading

The Reading paper consists of six parts. Correct answers in Parts 1–6 are worth 1 mark each. There are 32 possible marks in the Reading paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
29	160	Level B2
23	140	Level B1
13	120	Level A2
5	102*	–

*minimum score reported for B1 Preliminary

Writing

The Writing paper consists of two 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 CEFR. 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. Part 1 is worth 20 marks and Part 2 is worth 20 marks. There are 40 possible marks in the Writing paper.

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
34	160	Level B2
24	140	Level B1
16	120	Level A2
10	102*	–

*minimum score reported for B1 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 B1 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 CEFR. 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 B1 Preliminary

Cambridge

English Qualifications

B2 First and B2 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.

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.

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 CEFR. 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.

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

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 CEFR. 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
37	180	Level C1
24	160	Level B2
16	140	Level B1
10	122*	–

*minimum score reported for B2 First

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 B2 First

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 B2 First

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 B2 First

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 B2 First

Cambridge

English Qualifications

C1 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.

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.

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 CEFR. 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.

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

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 CEFR. 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
43	200	C2
32	180	C1
23	160	B2
17	142*	–

*minimum score reported for C1 Advanced

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

*minimum score reported for C1 Advanced

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

*minimum score reported for C1 Advanced

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
26	200	C2
18	180	C1
13	160	B2
11	142*	–

*minimum score reported for C1 Advanced

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
66	200	C2
45	180	C1
30	160	B2
17	142*	–

*minimum score reported for C1 Advanced

Cambridge

English Qualifications

C2 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.

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.

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 CEFR. 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.

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

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 CEFR. 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
36	220	C2
28	200	C2
22	180	C1
14	162*	–

*minimum score reported for C2 Proficiency

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

*minimum score reported for C2 Proficiency

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

*minimum score reported for C2 Proficiency

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
24	220	C2
18	200	C2
14	180	C1
10	162*	–

*minimum score reported for C2 Proficiency

Practice test score	Cambridge English Scale score	CEFR level
66	220	C2
45	200	C2
30	180	C1
17	162*	–

*minimum score reported for C2 Proficiency

Cambridge

English Qualifications

B1 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.

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 CEFR. Part 1 is worth 10 marks and Part 2 is worth 20 marks. There are 30 possible marks in the Writing section.

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

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 CEFR. 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
39	160	Level B2
30	140	Level B1
18	120	Level A2
9	102*	–

*minimum score reported for B1 Business Preliminary

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 B1 Business Preliminary

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 B1 Business Preliminary

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 B1 Business Preliminary

Cambridge
English Qualifications

B2 Business Vantage

Reading

The Reading paper consists of five 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 B2 Business Vantage

Writing

The Writing paper consists of two 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 CEFR. 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 B2 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 B2 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 CEFR. 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 B2 Business Vantage

Cambridge
English Qualifications

C1 Business Higher

Reading

The Reading paper consists of six parts. Correct answers in Parts 1–6 are worth 1 mark each. There are 52 possible marks in the Reading paper.

Writing

The Writing paper consists of two 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 CEFR. Part 1 is worth 10 marks and Part 2 is worth 20 marks. There are 30 possible marks in the Writing section.

Listening

Correct answers in the Listening paper are worth 1 mark each. There are 30 possible marks in the Listening paper.

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 CEFR. 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 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
42	200	Level C2
32	180	Level C1
23	160	Level B2
14	142*	–

*minimum score reported for C1 Business Higher

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 C1 Business Higher

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 C1 Business Higher

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 C1 Business Higher