



CAE (Certificate in Advanced English)

CAE is the second highest level Cambridge ESOL exam, at level C1 of the Council of Europe's **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages**. Choose CAE if you are reaching a standard of English that is adequate for most purposes, including social and professional situations, and in higher education.

Although the level of language skills required is not as high as for **CPE** (Certificate of Proficiency in English), CAE recognises the ability to communicate with confidence in English and deal with most aspects of everyday life.

Why take CAE?

CAE is ideal if you want to work or study abroad or to develop a career which requires language skills (e.g. business, medicine, engineering). It is also useful preparation if you are working towards **CPE** (Certificate of Proficiency in English).

On passing the exam, you'll receive a certificate awarded by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. Your CAE certificate is **recognised by universities and employers** throughout the world.

You will also receive a statement of results, showing how you performed in each of the five papers.

Studying for CAE helps you to improve your language skills and use them in a wide range of contexts. The exams are based on realistic tasks, and indicate the ability to use the language in practical situations. If you are successful, you'll be able to participate in meetings and discussions, expressing opinions clearly, and be able to understand and produce texts of various types, including business letters and reports. You'll also be more than capable of following university courses taught in English.

What does the exam involve?

CAE has five papers:

- Reading
- Writing
- English in use
- Listening
- Speaking

The written papers are returned to Cambridge for marking and assessment. The Speaking Test is conducted by two locally based examiners who examine candidates face to face. All examiners are accredited by Cambridge ESOL.

SWITCH School of English
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CAE: Specification from December 2008

Paper	Timing/Length	Task Types and Format	Test Focus
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 15 minutes • 34 questions • length of texts: about 550-850 per part • about 3,000 words overall 	Part 1 - three themed texts with two multiple-choice questions on each text Part 2 - gapped text task - paragraphs removed Part 3 - multiple choice Part 4 - multiple matching	Part 1 - detail, opinion, tone, purpose, main idea, implication, attitude, text organisation features (exemplification, comparison, reference) Part 2 - text structure, cohesion and coherence Part 3 - as for Part 1 Part 4 - specific information, detail, opinion and attitude
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 30 minutes • 2 parts 	Part 1 - compulsory task from: article, report, proposal, letter (180-220 words) Part 2 - Q.2-4 choice of one task from the following: article, letter, report, proposal, review, competition entry, contribution to a longer piece, essay, information sheet Q.5 task based on set texts - task types from: essay, review, article, report; two set books to be used, with a question on each text (220-260 words)	Part 1 - focus on evaluating, expressing opinions, hypothesising, persuading Part 2 - varying focuses according to task; including giving opinions, persuading, justifying, giving advice, comparing
Use of English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour • 50 questions 	Part 1 - multiple-choice cloze Part 2 - open cloze Part 3 - word formation Part 4 - gapped sentences Part 5 - key word transformations	Part 1 - lexical/lexico-grammatical Part 2 - grammatical/lexico-grammatical Part 3 - lexical/lexico-grammatical Part 4 - lexical Part 5 - lexical and grammatical
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 minutes • 30 questions 	Part 1 - multiple choice - three short unrelated extracts; exchanges between interacting speakers; two questions per text Part 2 - sentence completion - a monologue (could be	. Part 1 - feeling, attitude, opinion, purpose, function, agreement, course of action, general gist, detail, etc. Part 2 - specific information,

		<p>introduced by a presenter) Part 3 - multiple choice - a conversation between interacting speakers Part 4 - multiple matching - five short themed monologues. Two linked tasks, requiring selection from list of eight options. All texts will be heard twice</p>	<p>stated opinion Part 3 - attitude and opinion Part 4 - gist, attitude, main points, interpreting context</p>
Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 minutes • 4 parts 	<p>Part 1 - conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate (spoken questions) Part 2 - individual one-minute 'long turn' for each candidate with brief response from second candidate; each candidate is given three visual stimuli, with questions Part 3 - two-way conversation between the candidates (visual and written stimuli, with spoken instructions) Part 4 - discussion on topics related to Part 3 (spoken questions)</p>	<p>Part 1 - general interactional and social language Part 2 - organising a larger unit of discourse; comparing, describing, expressing opinions and speculating Part 3 - sustaining an interaction; exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation, etc. Part 4 - expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing Part 1 - general interactional and social language Part 2 - organising a larger unit of discourse; comparing, describing, expressing opinions and speculating Part 3 - sustaining an interaction; exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation, etc. Part 4 - expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing</p>

Total Time: 4 hours 40 minutes

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