

2020 exam update

At a glance – what's new?

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Reading and Writing

60 minutes

Reading: 30 questions in five parts

Writing: two parts

Some parts are in a different order and some are shorter (previously nine parts, 56 questions).

Part	Task	Format	No. of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Understanding six short messages.	6
2	Matching	Read three short texts for specific information and detailed comprehension. Same as one of the options for old Part 4 but always now three texts and A, B, C multiple-choice options (not Right, Wrong or Doesn't Say).	7
3	Multiple-choice long text	Read one longer text for detailed understanding and main ideas. Same as one of the options for old Part 4.	5
4	Multiple-choice gap fill	Read a text and choose missing words (A, B, C) to fill in the gaps. Same as old Part 5 but shorter.	6
5	Open gap fill	Read a text and write words in the gaps. Same as old Part 7 but shorter.	6
6	Writing a short message	Write a message in response to information given. Same as old Part 9 but students now write 25 words or more, rather than writing 25–35 words.	1
7	Writing a short story	Write a short story based on three pictures, 35 words or more.	1

Listening

30 minutes

Same number of parts (five) with 25 questions. Some parts are in a different order.

Part	Task	Format	No. of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Listen to five short texts for specific information and choose the right picture (A, B, C). Same as old Part 1.	5
2	Gap fill	Listen to a longer text and write down missing information in the gaps (a word, number, date or time). Same as old Part 5.	5
3	Multiple-choice long text	Listen to a longer text for specific information, feelings and opinions. Same as old Part 3.	5
4	Multiple choice	Listen to five short texts for the main idea or message.	5
5	Matching	Listen to a longer text for specific information. Same as old Part 2.	5

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Speaking

8–10 minutes

Two parts, as before

Part	Task	Format
1	Introductory phase	Interactions and social language. Candidates give factual information of a personal kind and answer examiner questions about their daily life, interests, likes, etc., followed by a longer 'Tell me something about ...' question.
2	Collaborative task	Compare, describe and express opinions. Discussion between candidates based on picture prompts on a topic, e.g. 'holidays' and follow-up discussion led by the examiner on the same topic.

Grades have changed to be in line with higher level

Cambridge English Qualifications:

Pass with Distinction changes to A

Pass with Merit changes to B

Pass changes to C