

Spotlight on FCE

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Exam Booster with key



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Overview of the exam

The First Certificate in English examination consists of five papers, each worth an equal 40 marks of the maximum 200 marks. Grades A, B and C represent a pass grade. Grades D and E are a fail. It is not necessary to achieve a satisfactory grade in all five papers in order to receive a final passing grade.

PAPER 1 (1 HOUR)

Reading

- Three parts (a variety of texts and comprehension tasks).
- You must answer all three parts.
- 30 questions in total (You have 1 hour.)
- You receive two marks for each correct answer in Parts 1 and 2, and one mark for each correct answer in Part 3.

Part 1: Multiple choice

You read a text and answer eight multiple choice questions. Each question has four possible answers (A, B, C or D).

Part 2: Gapped text

You complete a text with seven missing sentences. There is one extra sentence which you should not use.

Part 3: Multiple matching

You read one or more texts (often four shorter texts) and match prompts to parts of the whole text. There are 15 prompts.

PAPER 1

See the following pages for Paper 1 exam tasks:

Part 1 38, 78, 102, 110, 126

Part 2 22, 54, 70, 94, 118

Part 3 6, 14, 30, 46, 62, 86

PAPER 2 (1 HOUR 20 MINUTES)

Writing

- Two parts.
- You must answer both parts.
- Two questions to answer in total (You have 1 hour 20 minutes.)
- You receive equal marks for each question.

Part 1: A letter or email

This part has one question and you must answer it. You read some text and respond with a letter or email. Your answer must be 120–150 words.

Part 2: An article, an essay, a letter, a report, a review or a story

This part has four possible questions and you answer one only with 120–180 words.

Questions 2–4 can ask you to write an article, an essay, a letter, a report, a review or a story. You read about a situation and then write a response using the correct type of text.

Question 5 also asks you to write similar types of texts but based upon the set reading text that you can study for the exam (optional).

PAPER 2

See the following pages for Paper 2 exam tasks:

Part 1 12, 20, 28, 34, 82, 108, 132

Part 2 44, 52, 60, 68, 74, 92, 100, 116, 124

PAPER 3 (45 MINUTES)

Use of English

- Four parts.
- You must answer all four parts.
- 42 questions in total (You have 45 minutes.)
- You receive one mark for each correct answer in Parts 1, 2 and 3, and two marks for each correct answer in Part 4.

Part 1: Multiple-choice cloze

This is a cloze test with twelve gaps and four possible options for each one.

Part 2: Open cloze

This is a cloze test with twelve gaps. You complete each gap with one word.

Part 3: Word formation

You read a text with ten gaps. There is a word-stem after each gap. You must change the form of the word and complete the gap.

Part 4: Key-word transformations

There are eight questions. Each question has a lead-in sentence. Then a key word is given. You must use this word in a second gapped sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first.

PAPER 3

See the following pages for Paper 3 exam tasks:

Part 1 19, 33, 43, 67, 84, 91, 99, 107, 131

Part 2 11, 43, 51, 67, 76, 107

Part 3 11, 19, 27, 36, 59, 99, 115, 123, 131

Part 4 27, 51, 61, 76, 84, 91, 115, 123

PAPER 4 (APPROXIMATELY 40 MINUTES)

Listening

- Four parts.
- You must answer all four parts.
- 30 questions in total (approximately 40 minutes).
- You receive one mark for each correct answer in all four parts.
- Text types: you hear four different sets of recordings (*monologues or interacting speakers*). *Monologues* could include answerphone messages, radio documentaries and features, announcements, instructions, news, lectures, reports, speeches, advertisements and stories. *Interacting speakers* could include conversations, radio plays, interviews, discussions, quizzes and transactions. After you listen, you have five minutes to write your answers onto the answer sheet.

Part 1: Multiple choice

You listen to eight short unconnected recordings. Each one is about 30 seconds long. For each recording you answer a question with three answers to choose from.

Part 2: Sentence completion

You listen to someone talking or a conversation. It lasts about three minutes. You have to complete ten sentences with words you hear on the recording.

Part 3: Multiple matching

There are five short recordings and you match five questions to the correct option. There are six possible options.

Part 4: Multiple choice

You listen to a longer text with more than one speaker. You have seven questions and each one has three options to choose from.

PAPER 4

See the following pages for Paper 4 exam tasks:

Part 1 10, 18, 50, 90, 113

Part 2 26, 58, 83, 106

Part 3 35, 66, 75, 122

Part 4 42, 98, 130

PAPER 5 (APPROXIMATELY 14 MINUTES)

Speaking

- Four parts.
- You must answer all four parts.
- You take the Speaking test with another candidate.
- The interlocutor (examiner talking to you) asks you questions and gives you prompts (pictures and words) which you may have to talk about or discuss with the other person.
- You are assessed on your performance throughout.

Part 1: Conversation between interlocutor and each candidate (asking and answering)

This is general interactional and social language – a conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate. You will answer questions on topics such as home, family and personal interests. This part will last approximately three minutes.

Part 2: An individual 'long turn' for each candidate with a short response from the second candidate

You look at two photographs and the interlocutor asks you to talk about them (describing, comparing and giving an opinion). The other candidate listens, then has to respond at the end of your talk. Each candidate's turn should last approximately one minute, with a further 20 seconds given for the other candidate to respond and comment on what you have said.

Part 3: A two-way conversation between the candidates, with a decision-making task

Both candidates are given spoken instructions with written or visual stimuli. You work together in a collaborative task (exchanging ideas, expressing opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, speculating, suggesting, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation). Your discussion should last three minutes.

Part 4: A discussion on topics related to the collaborative (Part 3) task

The interlocutor now joins in the discussion (from Part 3) and asks further questions to each candidate so that it is a three-way conversation lasting four minutes. The focus here is expressing and justifying opinions, and agreeing and/or disagreeing.

PAPER 5

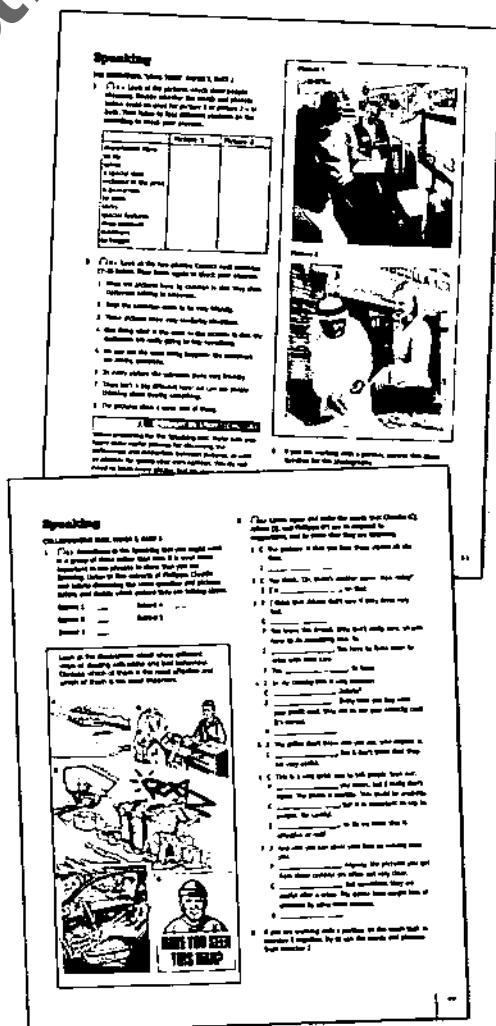
See the following pages for Paper 5 exam tasks:

Part 1 13, 133

Part 2 29, 36, 85, 93, 125, 133

Part 3 21, 45, 53, 61, 69, 77, 101, 133

Part 4 109, 114, 133



1

Friends and family

LANGUAGE CHECKLIST

- ☐ I know words to describe family connections, page 8.
- ☐ I know some phrasal verbs with *out*, page 8.
- ☐ I know how to use the present simple and present continuous, page 9.
- ☐ I know how to use the present perfect simple and present perfect continuous, page 9.
- ☐ I know how to change *-ic* adjectives to adverbs, page 10.
- ☐ I know how to use intonation in questions, page 13.

EXAM CHECKLIST

- ☐ I have practised the multiple matching question from the Reading paper, page 6.
- ☐ I have practised the multiple matching question from the Listening paper, page 10.
- ☐ I have practised the word formation question from the Use of English paper, page 11.
- ☐ I have practised the open cloze question from the Use of English paper, page 11.
- ☐ I have practised how to organise my ideas in the Writing paper, page 12.
- ☐ I have practised the opening conversation from the Speaking paper, page 13.

Reading

MULTIPLE MATCHING: PAPER 1, PART 3

1 You are going to read an article about a family choosing a name for a baby. For questions 1–10 choose from the people (A–D). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person

- 1 does not like their name? _____
- 2 is not concerned about other people's opinion of the name? _____
- 3 wants to make a change from tradition? _____
- 4 had trouble because of their name? _____
- 5 is happy to give the baby a name which doesn't come from their own country? _____
- 6 doesn't suggest a name for the baby? _____
- 7 says their name is not very modern? _____
- 8 wants the baby to have the first name of another family member? _____
- 9 has changed their opinion of the name because of recent events? _____
- 10 has a name which is not understood in other countries? _____

2 Now read the text again and find words that mean the following:

- 1 pregnant (introductory paragraph) _____
- 2 a difficult decision (introductory paragraph) _____
- 3 the history and culture of a nation or people (paragraph A) _____
- 4 very pleased or excited (paragraph A) _____
- 5 to other countries (paragraph B) _____
- 6 when people attack or laugh at someone in an unkind way (paragraph C) _____
- 7 almost (paragraph D) _____
- 8 become an adult (paragraph D) _____