



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

Cambridge English

Advanced

Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)

CEFR Level C1

Information for admissions officers, policy
makers and other education professionals

English for high achievers in the professional and academic world



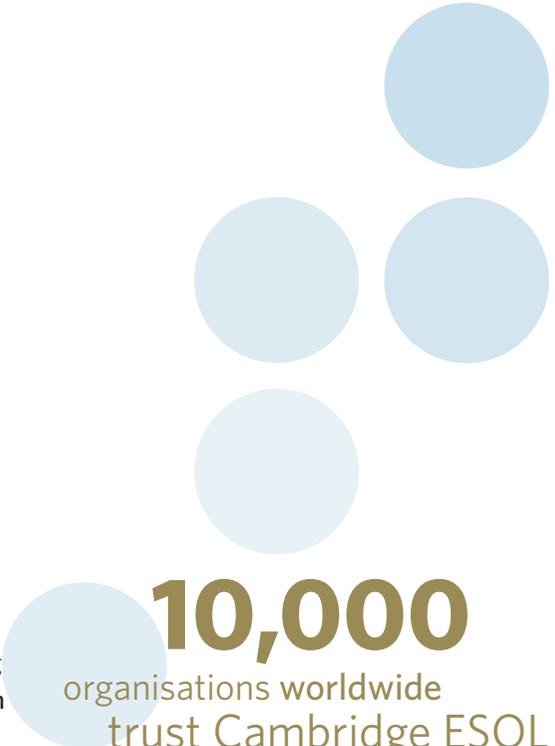
Recognised around the world

Every year, more than 3 million people take Cambridge English exams to turn their ambitions for work, study and immigration into reality. Our network of more than 2,500 centres in over 130 countries has given our exams a truly global reach.

More than 10,000 universities, employers and governments around the world officially recognise Cambridge English exams as being reliable, accurate and fair tests of English. These are just a small selection:

- University of Cambridge, UK
- University of Oxford, UK
- King's College London (University of London), UK
- University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School, USA
- McGill University, Canada
- University of Toronto, Canada
- Monash University, Australia
- University of New South Wales, Australia
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong
- ICN Business School, France
- Università Roma Tre, Italy
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
- Hewlett-Packard (HP)
- Microsoft
- KPMG
- IBM
- ACNielsen
- Sony
- Bosch
- DHL
- Credit Suisse
- Nokia

You can find a more comprehensive list of recognising institutions at: www.CambridgeESOL.org/recognition



10,000
organisations worldwide
trust Cambridge ESOL



Reliable, accurate proof of advanced English ability

Setting language standards for admission to higher education institutions requires a delicate balance.

You know that students with a high level of English language ability will adapt more easily to living and studying in an English-speaking environment. But if you set your standard too high, you risk excluding able students, while setting it too low risks allowing students to enter courses they cannot complete successfully.

Cambridge English exams from University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL), enable you to make the right choice.

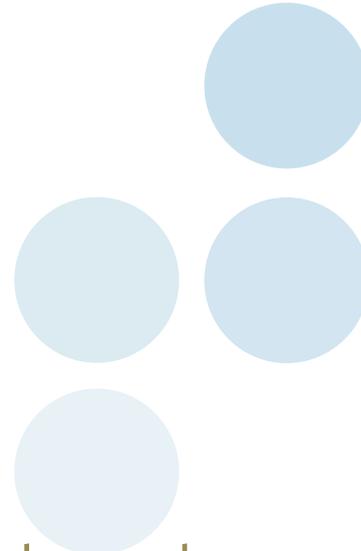
Cambridge ESOL is part of Cambridge Assessment – a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge with more than 150 years of experience in assessment. We provide the world's leading range of English examinations, offering assessments for learners of all ages and abilities and also business English examinations, including specialist financial and legal English qualifications.

Cambridge English: Advanced is one of our core examinations, and can be relied on as a proven and thorough assessment of a candidate's ability to live, work and study to a high level in an English-speaking environment.

This document outlines just a few of the reasons why universities and other learning institutions around the world already rely on *Cambridge English: Advanced* for making critical admissions decisions, and why you should join them.

Dr Michael Milanovic

Chief Executive
Cambridge ESOL



Cambridge English: Advanced is taken
by candidates in **80 countries** and
by more than **190 nationalities**

The right level

When setting a language standard for admissions purposes, there are two key factors to take into consideration:

- setting a level that is appropriate
- ensuring your applicants understand that level and can access relevant examinations.

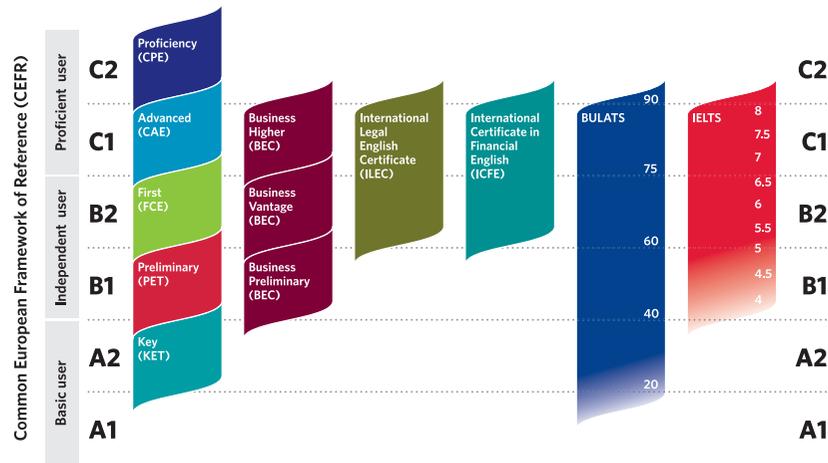
The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is the standard benchmark used internationally to describe language ability. It plays a central role in language and education policy worldwide. Cambridge English exams are developed in accordance with the principles and approach of the CEFR, making it simple for you to specify levels of language ability and easy for candidates to find the right exam.

Why Level C1?

Cambridge ESOL was involved in the early development of the CEFR and has a key role in contributing research that will further expand this framework¹. Our long experience with developing assessment in accordance with the CEFR has led us to recommend Level C1 as the ideal level for undergraduate study of academic subjects, some postgraduate studies and for professional use in an English-speaking environment.

Cambridge English

A range of exams to meet different needs



Cambridge English: Advanced also commonly known as Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) assesses at Level C1. Examinations at Level C1 may be used as proof of the level of language necessary to work at a managerial or professional level or to follow a course of academic study at university level.

¹ Cambridge ESOL is a key partner in English Profile – a research programme that will further develop the CEFR by developing detailed descriptions of learner English. For more information visit www.EnglishProfile.org



What can students do at Level C1?

The ALTE framework

The Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) has carried out research to determine what language learners can typically do at each CEFR level. It has described these abilities in a series of Can Do statements using examples taken from real-life situations.

Cambridge ESOL, as one of the founding members of ALTE, uses this framework as a way of ensuring its exams reflect real-life language skills.

Examples of Can Do statements at Level C1

Writing	Listening and Speaking	Reading
CAN make notes that will be of reasonable use for essay or revision purposes.	CAN follow much of what is said in a lecture, presentation or demonstration.	CAN handle most textbooks, articles etc., within own area of expertise.
CAN make useful notes from written sources, capturing abstract concepts and relationships between ideas.	CAN make decisions about what to note down and what to omit as the lecture proceeds.	CAN scan texts for relevant information and grasp main topic of text.
CAN select the most salient and relevant ideas and represent them clearly and briefly.	CAN follow the development of a discussion during a seminar.	CAN assess the relevance of most textbooks and articles within own subject area of study.
CAN write an essay which causes only occasional difficulties for the reader.	CAN make all necessary arrangements regarding practical arrangements for study in or out of classroom with teachers, lecturers, lab and library staff, etc.	CAN scan articles, textbooks etc. in own or related areas of study to form reliable judgements as to their relevance/usefulness, at a moderate speed.

2,500 centres
in over **130** countries



A comprehensive test of English

Cambridge English: Advanced is a thorough test of all areas of language ability.

The exam has five papers: Reading, Writing, Use of English, Listening and Speaking. Each paper carries 20% of the total marks.

The five papers in detail

Paper	Content	Test focus
Reading	<p>The Reading Test consists of 34 questions over four sections. A variety of text types are used including articles from newspapers, magazines, journals, extracts from books (fiction and non-fiction), promotional and informational materials.</p> <p>The types of tasks used include multiple choice, matching and a gapped-text task where candidates read a text from which six paragraphs have been removed and placed in a jumbled order.</p>	<p>The Reading Test requires candidates to show they can understand and deal confidently with different types of text.</p> <p>It tests ability to understand the main ideas and detail of written text along with the opinion, tone, purpose, attitude and text organisation features (such as exemplification, comparison, reference).</p>
Writing	<p>The Writing Test consists of two tasks which require candidates to be able to write a variety of different text types such as essays, proposals, reports and reviews.</p> <p>Part 1 consists of one compulsory task. Candidates write an article, a report, a proposal, or a letter based on material of up to 150 words.</p> <p>In Part 2, candidates must complete one task from a choice of five. Two of the five questions are based on set reading texts.</p>	<p>Candidates must show they can write non-specialised types of text, such as an article, an essay, a letter, a proposal or a report.</p> <p>Candidates are required to show that they can use writing to communicate effectively, demonstrating ability to advise, persuade, compare, evaluate, express opinions, hypothesise and justify.</p>
Use of English	<p>The Use of English Test consists of 50 questions over five parts.</p> <p>The test uses a variety of tasks: multiple choice; gap-fill; word formation; key word transformation and gapped sentences.</p>	<p>The Use of English Test requires candidates to demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge of English vocabulary and grammatical structures appropriate to the C1 level.</p>

a **thorough test**
of all areas of language ability



Paper	Content	Test focus
Listening	<p>The Listening Test consists of 30 questions in four sections.</p> <p>Types of task used include multiple-choice, sentence-completion and multiple-matching tasks. Candidates must answer questions after listening to either short monologues or interacting speakers.</p>	<p>The Listening Test requires the candidate to be able to follow and understand a range of spoken materials such as lectures, speeches, interviews, discussions and anecdotes.</p> <p>Candidates must demonstrate understanding of gist and detail, feeling, attitude, opinion and purpose expressed.</p> <p>A variety of voices, styles of delivery and accents are heard in each paper to reflect the international contexts of the test takers.</p>
Speaking	<p>The Speaking Test uses a paired format where two candidates are assessed by two trained Cambridge ESOL examiners. One examiner acts as an 'interlocutor' and conducts the test, while the second examiner acts as an assessor and does not join in the conversation.</p> <p>The Speaking Test requires candidates to carry out a range of speaking tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Each candidate has a short conversation with the interlocutor about themselves and subjects from daily life.Each candidate then has a 1-minute turn where they are asked to make comparisons, express opinions, describe and speculate about visual stimuli.Both candidates are asked to engage in conversation together while completing a collaborative task. They must then engage with the interlocutor in a wider discussion about the completed task.	<p>The paired Speaking Test format offers candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to use spoken language skills effectively in a range of contexts.</p> <p>By using a face-to-face test with paired candidates, we reduce the anxiety experienced by candidates, create a more authentic exercise in communication and thereby get a more reliable measure of their ability to use English.</p> <p>At Level C1, candidates are required to show their ability to organise their thoughts and ideas and express themselves coherently using appropriate language.</p> <p>Candidates need to show they can exchange information, express and justify their opinions, and agree or disagree with one another.</p> <p>They must also demonstrate that they are capable of discussing topics and certain issues in depth.</p>

Sample papers are available at www.CambridgeESOL.org/Advanced



Proven quality

Cambridge English: Advanced is an in-depth language assessment that measures a candidate's English ability across a wide spectrum of skills.

Cambridge English: Advanced was first introduced in 1991 after a rigorous five-year planning and development programme. Since then it has been subjected to the continuous cycle of research, validation and evaluation that ensures the quality of all Cambridge English exams².

This cycle of quality begins with the initial development of an exam, continues through the production and pretesting of each question paper and through all stages of exam development and delivery to monitoring the marking of exam papers and the grading of candidates.

The result of this commitment to continuous improvement and quality assurance is an exam that performs consistently, reliably and accurately.

- *Cambridge English: Advanced* has been accredited by Ofqual, the statutory regulatory authority for external qualifications in England, and its counterparts in Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Cambridge ESOL's systems and processes are certified as meeting the internationally recognised ISO 9001:2008 standard for quality management.
- UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) accepts grade 'A' at *Cambridge English: Advanced* for application to UK universities and Higher Education institutions³.

Enhanced security

All Cambridge ESOL Authorised Test Centres follow a detailed code of practice which ensures the highest standards of security throughout the testing process, from registration to the recording of results.

Certificates are printed on security-enhanced paper and include a number of other concealed security features to prevent forgery and malpractice.

Fast, free authentication

You can check the authenticity of any *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificate by using Cambridge ESOL's free Online Verification Service. This is secure, easy to use, and enables you to be certain that a certificate proffered by a candidate is a valid one. If you would like to register for the free Online Verification Service, visit <http://verification.CambridgeESOLonline.org>

² This process is outlined in Hawkey, R (2009) *Examining FCE and CAE: Key issues and recurring themes in developing the First Certificate in English and Certificate in Advanced English exams*, Studies in Language Testing Vol 28, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

³ Grade 'A' at *Cambridge English: Advanced* is awarded 70 UCAS Tariff points.



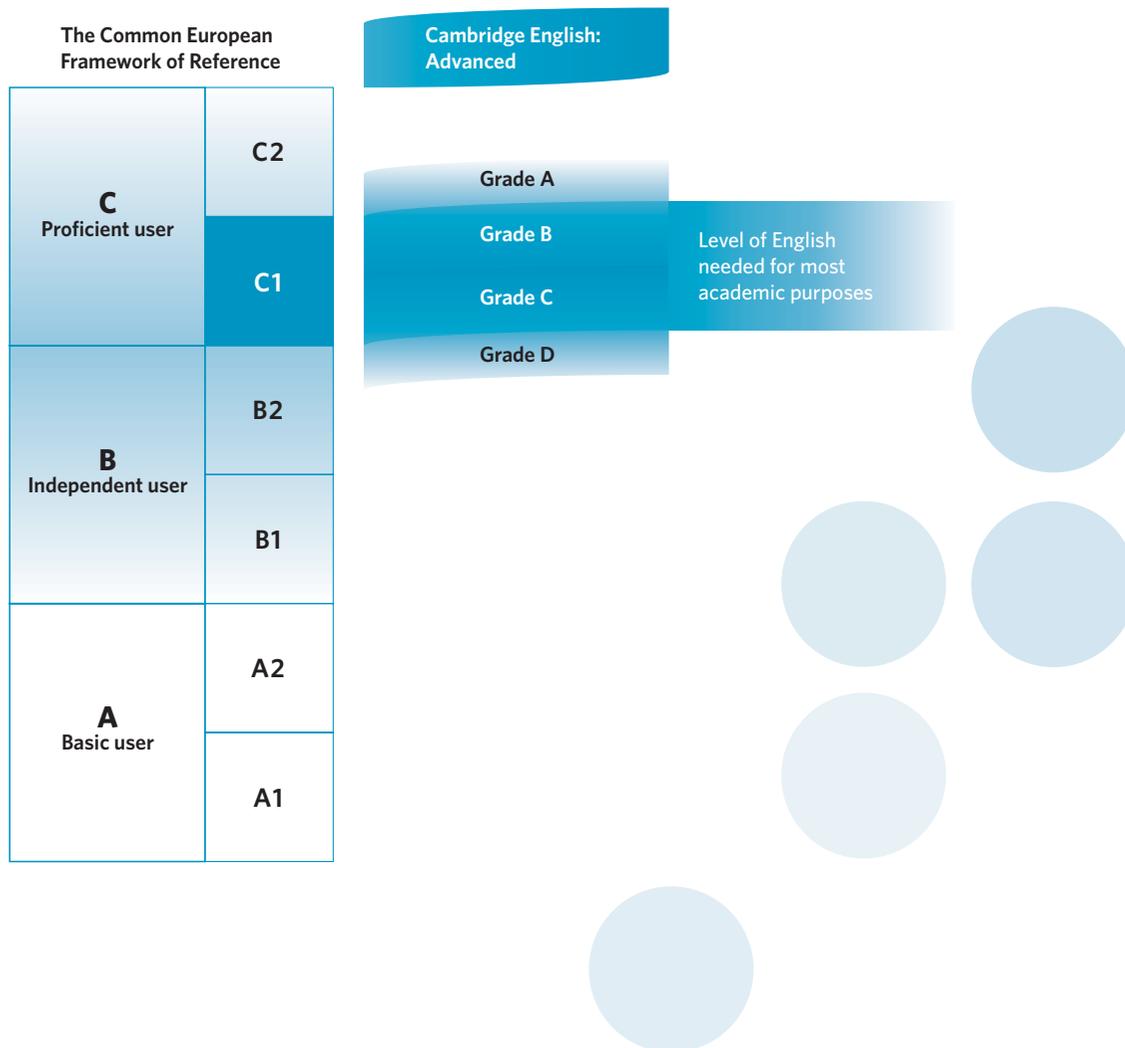
Detailed, meaningful results

Cambridge English: Advanced gives more than just a score – all candidates receive:

- a Statement of Results showing their grade
- a standardised score out of 100 that shows how they performed overall
- a graphical profile outlining their performance in each of the five papers.

Cambridge English: Advanced results are reported as three passing grades (A, B and C) and grades D and E.

The exam is designed to accurately assess candidates even if their ability goes beyond CEFR Level C1. To recognise this, candidates achieving Grade A will receive a *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificate at Level C2.





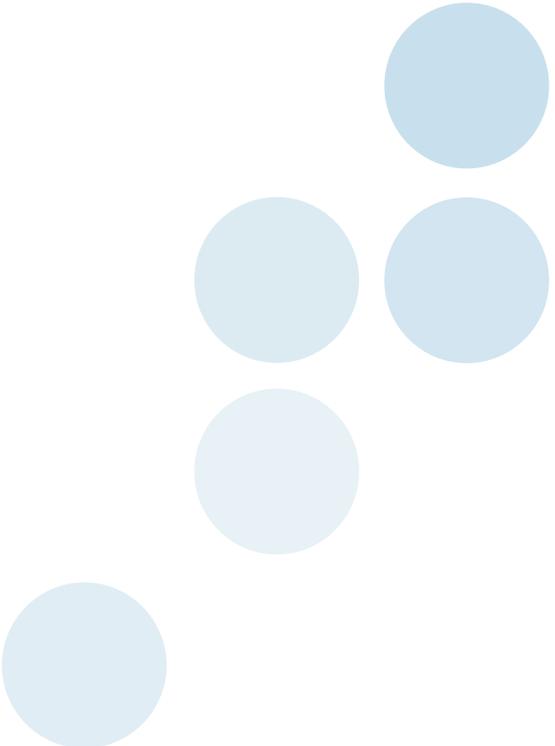
Committed to fairness

Cambridge ESOL's commitment to fairness in assessment is part of its larger concern for education and ethical behaviour within society. Cambridge ESOL ensures its tests do not unfairly discriminate against anyone because of their gender, cultural background or disability.

Examiners are recruited, trained and monitored in line with the highest quality standards and they work to extensive and detailed quality control procedures. This ensures that wherever in the world a candidate takes one of our tests, they experience the same fairness and consistency for which our exams are renowned.

Special requirements

Cambridge ESOL's test centres make every effort to cater for candidates with special requirements. Modified versions of the tests are available for candidates with visual or hearing difficulties. Special administrative arrangements can also be made to accommodate candidates with other difficulties, e.g. dyslexia. Full details are available at www.CambridgeESOL.org/exams/exams-info/special-circumstances





Cambridge English: Advanced – at a glance

With *Cambridge English: Advanced*, you can be certain you are selecting high-achieving candidates who already have the English language skills they need to succeed.

Thorough

Cambridge English: Advanced is an in-depth examination covering the four language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening and a Use of English component testing underlying knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Practical

Cambridge English exams are based on real-life skills. A candidate who has passed *Cambridge English: Advanced* can be expected to:

- follow any academic course at university level
- communicate effectively at managerial and professional level
- participate with confidence in workplace meetings or academic tutorials and seminars
- carry out complex and challenging research
- express themselves with a high level of fluency
- react appropriately in different cultural and social situations.

Fit for purpose

Cambridge English: Advanced has been developed in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). It assesses students at Level C1 of this internationally recognised benchmark of language ability.

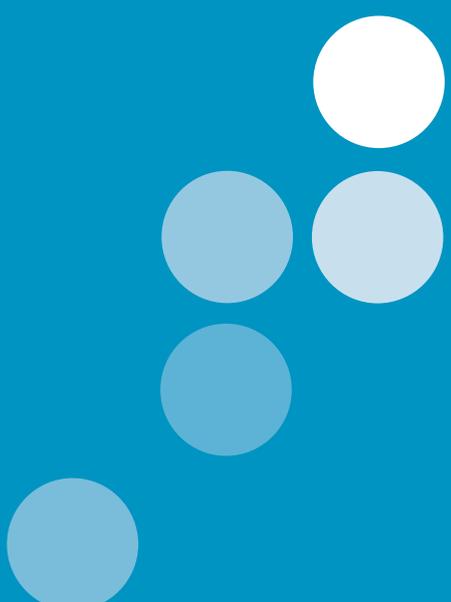
Cambridge English: Advanced provides a reliable and consistent proof of ability to use English for demanding academic and professional settings.

Proven

Cambridge English: Advanced has been developed using the expertise of Cambridge ESOL, a part of the University of Cambridge and the world's leading provider of English assessment. Each stage of the exam's development and delivery is underpinned by research, pretesting and analysis in a constant cycle of review and refinement. Cambridge ESOL's systems and processes meet the internationally recognised ISO 9001:2008 quality management standard.

Next steps

To find out more about *Cambridge English: Advanced*, Cambridge ESOL's other language assessments and what they can offer your institution, contact Cambridge.recognition@CambridgeESOL.org or visit the website, www.CambridgeESOL.org



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candidates a year
choose Cambridge ESOL

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