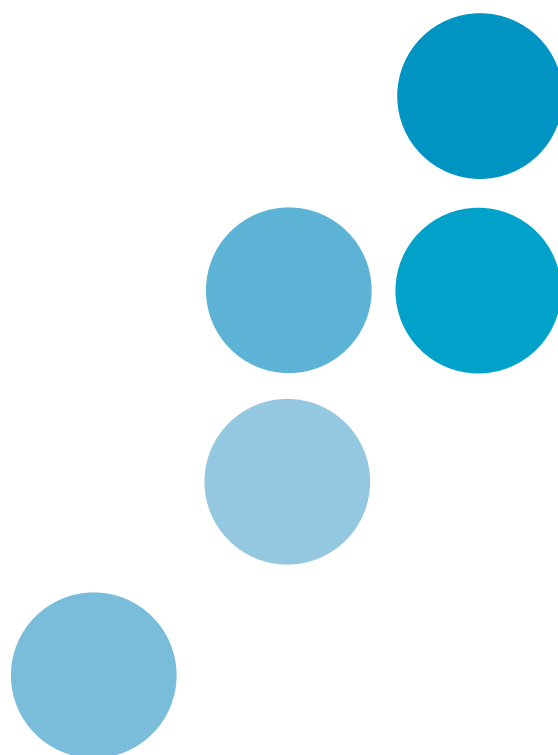




Cambridge English Advanced

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*

Accept Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) and make a difference to the success of your student recruitment process

Demand for international education is stronger than ever. Sustainable growth and development is increasingly linked to the development of knowledge-based economies. Universities and colleges play a critical role in this.

Declining public funds, the arrival of international competition and new providers in the education sector have meant that universities and colleges now face unprecedented challenges. Providing the best quality education for our students, despite limited funding, is one of the key priorities for educators today and underpins national policy setting.

As part of the academic community, it is our mission to help you attract students with the right communication skills to succeed in international education and, just as importantly, to secure a good job when they graduate. A delicate balance is needed to set language standards for admission during a time of significant change to the education sector, both nationally and internationally.

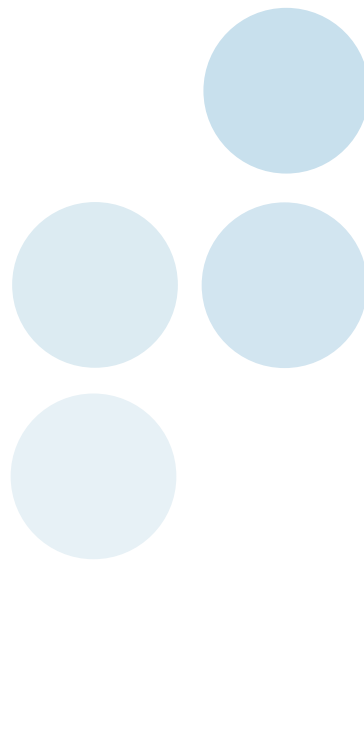
Cambridge English: Advanced, also known as *Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)*, goes beyond simply providing a snapshot of the student's knowledge of English. It gives an in-depth assessment of their ability to communicate in an academic and professional environment. Because it is an in-depth examination, most students taking the exam follow a preparation course, which means that they are well prepared for studying and living in an English-speaking environment.

This document outlines how *Cambridge English: Advanced* is a reliable and fit-for-purpose English qualification for universities and colleges, and how it can be used to support your student recruitment and admission process.

Dr Michael Milanovic



Chief Executive
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations



Attract talented students with the best communication skills

Excellent language and communication skills are the foundation for academic and professional success. In order to support the ever-changing educational landscape and add value to your organisation, you need a secure and high-quality English test that you can rely on to select the right students for the right course.

Developed by the Cambridge experts

Cambridge English: Advanced is an established and well-respected international English language exam in the education sector produced by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL), a department of the University of Cambridge.

It is backed by extensive research by one of the world's largest dedicated language research teams and was updated in 1999 and 2008 to keep pace with changes in language teaching and testing.

Cambridge English: Advanced is relied on by stakeholders around the world as a high-quality test of English for academic and professional purposes. More than 3,000 education institutions, governments and employers worldwide trust and accept *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificates as proof of English ability.

Why accept Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) for student admissions?

Accepting *Cambridge English: Advanced* means you can:

- show your commitment to excellence by specifying an English language exam that is internationally recognised for its quality and reliability
- be confident that you have chosen students with the English language skills to succeed in academic life. *Cambridge English: Advanced* is an accurate and fair test of English at the levels needed for study and business
- give applicants more choice – the exam is available at over 1,300 centres in 113 countries and can be taken as both a computer-based and a paper-based test
- use our free, secure and user-friendly Online Verification Service to check the validity of any *Cambridge English: Advanced* result
- raise the profile of your institution internationally – reach over 4 million people who visit Cambridge ESOL websites every year.

12,000
organisations worldwide
trust Cambridge ESOL

Global acceptance

A globally accepted test for high achievers

Cambridge English: Advanced is accepted globally as a high-quality test of English for academic and professional purposes. It is a proven and established test that has been in use since 1991. It is trusted and accepted by over 3,000 organisations in 76 countries, including some of the world's top universities and colleges in Australia, North America and the UK. Here is just a small selection:



UK



US



Canada



Australia



Australia



Hong Kong

- University of Cambridge, UK
- University of Oxford, UK
- King's College London (University of London), UK
- University of Toronto, Canada
- University of Tokyo, Japan
- ICN Business School, France
- Università Roma Tre, Italy
- Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
- Hewlett-Packard (HP)
- Microsoft
- KPMG
- IBM
- Sony
- Bosch
- DHL
- Credit Suisse
- Nokia

A full list of organisations using *Cambridge English: Advanced* is available at www.CambridgeESOL.org/recognition

Working and studying in the UK

Cambridge English: Advanced is accepted by:

- the **UK Border Agency** as meeting its language requirements for all categories of UK visa, including Tier 4 student visas
- **nearly all universities and colleges in the UK**
- the UK's **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)** – it awards 70 Tariff points towards UK colleges and university applications if candidates achieve a *Cambridge English: Advanced* score of 80 (Grade A)
- Ofqual, the statutory regulatory authority for qualifications in England, and its counterparts in Wales and Northern Ireland, as an accredited exam.



www.CambridgeESOL.org/Advanced/Study-UK

Studying in Australia

- The Australian government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) accepts *Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)* for student visa applications. DIAC accepts results for exams taken up to two years before a visa application is made. For more information about Australian student visas, subclasses of visa and the *Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)* scores required to apply for them, please visit the DIAC website www.immi.gov.au
- It is also accepted by almost all universities and TAFE (Technical and Further Education)

www.CambridgeESOL.org/Advanced-Australia

3,000 organisations in **76** countries
accept **Cambridge English Advanced**

A focused and comprehensive test

Cambridge English: Advanced is a rigorous and thorough test of English focused on the language skills needed for education and work in English. This approach to assessment allows an in-depth and focused representation of a candidate's ability to operate effectively for this purpose. The exam has five papers: Speaking, Use of English, Reading, Listening and Writing. Each paper carries 20% of the total marks.

Test focus of the five papers

Speaking: 15 minutes

The Speaking test format, taken with two examiners and at least one other candidate, offers candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to use spoken language skills effectively in a range of contexts.

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 gain a more **reliable measure of their ability** to use English.

At this level, candidates are required to show their ability to organise their thoughts and ideas and express themselves coherently using appropriate language.

Candidates need to show they can exchange information, express and justify their opinions, and agree or disagree with one another.

Use of English: 1 hour

The Use of English test requires candidates to demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge of English **vocabulary and grammatical structures appropriate to this level**.

Reading: 1 hour 15 minutes

The Reading test requires candidates to show they can understand and **deal confidently with different types of text**.

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).

Listening: 40 minutes

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.

Candidates must demonstrate understanding of gist and detail, feeling, attitude, opinion and purpose expressed.

A variety of voices, styles of delivery and accents are heard in each paper to reflect the international contexts of the test takers.

Writing: 1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates must show they can write non-specialised types of text, such as an article, essay, letter, proposal or report.

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.

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

Understanding Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) results

Every candidate who successfully takes the exam receives two documents that can help you with your admissions: a **Statement of Results** and a **certificate**.

Statement of Results

The **Statement of Results** contains three pieces of information:

1. Score
2. Grade
3. Candidate profile

You may choose to use a specific score or grade. You may also wish to highlight a particular candidate profile if you need a specific level of English in one of the five skills.

You can also find this information on the online Results Verification Service website. All institutions that accept *Cambridge English: Advanced* results have free access to this secure service.

1. Score

This is the score for the whole exam across the five papers (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Use of English). The score is shown as a number on a scale of **0 to 100** which is converted from the total number of marks available in the exam.

2. Grade

The grade a candidate is awarded relates to their score. In the table below, you can see the score range for each grade:

Grade	Score	CEFR Level*
A	80-100	Level C2
B	75-79	Level C1
C	60-74	
Level B2	45-59	Level B2

*For further information on the CEFR, see page 9.

3. Candidate profile

This shows you how a candidate performed in each of the papers in the exam. This information can be very useful if you need applicants to demonstrate a particular level of competence in certain language skills.

Certificate

As well as Statement of Results, candidates who achieve a score of 45 or above, will also receive a certificate. The certificate shows the grade and the CEFR level achieved (Note that the certificate does not show the score).

Depending on their result, candidates will receive one of the following certificates:

- **Certificate in Advanced English – CEFR Level C2**
Grade A
Exceptional candidates sometimes show ability beyond C1 level. If they achieve a grade A (score 80 to 100) in the exam, they will receive the Certificate in Advanced English stating that they have demonstrated ability at Level C2.
- **Certificate in Advanced English – CEFR Level C1**
Grade B and C
If candidates achieve grade B or C (score 60 to 79) in the exam they will be awarded the Certificate in Advanced English at Level C1.
- **Level B2 certificate**
If performance falls within Level B2 (score 45 to 59), candidates will receive a Cambridge English certificate stating that they have demonstrated ability at B2 level.

Do you already accept IELTS?

If you already use *IELTS (International English Language Testing System¹)* for student admissions, you can use the table below to see which *Cambridge English: Advanced* scores you should ask applicants to achieve:

Cambridge English: Advanced	IELTS
Score (0-100)	Band scores
93-100	9
87-92	8.5
80-86	8
74-79	7.5
67-73	7
58-66	6.5
52-57	6
47-51	5.5
41-46	5
36-40	4.5
32-35	4

You can find out more about the methodology for benchmarking *Cambridge English: Advanced* to *IELTS* at www.CambridgeESOL.org/Advanced-IELTS

1 *IELTS* is owned and managed jointly by a partnership of British Council, Cambridge ESOL and IDP: IELTS Australia.

What can students actually do with English?

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 skills covered by Cambridge English: Advanced

CEFR Level C2 (Score 80-100)

	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN advise on or talk about complex or sensitive issues, understanding colloquial references, and deal confidently with difficult questions.	CAN understand various documents, including the finer points of complex texts, and CAN write letters and meeting notes with good expression and accuracy.
Study	CAN understand colloquial asides and cultural allusions.	CAN access all sources of information quickly and reliably. CAN make accurate and complete notes during the course of a lecture, seminar or tutorial.
Work	CAN advise on/handle complex, delicate or contentious issues, such as legal or financial matters, to the extent that he/she has the necessary specialist knowledge.	CAN understand reports and articles likely to be encountered during his/her work, including complex ideas expressed in complex language. CAN make full and accurate notes and continue to participate in a meeting or seminar.

Over **3 million**
candidates a year choose
Cambridge English exams

CEFR Level C1 (Score 60-79)

	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN contribute effectively to meetings and seminars within own area of work or keep up a casual conversation with a good degree of fluency, coping with abstract expressions.	CAN read quickly enough to cope with an academic course, and CAN take reasonably accurate notes in meetings or write a piece of work which shows an ability to communicate.
Study	CAN follow up questions by probing for more detail. CAN make critical remarks/express disagreement without causing offence.	CAN scan texts for relevant information and grasp main topic of text. CAN write a piece of work whose message can be followed throughout.
Work	CAN follow discussion and argument with only occasional need for clarification, employing good compensation strategies to overcome inadequacies. CAN deal with unpredictable questions.	CAN understand the general meaning of more complex articles without serious misunderstanding. CAN, given enough time, write a report that communicates the desired message.

CEFR Level B2 (Score 45-59)

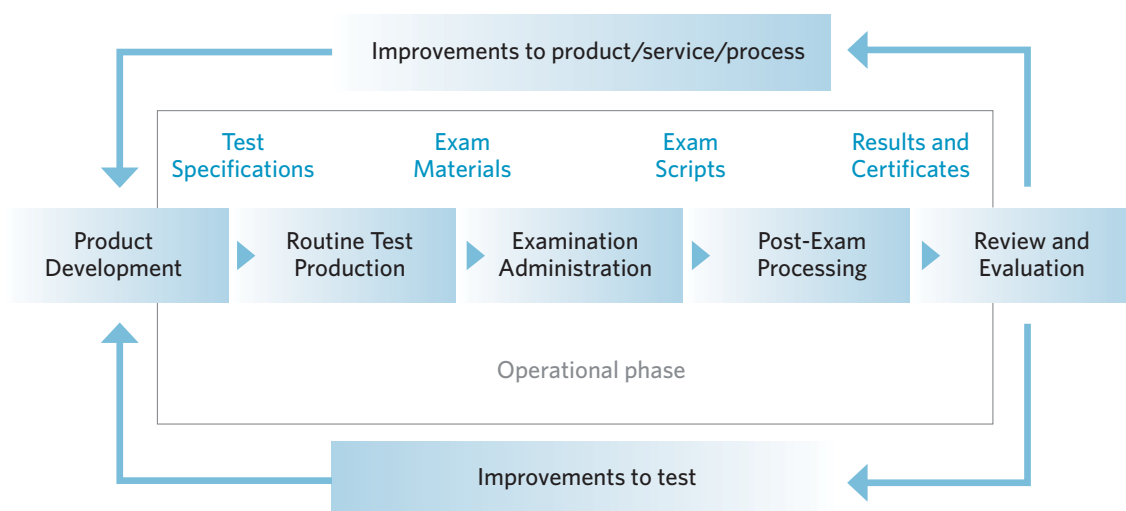
	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN follow a talk on a familiar topic. CAN keep up a conversation on a fairly wide range of topics.	CAN scan texts for relevant information. CAN make notes while someone is talking or write a letter including non-standard requests.
Study	CAN answer predictable or factual questions. CAN check that all instructions are understood.	CAN make simple notes that are of reasonable use for essay or revision purposes, capturing most important points. CAN present arguments, using a limited range of expression (vocabulary, grammatical structures).
Work	CAN ask for factual information and understand the answer. CAN express her/his own opinion, and present arguments to a limited extent.	CAN understand the general meaning of non-routine letters and understand most of the content. CAN write a simple report of a factual nature and begin to evaluate, advise, etc.

High-quality, secure language assessment

The quality, integrity and security of *Cambridge English: Advanced* are critical to recognising organisations. Cambridge ESOL's approach to test integrity and security covers all areas from test development, through test delivery and results processing to post-examination review and evaluation.

All the development and production processes of the exam, as well as the post-test marking and administration, are managed and controlled centrally in Cambridge. This ensures that universities and colleges can trust the results as a valid and accurate reflection of a candidate's ability to communicate in English in real-life academic and professional situations.

The Cambridge ESOL Continual Improvement Cycle below illustrates our fundamental approach to quality management and validation.



Our rigorous approach to quality management in all areas of our work is documented in the publication *Principles of Good Practice: Quality management and validation in language assessment*².

Our systems and processes for designing, developing and delivering examinations and assessment services are independently certified as meeting the internationally recognised ISO 9001:2008 standard for quality management.

Enhanced security

Security of test material is critical to Cambridge ESOL and our recognising organisations. Our centres follow the strictest requirements for the storage and transportation of material to ensure the security of examination materials and prevent unauthorised access.

An inspection of storage facilities and procedures for accessing test materials is made before a centre is approved to offer *Cambridge English: Advanced*. These storage facilities and procedures are also monitored as part of routine unannounced inspections.

For computer-based tests, material is downloaded by the test centres the day before the examination, but cannot be decrypted until the test is due to start.



Test day photographs

A new layer of security is now being added to our exams as we roll out a system of test day photographs. Photographs are taken of candidates on the day of their test and can be viewed by institutions on the online Results Verification Service (see below).

Test administration

Cambridge ESOL requires centres to ensure that invigilators and supervisors are fully aware of the need to monitor candidates for the inappropriate use of any electronic devices, and there are standardised reporting procedures for any identified malpractice. All invigilators attend invigilator training at least once a year, and this training includes security and fraud prevention.

Security in post-examination marking and processing

For paper-based exams, all candidate scripts are returned directly to Cambridge. With computer-based exams, candidate responses are encrypted and returned immediately to Cambridge. No marking or further processing is carried out in our centres.

Marking of exam papers is carried out either electronically (for multiple-choice questions), or by trained expert examiners. Marking is unnamed, randomised and double-checked by a second person.

Monitoring unusual patterns in performance

Marking and processing exams in the UK means that we can monitor candidate responses in detail using sophisticated statistical analysis to identify uncommon results, before results are issued.

Unusual individual scores are identified, and clusters of unusual outcomes are investigated. Evidence regarding cases of suspected malpractice is investigated by malpractice committees or by external agencies. These processes can lead to results being withheld pending further investigation.

Online Results Verification Service

Cambridge ESOL provides a free and secure online Results Verification Service that is designed for use in high-stakes environments.

Exam results are uploaded to the Results Verification Service as soon as they are released. Candidates who want an institution to be able to view their results will provide them with their unique ID and Secret Numbers. The unique ID and Secret Number are included in the Confirmation of Entry which every candidate receives upon registering for their exam. Recognising organisations can rely on the Results Verification Service as the authoritative source of information, since the site is securely encrypted and cannot be tampered with under any circumstances.

To register for free, visit <https://verification.CambridgeESOLonline.org>



A thorough test
of all areas of language ability

Summary of features and benefits

Features	Benefits
<p>Valid and reliable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers all four language skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening Covers knowledge of grammar and vocabulary Speaking test with two examiners in pair format 	<p>You can trust <i>Cambridge English: Advanced</i> as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reliable a more authentic and valid assessment of a candidate's speaking ability providing detailed data on which to assess a candidate's level of English.
<p>Fit for purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted at CEFR Level C1 Also reports above and below level C1 Benchmarked to <i>IELTS</i> Comprehensive, in-depth assessment Designed for academic and professional purposes 	<p>Enables you to select candidates who can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow any academic course at university level participate with confidence in workplace meetings or academic tutorials and seminars carry out complex and challenging research communicate effectively at managerial and professional level express themselves with a high level of fluency react appropriately in different cultural and social situations.
<p>Enhanced security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Results Verification Service for institutions Test day photographs 	<p>Gives you reliable verification of results that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> secure and instant easy to use – no special tools or downloads free of charge.
<p>Proven quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tried and tested Highly trained examiners Underpinned by research Meets published standards of quality (Principles of Good Practice) Independently accredited ISO 9001 processes 	<p>High-quality assessment from Cambridge gives you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proof of English ability for real-life study and work situations high-achieving applicants with the right language skills.
<p>Flexible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice of using the <i>Cambridge English: Advanced</i> scores or the grades benchmarked to the CEFR levels Paper-based and computer-based tests Short registration times and fast access to results 	<p>Flexible scores mean you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> specify <i>Cambridge English: Advanced</i> for any level of study, from pathway and foundation to PhD level identify the exact level of achievement you want select from hundreds of thousands of candidates who already have the language skills you are looking for.
<p>International and fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally recognised Available at over 1,300 centres in 113 countries Supports all major English varieties and accents – a truly international test Committed to fairness and accuracy Special arrangements available for candidates with special requirements 	<p>By specifying <i>Cambridge English: Advanced</i> you set a requirement that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accessible to candidates around the world, giving you the widest choice of the best applicants fair to all students, regardless of their first language, gender or ethnicity designed to give students the language skills they will need after graduation.

What people say about Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)



"I'm a Spanish university student.

My Cambridge English: Advanced certificate got me onto a course in Canada at the University of British Columbia.

My ambition? To work for an organisation that builds and develops international relations."

**Alexandra, Student
Audiovisual Communications
Pompeu Fabra University,
Barcelona**

"I've been teaching English as a foreign language for 27 years ...

I like preparing students for Cambridge English: Advanced because taking the exam is stimulating, gives students a focus and motivates them to work hard."

**Anne Matthews, Teacher
Bell International College,
Cambridge, UK**



Don't miss the opportunity!

Join thousands of institutions that use Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) for student recruitment and admissions.

To begin officially accepting *Cambridge English: Advanced* follow these three simple steps:

1. Visit www.CambridgeESOL.org/Advanced-Recognition and fill in the form. You can also use it to ask for further information.
2. Amend your website and other course literature to state that *Cambridge English: Advanced* is accepted by your institution and for which courses. You can use the text below as a guide.
3. Take advantage of our enhanced security by signing up for our free online Results Verification Service to verify applicants' results anytime, anywhere. To register, go to <https://verification.CambridgeESOLonline.org>

To find out more about how you can use *Cambridge English: Advanced*, please contact our dedicated recognition team at Cambridge.Recognition@CambridgeESOL.org

We can then send you further information or organise a meeting.

Suggested text for your website or course literature

Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)

We accept *Cambridge English: Advanced* at score xx or Grade xx as meeting our English language requirement for entry onto the following courses:

<Add list of courses here.>

Cambridge English: Advanced, also known as *Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)*, is a high-level exam from University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. It is available in both paper-based and computer-based versions at over 1,300 centres worldwide.

Globally, over 3 million people take Cambridge English exams every year. They are recognised by over 12,000 institutions, employers and government departments around the world, including the UK Border Agency and the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Cambridge English: Advanced

Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)

Launched in 1991, *Cambridge English: Advanced* has become widely relied on as a high-quality test of English for academic and professional purposes.

This is demonstrated by the global acceptance of the test by more than 3,000 organisations including education institutions, governments and employers.

The test was updated in 1999 and 2008 to keep pace with changes in language teaching and testing. It is available in both paper-based and computer-based versions in over 1,300 centres in 113 countries.

Contact us

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 [Twitter.com/CambridgeESOL](https://twitter.com/CambridgeESOL)

 [YouTube.com/CambridgeEnglishTV](https://www.youtube.com/CambridgeEnglishTV)

About Cambridge ESOL

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) develops and produces Cambridge English exams – the most valuable range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English in the world. Over 3.3 million people take our exams each year in 130 countries. Around the world, more than 12,000 universities, employers, government ministries and other organisations accept our qualifications.

Cambridge ESOL is a not-for-profit department of the University of Cambridge and part of the Cambridge Assessment group.



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