

Linguaskill

Trial overview

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CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH
Language Assessment

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Speaking overview

Part	Focus	Output
1: Interview	ability to answer the type of personal questions asked in a social setting, about present circumstances, past experiences and future plans	8 questions are heard. The first four have 10 seconds for the candidate to respond; the last four have 20 seconds for the candidate to respond.
2: Reading Aloud	ability to translate the written form of the language into speech and to handle elements of pronunciation at sentence level	8 sentences appear on the screen. Candidates have 10 seconds to read each sentence aloud.
3: Presentation	ability to deliver a long turn on a given topic to extend and organise discourse and communicate ideas clearly and comprehensibly	A topic is presented with three sub-questions. There are 40 seconds to read the task and prepare what to say. There is then 1 minute to speak about the topic and answer the questions.
4: Answerphone message with visual information	ability to deliver a long turn to talk comprehensibly and coherently which involves the interpretation of simple visual/graphical information	A topic is given in the context of a request for help from a friend. A visual prompt (such as a chart, map, diagram, etc.) is displayed. There is 1 minute to look at the task and prepare. There is then 1 minute to speak about the topic and visual prompt in the format of leaving an answerphone message for the friend.
5: Communication Activity	ability to express opinions and ideas in a given situation	A situation is given with five prompts. There are 40 seconds to read the situation and think about the topic. 5 questions are then heard, each one relating to one of the on-screen prompts. The candidate has 20 seconds to respond to each question.

The Speaking test will be based firmly on the can-do statements within the CEFR and focused on general English proficiency, using the topics that are immediately familiar in everyday contexts.

Examples of such topics include:

- * Future plans
- * Free time and hobbies
- * Using and Learning English
- * Family and friends
- * Travel and holidays
- * Places and sights
- * Studying and working
- * Shopping
- * Sport
- * Music
- * Home life
- * Technology

Writing overview

The Writing test consists of two parts and lasts for 45 minutes. Candidates can move backwards and forwards between the two parts during the time limit and make as many changes as they want. It is recommended that candidates spend 15 minutes on Part One and 30 minutes on Part Two.

Part One will present candidates with an email containing three information points from a person with whom it is assumed they share some common background knowledge. Candidates will need to respond with an email of at least 50 words.

Part Two will present candidates with a situation in which they need to write an extended text of at least 180 words – this could include formats such as reviews or articles. The candidate will be writing for a wider audience than in Part One, either for public readership or writing to an organisation.

Speaking and Writing Automarker

The Speaking and Writing auto-markers are trained on an enormous library of benchmark responses, which have been marked by expert examiners, to identify defining characteristics of each proficiency level. They give a score by making comparisons between this library and features of a candidate's response based on most of the criteria that a human examiner would use. For example, the Speech Auto-marker analyses the pronunciation, fluency, grammar, vocabulary use, and idea development of candidate speech; the Writing Auto-marker evaluates the vocabulary use, grammar, and content of candidate writing. With that said, the auto-markers are designed to approximate human rating behaviours, but are expected to do the job in a more efficient and reliable way.

Reading and Listening

The Reading and Listening test takes 60-85 minutes to complete.

Reading tasks

Read and Select

Candidates read a notice, diagram, label, memo or letter containing a short text and choose the sentence or phrase that most closely matches the meaning of the text. There are three possible answers.

Gapped Sentences

Candidates read a sentence with a missing word (gap) and choose the correct word to fill the gap. There are four choices for each gap.

Multiple-choice gap-fill

Candidates choose the right word or phrase to fill the gaps in a text. There are four choices for each gap.

Open gap-fill

Candidates read a short text in which there are some missing words (gaps) and write the missing word in each gap.

Extended reading

Candidates read a longer text and answer a series of multiple-choice questions. The questions are in the same order as the information in the text.

Listening tasks

Listen and select

Candidates listen to a short audio recording and answer a multiple-choice question with three options.

Extended listening

Candidates listen to a longer recording and answer a series of multiple-choice questions based on it. The questions are in the same order as the information they hear in the recording.

