

What to do next . . .

Find out more about CPE

More information about CPE is available from the Cambridge ESOL website –

www.CambridgeESOL.org/CPE

You can download a detailed handbook and sample question papers, a list of publishers that produce exam learning material as well as a list of employers, colleges and universities which recognise CPE.

If you do not have access to the Internet, contact your nearest authorised Cambridge ESOL examination centre. A list of centres is available from Cambridge ESOL Information, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom.

Talk to your teacher

Most candidates take a preparation course before entering for the exam, but this is not compulsory. If you are studying English at the moment, speak to your teacher about preparing for CPE. If you are not studying at the moment, your nearest authorised Cambridge ESOL examination centre will be able to advise you.

Register for the exam

To register for the exam, you need to contact an authorised Cambridge ESOL examination centre – entries cannot be made directly to Cambridge. A list of examination centres is available on-line at www.CambridgeESOL.org/centres, or you can contact Cambridge to get details of your nearest centre. The centre will give you full information about the fees for taking CPE, the dates of the tests and other arrangements.

CPE and the Cambridge ESOL Main Suite

| General English | Council of Europe Level | UK National Qualifications Framework Level |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| CPE Certificate of Proficiency in English | C2 (ALTE Level 5) | 3 |
| CAE Certificate in Advanced English | C1 (ALTE Level 4) | 2 |
| FCE First Certificate in English | B2 (ALTE Level 3) | 1 |
| PET Preliminary English Test | B1 (ALTE Level 2) | Entry 3 |
| KET Key English Test | A2 (ALTE Level 1) | Entry 2 |

For more information on CPE, visit our website

www.CambridgeESOL.org/CPE

Cambridge CPE

Certificate of Proficiency in English

Council of Europe Level C2



What is CPE?

The Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) is the highest level of the Cambridge exams in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). It is a very advanced level exam, set at Level C2 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework for modern languages.

Successful candidates receive a certificate awarded by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. The certificate is recognised by universities and employers throughout the world. All candidates receive a statement of results, showing how they performed in each of the five papers.

CPE is provided by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations – a department of the University of Cambridge in England. CPE is part of the Main Suite of Cambridge English examinations, which is linked to the Council of Europe's Common European Framework for modern languages (CEF).

Who is CPE for?

CPE is for learners who have achieved a high level of language skills and are able to function effectively in almost any English-speaking context. Successful candidates at this level are approaching a standard of

English similar to that of an educated native speaker. The exam also requires an appropriate level of educational and personal maturity.

Every year over 45,000 people take the CPE exam in more than 80 countries, and success at this level represents a significant personal achievement.

Why choose CPE?

CPE is an invaluable qualification for anyone who wants to work or study abroad, or to develop a career which requires language skills, including business, medicine, engineering and many other professions. CPE certificates are recognised by institutions of higher education in many countries – including almost all universities in the United Kingdom and a rapidly growing number in the USA. Employers throughout the world also recognise CPE. A list of institutions and employers that recognise CPE is available at www.CambridgeESOL.org/recognition

Studying for CPE helps learners to improve their language skills and to learn to use them in a wide range of contexts. Because many aspects of the exams are based on realistic tasks, gaining the CPE certificate demonstrates that learners have progressed beyond a good knowledge of vocabulary and grammar to actually using the language.

What does the exam involve?

CPE has five papers

Reading | Writing | Use of English | Listening | Speaking

Each of the written papers is returned to Cambridge for assessment. The Speaking Test is conducted by two locally based examiners who examine candidates face-to-face. All examiners are accredited by Cambridge ESOL.

Reading (Paper 1) 1 hour 30 minutes

The Reading paper assesses candidates' ability to read and understand texts taken from a wide range of sources, including fiction and non-fiction books, journals, newspapers and magazines. Candidates are expected to understand the meaning of written English at word, phrase, sentence, paragraph and whole text level. It includes understanding of text content, organisation and structure, and the development of ideas, opinions and attitudes.

Writing (Paper 2) 2 hours

The Writing paper assesses candidates' ability to write non-specialised text types such as letters, articles, reports and reviews for a given purpose and target reader, covering a wide range of topics. The paper also includes questions on set texts. Responses are of 300–350 words in length.

Use of English (Paper 3) 1 hour 30 minutes

In the Use of English paper, candidates are expected to demonstrate their knowledge and control of the language system by completing various tasks at word, sentence and text level. These include gap-filling and word formation exercises, comprehension questions and a summary writing task.

Listening (Paper 4) 40 minutes (approx.)

The Listening paper assesses the ability to listen to and understand texts taken from a variety of text types including interviews, discussions, lectures and conversations. It tests the ability to understand the meaning of spoken English, to extract information from a spoken text and to understand speakers' attitudes and opinions.

Speaking (Paper 5) 19 minutes

The Speaking Test assesses candidates' ability to interact in conversational English in a range of contexts. The paper contains three parts, which take the form of an interview section, a collaborative task and individual long-turns with follow-up discussion. Candidates are provided with picture and written stimulus.

Candidates normally take the Speaking Test in pairs.