

# 2020 exam update

## At a glance – what's new?

For more information visit our website – [cambridgeenglish.org/key-and-preliminary](https://cambridgeenglish.org/key-and-preliminary)

### Reading and Writing

**60 minutes**

Reading: 30 questions in five parts

Writing: two parts

Some parts are in a different order and some are shorter (previously nine parts, 56 questions).

Part	Task	Format	No. of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Understanding six short messages.	6
2	Matching	Read three short texts for specific information and detailed comprehension. Same as one of the options for old Part 4 but always now three texts and A, B, C multiple-choice options (not Right, Wrong or Doesn't Say).	7
3	Multiple-choice long text	Read one longer text for detailed understanding and main ideas. Same as one of the options for old Part 4.	5
4	Multiple-choice gap fill	Read a text and choose missing words (A, B, C) to fill in the gaps. Same as old Part 5 but shorter.	6
5	Open gap fill	Read a text and write words in the gaps. Same as old Part 7 but shorter.	6
6	Writing a short message	Write a message in response to information given. Same as old Part 9 but students now write 25 words or more, rather than writing 25–35 words.	1
7	Writing a short story	Write a short story based on three pictures, 35 words or more.	1

### Listening

**30 minutes**

Same number of parts (five) with 25 questions. Some parts are in a different order.

Part	Task	Format	No. of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Listen to five short texts for specific information and choose the right picture (A, B, C). Same as old Part 1.	5
2	Gap fill	Listen to a longer text and write down missing information in the gaps (a word, number, date or time). Same as old Part 5.	5
3	Multiple-choice long text	Listen to a longer text for specific information, feelings and opinions. Same as old Part 3.	5
4	Multiple choice	Listen to five short texts for the main idea or message.	5
5	Matching	Listen to a longer text for specific information. Same as old Part 2.	5

# 2020 exam update

## At a glance – what's new?

### Speaking

8–10 minutes

Two parts, as before

Part	Task	Format
1	Introductory phase	Interactive and social language. Candidates give factual information of a personal kind and answer examiner questions about their daily life, interests, likes, etc., followed by a longer 'Tell me something about ...' question.
2	Collaborative task	Compare, describe and express opinions. Discussion between candidates based on picture prompts on a topic, e.g. 'holidays' and follow-up discussion led by the examiner on the same topic.

**Grades have changed to be in line with higher level Cambridge English Qualifications.**

Pass with Distinction changes to A

Pass with Merit changes to B

Pass changes to C



**Cambridge** English Qualifications

B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools

# 2020 exam update

## At a glance – what’s new?

Reading and Writing have been divided into separate papers. There are now four papers (rather than three). For more information visit our website – [cambridgeenglish.org/key-and-preliminary](http://cambridgeenglish.org/key-and-preliminary)

### Reading

**45 minutes**

Six parts, 32 questions. Some parts are in a different order and some are shorter (previously five parts, 35 questions).

Part	Task	Format	No. of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Understanding five short messages of different types. Same as old Part 1.	5
2	Matching	Match five descriptions of people to eight short texts, reading for specific information and detailed comprehension. Same as old Part 2.	5
3	Multiple choice	Read to understand gist, global and detailed meaning, attitude, opinions and feelings, and answer five multiple-choice questions with four options (A, B, C, D). Same as old Part 4.	5
4	Multiple-choice gapped text	Read to understand gist and text structure: choose the correct sentence to put in the gaps.	5
5	Multiple-choice gap fill	Read a text and choose missing words (A, B, C, D) to fill in the gaps. Same as old Part 5 but shorter.	6
6	Open gap fill	Read a text and write words in the gaps.	6

### Writing

**45 minutes**

Two parts. The paper was previously three parts, seven questions.

Part	Task	Format
1	Write an email	Write an email in response to information given. This is a longer task (100 words) than the message task in the old paper (35–45 words).
2	Write an article or story	Write either an article or a story on the topic given (100 words). The article option is instead of the letter option in the old paper.

Key	
Revised tasks	
New tasks	



## Cambridge English Qualifications

B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools

# 2020 exam update

## At a glance – what's new?

### Listening

**30 minutes**

Four parts, 25 questions, as before. Some parts are in a different order.

Part	Task	Format	No. of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Listen to seven short texts for specific information and choose the right picture (A, B, C). Same as old Part 1.	7
2	Multiple-choice short texts	Listen to six short texts for attitudes and opinions, and choose the right option (A, B, C).	6
3	Gap fill	Listen to a longer text and write down missing information in the gaps. Same as old Part 3.	6
4	Multiple-choice long text	Listen to a longer text for specific information, detailed meaning, attitudes and opinions. Same as old Part 2.	6

### Speaking

**12 minutes**

Four parts, as before.

Part	Task	Format
1	Introductory phase	Candidates show ability to use general interactional and social language. Same as old Part 1.
2	Individual long turn	Describing photographs and managing discourse, using appropriate vocabulary in a longer turn. Same as old Part 3 but photos are not necessarily on the same topic.
3	Collaborative task	Using functional language to make and respond to suggestions, discuss alternatives, make recommendations and negotiate agreement, based on picture prompts. Same as old Part 2.
4	Discussion	Talking about likes/dislikes, preferences, habits, opinions and agreeing/disagreeing. Similar to old Part 4 but is now linked to the collaborative task. In the old paper it was linked to the long turn picture description.

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Pass with Distinction changes to A  
 Pass with Merit changes to B  
 Pass changes to C

#### Key

Revised tasks

New tasks

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