



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

Experts in Language Assessment

Preliminary English Test

Handbook

Level B1

Common European Framework of Reference

PET content and overview

Paper	Name	Timing	Content	Test Focus
Paper 1	Reading/Writing	1 hour 30 minutes	Reading Five parts test a range of reading skills with a variety of texts, ranging from very short notices to longer continuous texts. Writing Three parts test a range of writing skills.	Assessment of candidates' ability to understand the meaning of written English at word, phrase, sentence, paragraph and whole text level. Assessment of candidates' ability to produce straightforward written English, ranging from producing variations on simple sentences to pieces of continuous text.
Paper 2	Listening	30 minutes (approx.)	Four parts ranging from short exchanges to longer dialogues and monologues.	Assessment of candidates' ability to understand dialogues and monologues in both informal and neutral settings on a range of everyday topics.
Paper 3	Speaking	10–12 minutes per pair of candidates	Four parts. In Part 1, candidates interact with an examiner. In Parts 2 and 4 they interact with another candidate. In Part 3, they have an extended individual long turn.	Assessment of candidates' ability to express themselves in order to carry out functions at Threshold level. To ask and to understand questions and make appropriate responses. To talk freely on matters of personal interest.

PAPER 2

LISTENING

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Paper format	The paper contains four parts.
Timing	About 30 minutes, plus 6 minutes to transfer answers.
No. of questions	25.
Task types	Multiple choice, gap-fill, true/false.
Text types	All texts are based on authentic situations.
Answering	<p>Candidates indicate answers either by shading lozenges (Parts 1, 2 and 4) or writing answers (Part 3) on an answer sheet.</p> <p>Candidates record their answers on the question paper as they listen. They are then given 6 minutes at the end of the test to copy these on to the answer sheet.</p> <p>In computer-based PET, candidates mark or type their answers directly onto the computer. There are no examples in computer-based PET, but candidates are shown a short tutorial before the test.</p>
Recording information	Each text is heard twice. Recordings will contain a variety of accents corresponding to standard variants of native speaker accents.
Marking	Each item carries one mark. This gives a total of 25 marks, which represents 25% of total marks for the whole examination.

STRUCTURE AND TASKS

PART 1

Task type and format	Multiple choice (discrete). Short neutral or informal monologues or dialogues. Seven discrete 3-option multiple-choice items with visuals.
Task focus	Listening to identify key information from short exchanges.
No. of Qs	7.

PART 2

Task type and format	Multiple choice. Longer monologue or interview (with one main speaker). Six 3-option multiple-choice items.
Task focus	Listening to identify specific information and detailed meaning.
No. of Qs	6.

PART 3

Task type and format	Gap-fill. Longer monologue. Six gaps to fill in. Candidates need to write one or more words in each space.
Task focus	Listening to identify, understand and interpret information.
No. of Qs	6.

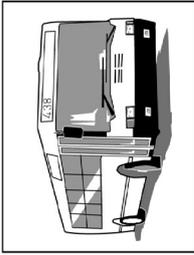
PART 4

Task type and format	True/false. Longer informal dialogue. Candidates need to decide whether six statements are correct or incorrect.
Task focus	Listening for detailed meaning, and to identify the attitudes and opinions of the speakers.
No. of Qs	6.

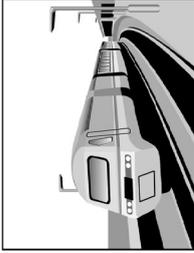
PAPER 2: LISTENING

Part 1 (questions 1–5)

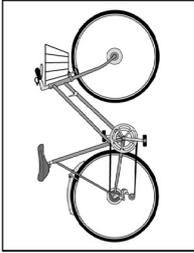
3 How will the girl get home?



A

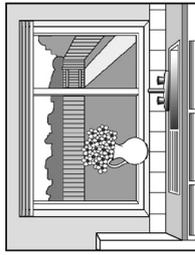


B

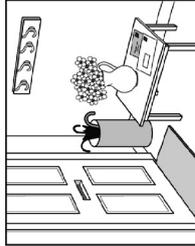


C

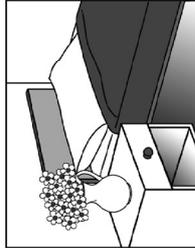
4 Which room are the flowers in?



A



B



C

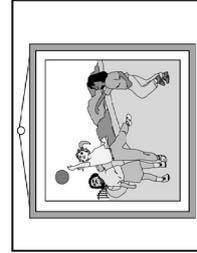
5 What is at the art gallery this week?



A



B



C

Part 1

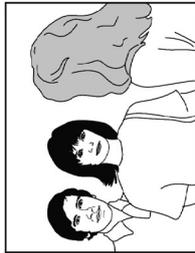
Questions 1 – 7

There are seven questions in this part. For each question there are three pictures and a short recording. Choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box below it.

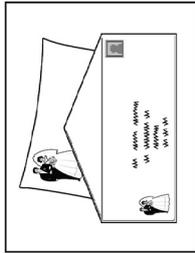
Example: How did the woman hear about the wedding?



A



B

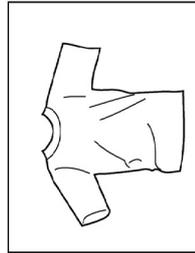


C

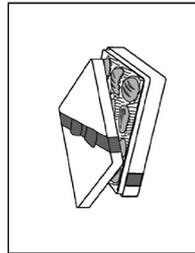
1 What has the girl bought today?



A

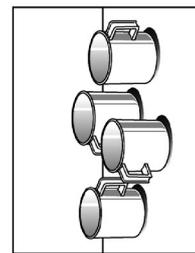


B

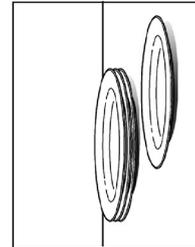


C

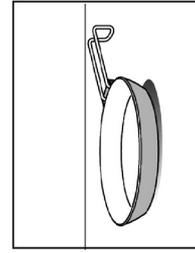
2 What have they forgotten?



A



B



C

PAPER 2: LISTENING

Part 1 (questions 6–7) and Part 2 (questions 8–13)

Part 2

Questions 8 – 13

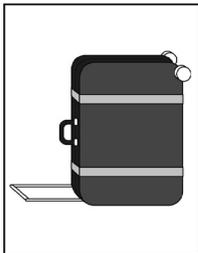
You will hear a radio interview with Darren Hubbard, a runner who takes part in athletics competitions. For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 8 At the February competition, Darren
- A ran in a new event.
 - B hurt himself.
 - C came last.
- 9 Darren's situation began to improve when he
- A started a job with fewer hours.
 - B was offered a place on the British team.
 - C signed a contract with a sportswear company.
- 10 Darren got fit again quickly because he
- A changed the way he trained.
 - B started to work with a new trainer.
 - C increased the time he spends training.
- 11 Darren wants to win his next athletics competition so that he can
- A retire early.
 - B pay for his wedding.
 - C show people that he is fit.
- 12 In the next competition, Darren will run the 400-metre race on
- A the first day.
 - B the second day.
 - C the third day.
- 13 In the future, Darren
- A hopes to write about his career.
 - B wants to change the distance he runs.
 - C would like more people to recognise him.

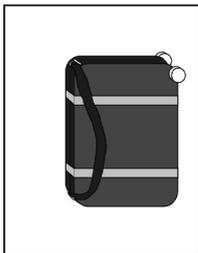
Turn over ▶

5

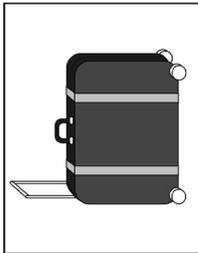
6 Which is the woman's suitcase?



A

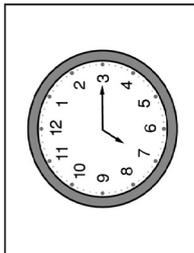


B

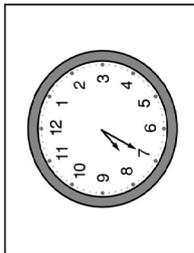


C

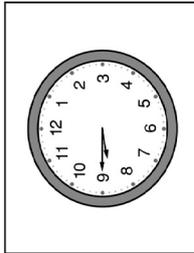
7 What time does the woman's flight leave?



A



B



C

4

PAPER 2: LISTENING

Part 3 (questions 14–19) and Part 4 (questions 20–25)

Part 3

Questions 14 – 19

You will hear a radio announcer giving details about a photography competition. For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

Photographer of the Year Competition

First prize: £2,000 and a painting of (14) by John Stevens

Second prize: £1,000 and camera equipment worth £200

Competition closing date: (15)

Subjects:

- 1 - British Nature
- 2 - Wild Places
- 3 - Animals at (16)

Exhibition: Victoria Museum

Countries which the exhibition will tour:

UK, USA, (17) and Japan

To enter, write to:

Radio TYL
63 (18) Road
London
6TY 9JN

Tel: (19)

Part 4

Questions 20 – 25

Look at the six sentences for this part. You will hear a boy called Jack, and a girl called Helen, talking about a rock festival. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.

- | | A
YES | B
NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20 The festival was better than Jack expected it to be. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21 Helen bought her ticket for the festival in advance. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22 Jack was disappointed that he had to change his plans. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23 Helen complains about having to wait a long time for food. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24 They both say that it was the sunshine that made the afternoon enjoyable. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25 Jack prefers listening to loud bands. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PAPER 2: LISTENING

Tapescript

This is the Cambridge Preliminary English Test, Sample Paper. There are four parts to the test. You will hear each part twice. For each part of the test there will be time for you to look through the questions and time for you to check your answers. Write your answers on the question paper. You will have six minutes at the end of the test to copy your answers onto the answer sheet.

The recording will now be stopped.

Please ask any questions now, because you must not speak during the test.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now open your question paper and look at Part 1.

PAUSE 2 SECONDS

There are seven questions in this part. For each question there are three pictures and a short recording. Choose the correct picture and put a tick in the box below it.

Before we start, here is an example.

How did the woman hear about the wedding?

Woman: Have you heard the news? Bettina and Simon are getting married next month.

Man: Really? How do you know? Have you seen them recently?

Woman: Not for ages. Bettina phoned me this afternoon. She wanted me to be the first to know.

Man: That's great. I expect we'll get invitations to the wedding soon.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

The first picture is correct so there is a tick in box A.

Look at the three pictures for question 1 now.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

— *** —

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear each recording twice.

1: What has the girl bought today?

Man: Oh ... you've been to the duty-free shop, what did you get? Perfume?

Girl: You must be joking. It costs much less at the supermarket at home. There was some nice jewellery, but what was really good value was this T-shirt ... look.

Man: Oh ... £4.50, well that's cheaper than the box of chocolates you bought last year anyway.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

2: What have they forgotten?

Man: Now we've put the tent up, let's make something to drink. I'll get the cups. They're in the plastic bag in the back of the car, aren't they?

Woman: No, that's got the new frying pan in it. You packed the cups in the box with the plates.

Man: Ah yes, that's right. Here they are. But I can't see the plastic bag anywhere.

Woman: Oh dear, we've left it behind, so we can't cook anything. Well, we can still have a cup of tea.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

3: How will the girl get home?

Girl: ... Hi Mum, it's me ... it's all right, I'm not phoning for a lift ... I am going to be late though ... Mmm ... when I got to the railway station I found the seven o'clock was cancelled, so I'll just wait for the next one – there aren't any buses at this time of night. See you soon, I hope ... Next time I'll go by bike!

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

4: Which room are the flowers in?

Woman 1: Hi! I'm home. Oh, where have you put the flowers that Robin bought me? I left them on the table here in the hall with some letters I need to post.

Woman 2: Well, they were in the way there, so I've put them in a jug in the bedroom.

Woman 1: Okay thanks, but I think I'll put them in the kitchen. They'll look nicer there. Would you like a cup of coffee?

Woman 2: Umm. That sounds good!

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

5: What is at the art gallery this week?

Man: Thank you for calling the Central Art Gallery. This week, and next, there is a special exhibition of paintings by a local artist, John Temple, on the subject of 'Growing Old'. He is now quite well known and we hope this exhibition will be even more popular than his last one on 'Animals in the Wild'. Next week we will also have a small exhibition of children's paintings of the seaside.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

6: *Which is the woman's suitcase?*

Man: Good afternoon Madam, I understand you've lost a piece of luggage. Could you describe it to me please?

Woman: Yes, it's a small black suitcase, with a set of wheels at one end and a metal handle which pulls out of the other end, so you can pull it along.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

7: *What time does the woman's flight leave?*

Woman: Excuse me, I've come to the airport rather early. I'm booked on flight number 645 to London which leaves at 8.45. I've got these two heavy bags, and the check-in time isn't until 7.35. Would it be possible to check them in a little earlier?

Man: I'm sorry Madam, but there's nobody here from that company yet. They usually come in at about 7.15. Perhaps you can come back then?

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

That is the end of Part 1.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

— *** —

Now turn to Part 2, questions 8 to 13. You will hear a radio interview with Darren Hubbard, a runner who takes part in athletics competitions. For each question, put a tick in the correct box.

You now have 45 seconds to look at the questions for Part 2.

PAUSE 45 SECONDS

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

Woman: Our next guest is the runner Darren Hubbard. Darren, the year started badly for you.

Man: It did. In the February competition I was running in my normal events, the 200, 400 and 800-metre races. I'd done quite badly in the first race – though I wasn't last – but the problems really began with the 800 metres. During the race I was injured, and it took me quite a while to recover.

Woman: When did things start to get better?

Man: In the summer, really. I was disappointed because I

hadn't got into the British team but then I was offered a contract with a Japanese company that makes running shoes. The money meant I could stop work. I'd only been working part-time in a shop but, as you know, this can make things quite difficult for athletes. I accepted the contract immediately.

Woman: Has it taken long to get fit again?

Man: No – not long because I now do some different exercises as part of my training. For example, we've introduced swimming and weight-training into my programme. I've had the same trainer since I started running, and I still train for 5 hours a day as before but, of course, I don't have to fit that in around work any more.

Woman: So you're confident about the next competition, then?

Man: Yes. I don't have any plans to retire! I've been in other races since February and I've already proved that I'm fit. But the next competition is important to me. I'm hoping to get married soon and the prize money would be very useful to pay for the celebrations. In fact, it will be very difficult without it.

Woman: Which races are you in?

Man: On day one, I start with the 800 metres and the following day there's the 400 metres. That's the race I'm most confident about. I'll finish with the 200 metres on day three.

Woman: And what are you hoping the future will bring?

Man: I'm aiming to get faster at the distances I run. That's one thing. And, although I don't want to be really famous, I mean, I don't want the newspapers writing about me all the time, I would like to get to the point where I walk down the street and everybody says 'There's Darren!' Yes, I'd quite like that.

Woman: Well, good luck with that Darren, and thank you for joining us ... [Fade]

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

That is the end of Part 2.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

— *** —

Now turn to Part 3, questions 14 to 19. You will hear a radio announcer giving details about a photography competition. For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

You now have 20 seconds to look at Part 3.

PAUSE 20 SECONDS

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

Man: Now, this morning I'd like to tell you about this year's competition for the best photograph of animals, birds or plants. We have some great prizes for you – first

prize for the most original photo is a cheque for £2,000 and a picture of elephants painted by the artist John Stevens. The second prize is £1,000 and camera equipment worth £200. The lucky winner will receive his or her prize in London on 16th October this year. So, all you photographers, get your cameras and start taking some great photographs, as you must send them to us by 14th May.

Now for the details. You can enter up to three colour photographs in each of the following areas. First of all, British Nature. For this your photos must only include plants or animals which are found living in Britain. Secondly, Wild Places. Your photos should be of lonely places. And finally, our third subject is Animals at Night. Pictures must be taken between sunset and sunrise and must include animals.

All the winning photographs can be seen in a special exhibition at the Victoria Museum in London, from the end of November until January next year. The exhibition will tour the UK and the USA in the spring, followed by France and Japan during the summer.

Remember, the judges want to see some original ideas – they don't want photos of pets or animals in zoos. Now, to enter, the first thing you should do is contact us to get an application form. Our address is Radio TYL, 63 Beechwood Road, that's spelled B E E C H W O O D, Road, London 6TY 9JN.

Of course, if you have any questions about the competition we'll be glad to hear from you. You can either telephone us on 0163-55934 or fax us on 0163-33298.

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

That is the end of Part 3.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

— *** —

Now turn to Part 4, questions 20 to 25. Look at the six sentences for this part. You will hear a boy called Jack and a girl called Helen, talking about a rock festival. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick in the box under B for NO.

You now have 20 seconds to look at the questions for Part 4.

PAUSE 20 SECONDS

Now we are ready to start. Listen carefully. You will hear the recording twice.

Girl: Hi Jack, how are you?

Boy: Fine, Helen. Did you go to the rock festival last Saturday? I didn't see you there.

Girl: Well, there were lots of people! It was great, wasn't it?

Boy: Well, one or two bands were brilliant, yes, but I have to say it wasn't as good as I thought it would be.

Girl: Oh, why's that?

Boy: Well, perhaps I expected too much ... It did cost a lot of money to get in – £20.

Girl: Didn't you book early? My ticket was much less.

Boy: But you had to buy that so long ago!

Girl: So?

Boy: Well, I mean until last Wednesday I thought I wasn't even going to the festival.

Girl: Oh that's right. You were supposed to go to Canada, weren't you? I'm sorry that didn't happen.

Boy: Don't remind me about it! ... I doubt if I'll ever get the same chance again.

Girl: I'm sure you will, Jack. Anyway ... talking about the festival, what did you think of the food there?

Boy: It wasn't bad.

Girl: So much choice, especially for vegetarians like me ... and there never seemed to be many queues.

Boy: Mmm. You know, I *did* enjoy the afternoon ...

Girl: Yes, that was the best thing, wasn't it, when it got really sunny?

Boy: Did it? I didn't notice! That's when my favourite band were playing.

Girl: Flashbang? They had a problem with their sound system, didn't they? I had to cover my ears at one point.

Boy: Helen, it's supposed to be like that! That's what so good about them ... the drums were like thunder. It's my favourite kind of music.

Girl: Well, that wouldn't be my choice, Jack.

Boy: So what did you like best then?

Girl: Oh, Maria Crevel – definitely – she sang so beautifully ... [FADE]

PAUSE 5 SECONDS

Now listen again.

REPEAT

That is the end of Part 4.

PAUSE 10 SECONDS

You now have 6 minutes to check and copy your answers on to the answer sheet.

PAUSE 5 MINUTES

You have one more minute.

PAUSE 1 MINUTE

That is the end of the test.

PAPER 2: LISTENING

Answer key for Sample Test

PART ONE

- 1 B
2 C
3 B
4 C
5 B
6 A
7 C

PART TWO

- 8 B
9 C
10 A
11 B
12 B
13 C

PART THREE

- 14 elephant(s)
15 14(th) May
16 night
17 France
18 Beechwood
19 0163 55934

Brackets () indicate optional words or letters

PART FOUR

- 20 B
21 A
22 A
23 B
24 B
25 A