

Introducing the Cambridge English Scale

The Cambridge English Scale is a new approach to reporting results across the range of Cambridge English exams. Initially, this will apply to *Cambridge English: First*, *First for Schools*, *Advanced* and *Proficiency* from January 2015. Other exams will be added to the scale during 2015.

The Cambridge English Scale scores will replace the current candidate profile and standardised scores. Grades and Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) levels will be retained. The new scores provide richer information by reporting on a candidate's performance in each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and in Use of English. These scores also make clear the alignment of our exams with each other, and with the CEFR.

Candidate results

Candidates will continue to receive a Statement of Results and a certificate. Both will contain the candidate's:

- score on the Cambridge English Scale for each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and Use of English
- score on the Cambridge English Scale for the overall exam
- grade (A, B, C) for the overall exam
- CEFR level for the overall exam.

In addition, the certificate will contain the UK National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level.

Determining the Cambridge English Scale scores

The total marks for each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and Use of English are converted into scores on the Cambridge English Scale.

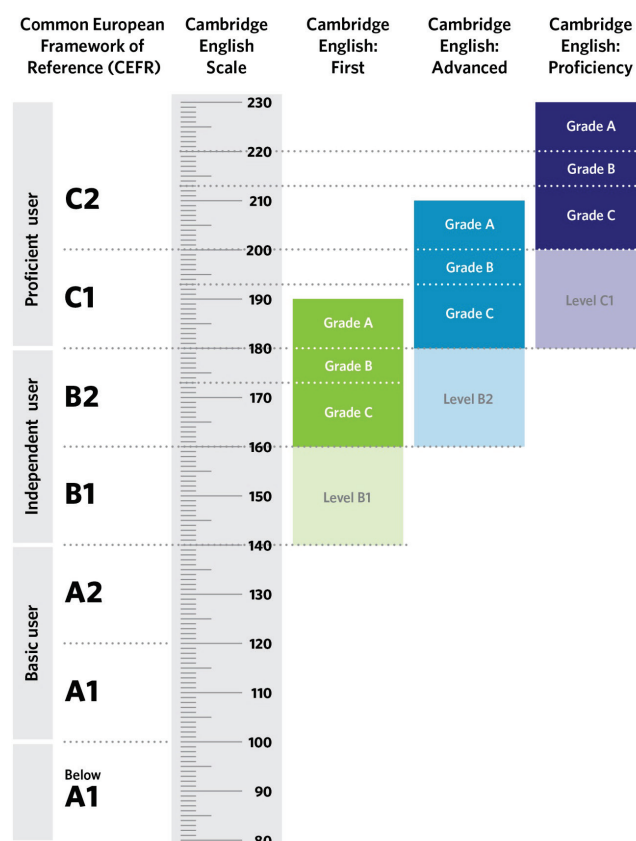
These individual scores are averaged to reach the overall Cambridge English Scale score for the exam.

The grades and CEFR levels are defined at specific points on the Cambridge English Scale. For example, a Cambridge English Scale score of 195 in *Cambridge English: Advanced* represents a grade B, and also indicates that the candidate is at Level C1.

Relating scores between exams

The Cambridge English Scale represents performance across a wider range of language ability than any single exam. Each exam is mapped to a section of the scale.

Although Cambridge English exams are targeted at a specific level (*Cambridge English: First* at Level B2, for example) there is a degree of overlap between exams at adjacent levels. The new Cambridge English Scale shows where the exams overlap and how performance on one exam relates to performance on another.



The diagram above shows that a candidate who scores 182 in *Cambridge English: First* will be expected to achieve a similar score in *Cambridge English: Advanced*.

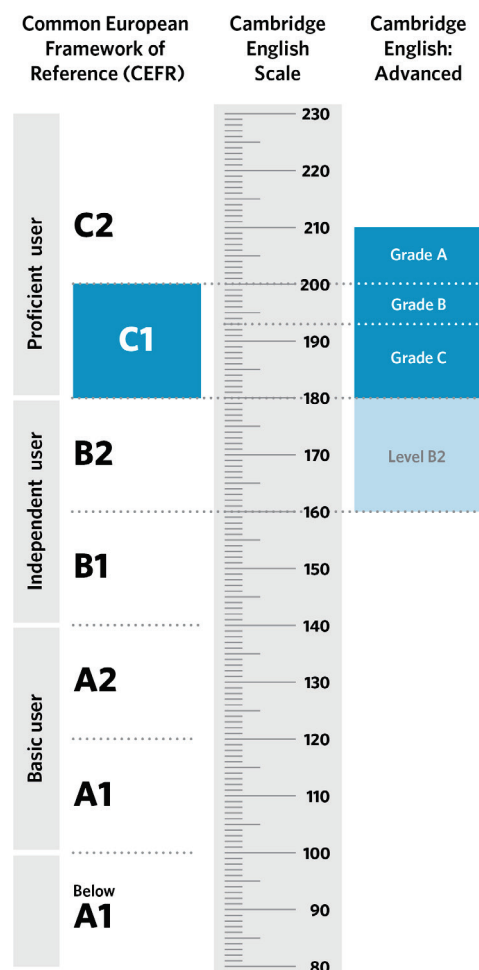
The scores reported for each exam range from:

- 122 to 190 for *Cambridge English: First*
- 142 to 210 for *Cambridge English: Advanced*
- 162 to 230 for *Cambridge English: Proficiency*.

Our extensive research over many years means that we can be confident that candidates who achieve the same Cambridge English Scale score in different exams show a comparable level of ability. The alignment of our exams is an integral part of our test construction procedures as well as the rating scales we use to assess performance.

An example of how the scale works

The example below shows the relationship between the CEFR levels, the Cambridge English Scale and the grades awarded in *Cambridge English: Advanced*.



A candidate scoring 200 to 210 will receive a grade A and they will receive a *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificate stating that they demonstrated ability at Level C2. The maximum achievable score for *Cambridge English: Advanced* is 210.

Candidates with scores from 193 to 199 will receive a grade B. Those scoring 180 up to 192 will receive a grade C. These candidates will receive a *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificate at Level C1.

Candidates who score between 160 and 179 will receive a Cambridge English certificate stating they demonstrated ability at Level B2.

Candidates scoring between 142 and 159 will not receive a certificate, but will be given a Cambridge English Scale score which will be shown on the Statement of Results.

Benefits to users

We understand our stakeholders' need for clear and comprehensive results information. As with previous enhancements, the new scale has been developed in response to feedback from users of our results.

The Cambridge English Scale will enable us to provide clearer and more detailed information than is currently available, showing where a candidate's performance falls within each level and grade, both overall and for the four skills and Use of English. Candidates and teachers will benefit from having better information about their performance, making it easier to identify areas for improvement.

The relationship between each exam will be easier to understand, because scores will be reported on the same common scale across all of our exams.