



THE CAE EXAM

* The CAE exam consists of four components, reading & use of English, writing, listening and speaking.

* Here is the structure of the CAE exam:

Paper	Part	Task type and format	Task focus	Number of questions
Reading & Use of English 1 hr 30 mins.	USE OF ENGLISH			
	1	Multiple choice cloze	The main focus is on vocabulary, e.g. idioms, collocations, fixed phrases, complementation, phrasal verbs, semantic precision.	8
	2	Open cloze	The main focus is on awareness and control of grammar with some focus on vocabulary.	8
	3	Word formation	The main focus is on vocabulary, in particular the use of affixation, internal changes and compounding in word formation.	8
	4	Key word transformation	The focus is on grammar, vocabulary and collocation.	6
	READING			
	5	Multiple choice	Detail, opinion, attitude, tone, purpose, main idea, gist, meaning from context, implication, text organisation features (exemplification, comparison, reference).	6
	6	Cross-text multiple matching	Understanding of opinion and attitude; comparing and contrasting of opinions and attitudes across texts.	4
	7	Gapped text	Cohesion, coherence, text structure, global meaning.	6
	8	Multiple matching	Detail, opinion, attitude, specific information.	10
Writing 1 hr 30 mins.	1	Compulsory task: Essay 220-260 words	Writing an essay with a discursive focus.	1
	2	One task to be selected from a choice of three 220-206 words	Questions 2–4. Writing one from a number of possible text types based on a contextualised writing task: letter, proposal, report or review.	1
Listening 40 mins.	1	Multiple choice	The focus is on genre, identifying speaker feeling, attitude, opinion, purpose, agreement between speakers, gist and detail.	6
	2	Sentence completion	The focus is on identifying specific information and stated opinion.	8
	3	Multiple choice	The focus is on identifying attitude, opinion, gist, detail, speaker feeling, purpose, function and agreement between speakers.	6
	4	Multiple matching	The focus is on identifying gist, attitude, main points, interpreting context, opinion, purpose and speaker feeling.	10
Speaking 15 mins.	1	A short conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate (spoken questions)		2 minutes
	2	An individual, 'long turn' (1 minute) by each candidate with a response from the second candidate (30 seconds). In turn, the candidates are given three pictures to talk about.		4 minutes
	3	A two-way conversation between the candidates. The candidates are given spoken instructions with written stimuli with are used in discussion and decision-making tasks.		4 minutes
	4	A discussion on topics related to the collaborative task.		5 minutes