

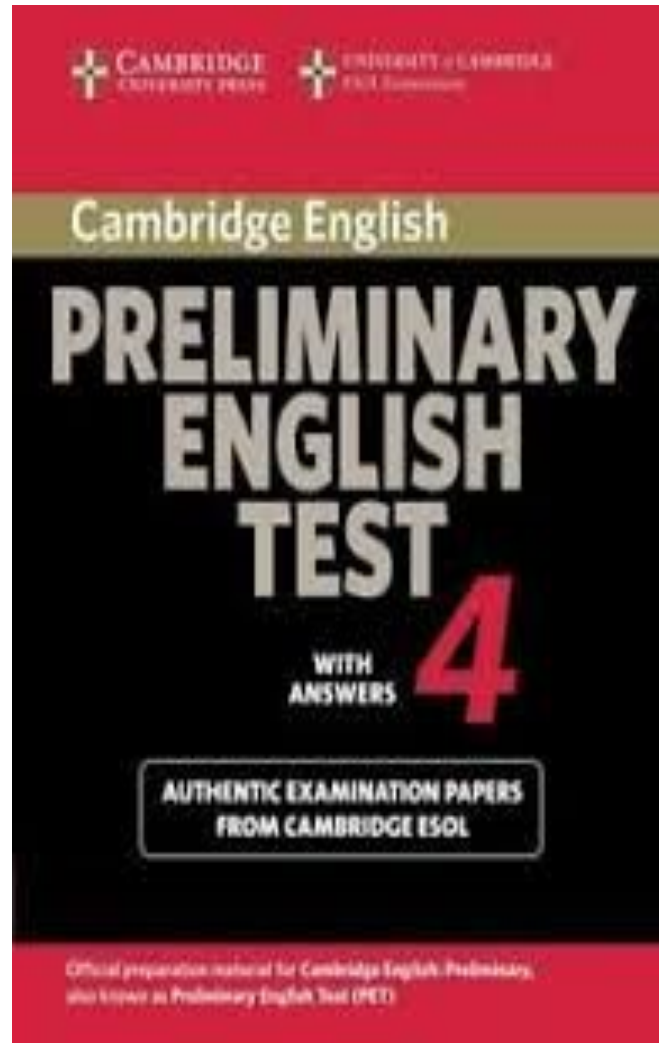
PRELIMINARY ENGLISH TEST

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- ◉ Preliminary, previously known as Cambridge English: Preliminary and the Preliminary English Test (PET), is an English language examination provided by Cambridge Assessment English (previously known as Cambridge English Language Assessment and University of Cambridge ESOL examinations).
- ◉ B1 Preliminary is an intermediate-level qualification and is designed for learners who have mastered the basic of English and now have practical language skills for everyday use. It is targeted at Level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).
- ◉ B1 Preliminary is one of the examinations in Cambridge English Qualifications - a path for improving language skills. Each Cambridge English Qualification targets a particular level of the CEFR and they work together to create an effective learning journey.



- History
- B1 Preliminary (previously known as the Preliminary English Test (PET) and Cambridge English: Preliminary), was first launched in 1943. It had been created as a special exam to meet the contingencies of the Second World War - catering for the large numbers of foreign servicemen needing English. However, despite recording over a thousand candidates during its first year alone, the exam was discontinued at the end of World War II (1946).
- It was not until the late 1970s that this decision was reconsidered. B1 Preliminary was reintroduced in 1980 under close monitoring, and was fully launched in the 1990s. It received updates in 1994. In 1999, it was reviewed with stakeholders and the current version was launched in March 2004.



Preliminary and Preliminary for Schools

Preliminary is available in two versions:

- Preliminary, designed for adult learners. Preliminary is one of the exams that make up Cambridge English Qualifications for general and higher education.
- Preliminary for Schools, designed for school-aged learners. Preliminary for Schools is one of the exams that make up Cambridge English Qualifications for schools.

Preliminary and Preliminary for Schools both have the same exam format (e.g. number of papers, number of questions, time allowance), both support learners to develop real-life communication skills, and both versions lead to the same certificate.

The exams use different topics and content:

- Preliminary is targeted at the interests and experiences of adult learners and is designed to support learners whatever their goals - whether they want to get into university, start their own business or develop their career.
- Preliminary for Schools is designed specifically for school-aged students and is informed by research into how children develop language skills. The topics and tasks in the exam are designed to reinforce the learning students do in class.



- **Format**
- **Reading Test Overview** (suggested timing: about 50 minutes for 35 questions) Part 1 Understanding of various kinds of short texts. Part 2 Detailed comprehension of factual information. Part 3 Understanding of longer texts looking for precise factual information. Part 4 Understanding of longer texts in terms of writer's purpose, attitude or opinion besides the detailed and global meaning of the text. Part 5 Understanding a short text and filling in the gaps.
- **Writing Test Overview** (suggested timing: at least 40 minutes) Part 1 Focus on grammar accuracy in sentence transformation. Part 2 Grammar and language accuracy in short messages. Part 3 Grammar accuracy and range of language in a longer piece of continuous writing.
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Timing and results

Candidates take the Reading and Writing and the Listening papers on the same day. The Speaking paper is often taken a few days before or after the exam, or on the same day.

The paper-based exam and computer-based exam are offered at test centres throughout the calendar year. A directory of all global exam centres and their contact details can be accessed on the Cambridge Assessment English website.

Successful candidates receive two documents: a Statement of Results and a certificate. Employers and other organisations may require either of these documents as proof of English language skills.

An online Statement of Results is available to candidates four to six weeks after the paper-based exam and two weeks after the computer-based exam. Successful candidates (those scoring above 45) receive a hard copy certificate which is despatched to the exam centre within eight weeks of the paper-based exam and within three weeks of the computer-based exam.



- **Listening Test Overview** (about 36 minutes) Part 1 Understand key information. Part 2 Understand detailed information. Part 3 Listen to interpret information. Part 4 Listen to detailed information to identify attitudes and opinions.
- **Speaking Test Overview** about 10 to 12 minutes Part 1 (about 2-3 minutes) The examiners introduce themselves to you and your partner. One examiner asks each of you a few questions about yourself and asks you to spell your names. Part 2 (about 2-3 minutes) The examiner gives you and your partner a drawing and explains what you have to do. You and your partner talk about it together. Part 3 (about 3 minutes) The examiner gives you a photograph. You show your photograph to your Partner and describe it. Then you swap roles with a different photograph. Part 4 (about 3 minutes) The examiner asks you and your partner to talk together about the subject of the photographs. You tell each other your opinions or describe your experiences. home

Usage

B1 Preliminary demonstrates language proficiency at Level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

It is an intermediate level qualification and is designed to show that a successful candidate has the ability to use English language skills to deal with everyday written and spoken communications, e.g. read simple books / textbooks and articles, write simple letters on familiar subjects, make notes during meetings / lessons.

Learners can use this qualification for education or work purposes, as well as to progress to higher level English language qualifications such as B2 First, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency.

Many higher education institutions around the world accept and use B2 Preliminary as an indication of English language proficiency This includes universities based in:

- Brazil (e.g. Centro Universitário Newton Paiva)
- Chile (e.g. Universidad de Chile)
- Germany (e.g. Freie Universität Berlin)
- Italy (e.g. La Salle Centro Universitario)
- Mexico (e.g. Tec de Monterrey)



